



YELLOWSTONE SCHOOLS

WINTER 2022

YOU HELPED LAILA LEARN TO READ!

When Laila* arrived at Yellowstone Schools as a Pre-K student, she could only recognize a handful of letters. She loved to listen to her teacher during circle time and would often dance to alphabet-themed songs during brain breaks.

Unfortunately, students like Laila regularly fall through the cracks of our education system. Especially lately, with COVID-19 turning schools upside down. She could have gone months without consistent literacy support during these formative years. Instead, she came to Yellowstone Schools, and now a whole world is opening up to her.

You made sure Laila didn't fall through the cracks. Thanks to you, Laila found a safe and supportive school family now helping her grow. After learning her numbers and letters in PreK, Laila memorized nearly 200 sight words in Kindergarten. By the time she got to first grade, Laila was already reading small books independently, and she was excited to start reading her first "big kid" book (complete with chapters and everything!).


Even with all this momentum building, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted Laila's education enormously.

Laila now reads "big kid" books with chapters and everything!



You helped Laila learn to read — what an incredible gift!

Like many students across the country, Laila began to fall behind in reading and math during her time spent learning at home. Once again, you came through for her. You are giving Laila access to smaller class sizes, individualized instruction, and even one-on-one tutoring when needed. There are many ways for students to get left behind, but thanks to you, Laila will thrive.

You gave helped Laila learn to read—what an incredible gift! Thank you for supporting Laila. Her life is changed, and a whole world of possibility is ahead of her. 

* To protect the privacy of our students, we have changed names and identifying details.



Ryan Dolibois
Executive Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR

You give the ultimate gift!

As I reflect on this new year, I am reminded of the power of hope and how it starts as a tiny seed and grows into a

great tree. Twenty years ago, Yellowstone Schools was just a little bit of hope, but you have helped us touch the lives of hundreds of scholars in the years since.

You give students and families from low-income neighborhoods access to the high-quality, faith-based education they need to rise above their circumstances, and I want to thank you. **You are giving that ultimate gift to moms and dads — HOPE.**

Recently, a parent shared that her student always feels challenged and inspired at Yellowstone. She hopes he gets the same type of support through his high school experience to fulfill his dreams of attending college and becoming a teacher.

Again, thank you for making life-changing experiences for our students and the families in our community.

From burned out to blossoming – Thank you!

Remember Shayne? In August, we asked you to help him and dozens of students like him who are new to Yellowstone Schools this year.

Shayne came to Yellowstone burned out by the education system. He bounced around schools for various reasons, and as a student living with dyslexia, he struggled to find the support he needed.

“I like Yellowstone,” says Shayne. “My teachers are nice, especially Ms. Jackson. They all support me.”



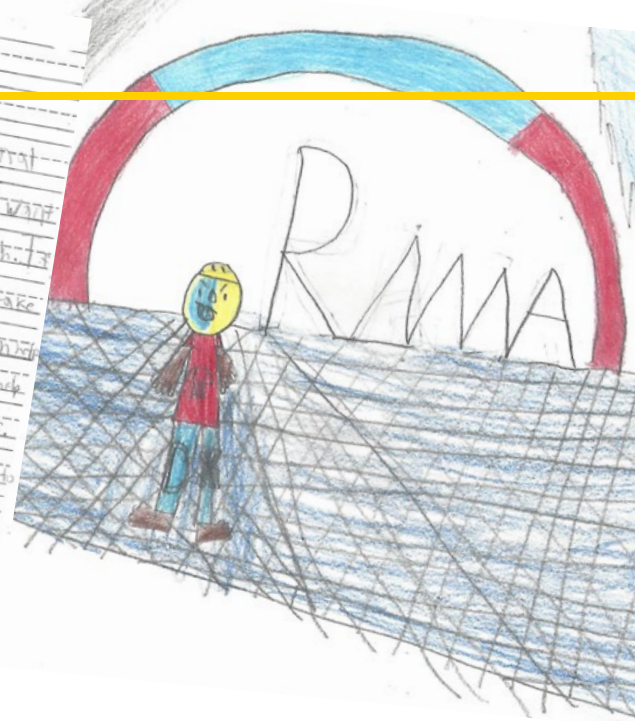
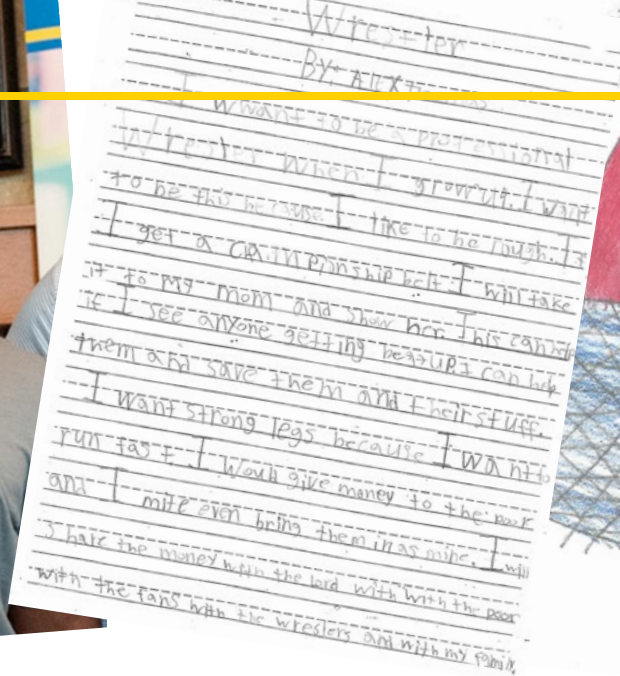
You made a difference for Shayne!

