



YELLOWSTONE SCHOOLS

SPRING 2022

YOU HELPED LANDON BECOME A HIGH ACHIEVER IN MATH

In 2018, Landon* came to Yellowstone Schools as a fourth-grade student. He had potential, but he didn't realize it at school. He was almost a grade level behind his peers in Math. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and a season of remote learning, Landon's performance fell and nearly hit rock bottom.


Then something astounding happened. You opened up your heart to students like Landon

and ensured he had access to everything he needed to thrive.

You helped Landon rise to the top of his class!

Your generous support made it possible for Landon to participate in one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions. You ensured his class size could remain small so that he could get the extra attention and individualized support. Perhaps most important, you surrounded Landon with world-class teachers who care about him.

Today, Landon is achieving at the 65th percentile — well above the national norm, where being on grade level is at the 50th percentile. Growth like this is not typical. Landon has grown faster than 97% of his peers across the country. And it's not an accident. Landon just needed someone to give him a chance. You gave him that chance, and now there are no limits to where he can go.

Thank you for believing in our students. Your support makes a world of difference in their lives, and we can't wait to witness the difference their lives will make in the world. 



You helped Landon thrive and grow!

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



Ryan Dolibois
Executive Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Your gift helps our students succeed!

Wow — the end of the school year is already here. It seems like it just started three months ago! Students and teachers have accomplished much to be proud of, and it's all thanks to your generosity.

Thank you for helping us rebuild after the worst effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, we challenged every student to grow stronger in Math and Reading. I'm proud to report that 85% of our students rose to that challenge, demonstrating substantial progress in one or both subjects! These positive numbers show that your support makes a huge difference and encourages us to continue pushing forward.

Your generosity brought on more highly qualified teachers to keep class sizes small. You made a tutoring program happen by partnering with University of Houston to provide targeted, individualized support to each student. And your gifts were invested in a new, specialized team of instructional coaches and academic interventionists.

Most importantly, the good news of the Gospel continued to take on flesh here at Yellowstone. I could tell you story after story of hardships our students endured — from mental health crises to violence in and out of the home. Through all of it, you made sure our students have a safe place where they belong and are grounded in the faith and love of Jesus. I see God moving in significant ways in the lives of our students, and you are so important in that work.

Thank you, again, for making life-changing experiences possible for our students and the families in our community.

Encouraging learning through play – Thank you!

In January, our students were heartbroken as they watched the demolition of our longtime playground to make room for our new construction. We shared their sadness with you in an email update and asked for help to provide our students with some great new playground equipment, including giant, modular “Imagination Blocks.”

One of the first gifts came from longtime Yellowstone supporters (and a former Yellowstone teacher), Presley and Paul Lumpkins. Presley said, “Just read the update, and Paul and I would love to make a gift for the playground! YAY! Know this is a HUGE need and happy to bless y'all with it!”



You helped spark our students' imaginations!

A group of supporters quickly came forward, and **thanks to this amazing support, our young scholars now have safe and fun outdoor equipment** to use during recess.

Kaiden built a house and invited his friends inside. Zara built a forest of tall trees. Elijah made a couch and invited his teacher and friends to sit with him. The couch quickly turned into a roller coaster when Elijah added one long noodle across their laps.

“These blocks are great,” said PreK teacher Ms. Foster. “It’s amazing that something so simple generates so much creativity, communication, problem-solving, determination, and a feeling of accomplishment in children, even at this young age.” 



Alumnus Alexis is achieving his dreams because of you

You help Yellowstone students dream big and achieve so much. Just ask Alexis Ayala. He is living proof. “The teachers changed my life and gave me opportunities that I only dreamed about,” shares Alexis. **“Now, I am accomplishing my dreams that were not plausible before going to Yellowstone.”**

Alexis attended Yellowstone Schools from PreK through eighth grade. As with all students, Alexis faced challenges every day, and the biggest one to overcome was being the only Latino student in his class. “It was hard to relate to and identify with the other students culturally,” remembers Alexis. “I overcame the challenge by learning about and understanding the Black American culture, listening to my teachers and schoolmates, and relating to people on a different level, rather than just looking different.”

“I don’t know where I would be now without Yellowstone and the teachers who cared so much for me.”

Another challenge Alexis faced was the long daily bus ride to and from his home near the Hobby Airport. “I vividly remember getting off the school bus and being greeted by my teachers every morning,” recalls Alexis. He also found his love for reading on the school bus. “I found that I was my most mentally acute while reading during those

two hours on the bus every day,” says Alexis. His favorite genre of books is science fiction, and he read the entire “The Hunger Games” novel series while in middle school.

After graduating eighth grade at Yellowstone, Alexis attended high school at Second Baptist School and is part of the graduating class of 2022 with summa cum laude honors. Remember those opportunities he dreamed about accomplishing? One of them is attending college on a full-ride scholarship. After doing the hard work required for scholarship applications and college admissions, Alexis received offers from seven universities totaling \$800,000 in scholarships. **You helped him achieve his dream,** and now Alexis will be attending Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for free!

“I don’t know where I would be now without Yellowstone,” reflects Alexis. “I learned so much from my teachers. I not only grew academically, allowing me to perform at high levels, but I have grown in my faith, my activism, my compassion, and everything else that makes my character today.”

Alexis plans to major in political science at Drexel and is thinking about going into politics. **Thank you for changing Alexis’s life** and helping him to achieve his dreams. His next big dream — working for the CIA. 🇺🇸



You can make a difference for a student during the summer!

Whew! The school year is over, and summer is here. Some students have been looking forward to the long break from school with their summer activities, while others have dreaded the end of the school year.

For these students, school is a calm place of safety and stability that anchors them when their lives at home feel stormy and out of control.

You can make a difference for these children with your gift to provide a safe and fun school

environment this summer for Yellowstone students.

For only \$50, you will give a student one day of world-class instruction from caring teachers. Your generous support also provides reliable transportation to school and healthy meals.

Every day of the year matters to help our students grow into strong and healthy young adults.

Will you provide one, two, or even five days of learning for a child this summer?

YES! I want to help a student attend summer school.

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

- \$50 = 1 Day of Summer Programming
- \$250 = 5 Days of Summer Programming
- \$500 = 10 Days of Summer Programming
- \$1,000 = 20 Days of Summer Programming
- \$ _____

Every \$50 you give provides a student with one day of summer programming.

We appreciate you!

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Gifts designated for a particular project are used as requested until that need is fully met that fiscal year. Remaining funds are used where they will do the most good. 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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