Shayne’s teachers describe him as opening up and blossoming. He communicates well, asks questions, and is engaging with the learning. Ms. Griffin helps Shayne cope with his dyslexia, including reading and writing strategies.

“Shayne comes in and does his work like a pro,” states Ms. Griffen. “I can tell he truly wants to learn, and his dyslexia doesn’t hold him back. I would take a hundred students like Shayne!”

“Shayne doesn’t opt out—he opts in,” says Ms. Jackson, his homeroom and English teacher. “He was reserved at the beginning of the year, but I’ve watched him open up as he learns how much we care about him.”

Thanks to your support, Shayne has found a place where his teachers very much care for him and where he thrives.



Your support helped Yellowstone alumnus Alex in achieving his dreams

You may wonder how your support helps Yellowstone students. As a third-grader, eight-year-old Alex Thomas had big dreams for his life and often wondered what each day would bring as he faced challenges most children never experience. You gave Alex the support and guidance he needed in fulfilling his dreams.

Alex shared his dream of standing up for those weaker than him in his first written essay in the third grade. He noted that he would be nice to everyone, stay out of trouble, and share the Lord. "I would give money to the poor, bring them home, and treat them like family," Alex wrote, adding that he would have plenty of room in his future mansion, especially for his mother and sister.

Alex dreamed of becoming a professional wrestler. He planned to bring his championship belt home to his mother, Mary, who suffered from a debilitating disease. **Through your support and continuous prayers, Alex thrived.** Mary watched him graduate 8th grade at Yellowstone in 2014 and shared many successes with Alex before succumbing to her disease last year.

Alex attended Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School after graduating from Yellowstone. He

participated in football, basketball, track and field and was selected to receive a Magis Award, one of Cristo Rey's highest honors.

Although Alex's dreams of becoming a wrestler have changed, he is still the same nice guy who takes up for others, works hard every day, and focuses on success. "Yellowstone truly impacted my life because it taught me to keep moving forward and not to look back," reflects Alex. "I try to stay focused and make sure I'm using my time wisely for work and study."

"Yellowstone truly impacted my life because it taught me to keep moving forward and not to look back."

Throughout high school, Alex would travel by bus to his part-time jobs. He now works full-time security while attending Houston Community College, majoring in computer science. "I like computers, creating code, and following all the devices in which they communicate," states Alex. ***"I can see the opportunities it holds now and in the future."*** **Thank you for changing Alex's life** and allowing him to achieve his dreams. 🙏

YELLOWSTONE



You can make a difference for a scholar this spring semester!

Whew! The fall semester is complete, Christmas break is over, and everyone at Yellowstone is heading into the spring semester. There is so much to do to get through the remainder of the school year, and our students need *you!*

By setting high expectations for our students, they are encouraged to uncover their talents and strengths through

- ▶ interactive classroom learning,
- ▶ field trips that expose them to great discoveries, and
- ▶ special programs that open opportunities for more significant potential.

You encourage our students to deepen their faith by giving them daily Bible classes, weekly chapel services, and one-on-one mentoring. You help our students by providing holistic care that includes social services, meals, transportation, and more.

Your support sustains our mission to provide a safe and supportive environment where students can engage in academic excellence and spiritual growth to reach their full potential.

Will you please open the door of opportunities for our students this semester with a gift today?

YES! I want to help with a student's needs this semester.

Yes! Please use my gift to impact a scholar at Yellowstone Schools!

- \$30 for one field trip
- \$60 for special onsite learning presentations
- \$90 for classroom & school supplies
- \$ _____

We appreciate you!



Your gift will go towards meeting Yellowstone's greatest need. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Yellowstone Schools is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

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