

20 YEARS YELLOWSTONE SCHOOLS

**THANK
YOU
FOR 20 YEARS
OF SUCCESS!**

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” —Hebrews 13:8

Over the last two decades, you created life-changing experiences for each of our scholars. And while much in the world has indeed changed, Jesus still remains.

We have much to celebrate:

- 500 students enrolled this school year
- Our middle school program received an incredible B-rating from the Texas Education Agency
- 100% of our 8th-grade class of 2018 graduated from area high schools and are pursuing post-secondary degrees

- By early 2023, we will double the size of our campus, with a new two-story academic building, cafeteria, library, expanded playgrounds and outdoor spaces
- A year from now, we will launch our 9th grade

For 20 years, you have been changing lives here at Yellowstone Schools. Now is the perfect time to reflect on what you have already made possible for our students, and to consider how you want to get involved now. **Here's to the next 20 years!**

You helped Brea become a teacher.

Now, she's giving back to the next generation!

Six years ago we published these words by one of our first graduating 8th-graders, Brea Groce:

“By the beginning of my senior year of high school, I knew that my purpose in life was to be a teacher...I am looking forward to getting



Thanks to you, alum Brea is achieving her dreams and returned to Yellowstone as a teacher!

my degree in elementary education so I can return to Yellowstone as a teacher and give back to the community that has given so much to me.”

Brea's journey was not easy, but she stayed true to her vision and calling.

Your generous support made it possible for Brea to graduate from college, earn a Masters degree in Education, and return to Yellowstone Schools as a teacher. You surrounded Brea with a culture of love and support, and opened her eyes to new opportunities. In Brea's own words from 2016: **“Most of all, I learned that a community cared about my future.”**

On August 16, 2022, Brea's dream came true. She welcomed a new class of students as she stepped into her calling as a third grade teacher at Yellowstone Schools.

“I am excited to be back at Yellowstone Schools. This has been my dream for many years, and I'm grateful to everyone who made it possible!”

Thank you for believing in Brea. **Your support made a world of difference** in her life, and now she is going to make a huge difference for the next generation of students. 🙌



FROM THE FOUNDER

You have kept us on mission for 20 years!

Twenty years ago I gave a speech to a room filled with people like you—people who want to make a difference in the lives of Houston's most vulnerable children. Here's an excerpt from that speech:

"We want to serve children in circumstances that often lead to a failure to thrive, and provide them with an opportunity to experience success in life... perhaps no other single word better captures what Yellowstone is all about than opportunity. Providing these kids the opportunity to make something better out of their lives."

For the last twenty years, you have done just that. Through your support you gave thousands of these precious children the opportunity to become something more than their circumstances might otherwise allow. Now, with the addition of our charter school program, these kids can continue their growth at Yellowstone through high school.

Thanks to you, many of our original students have gone on to achieve great things. Our students are becoming college graduates, active-duty military, front-line teachers, social workers, entrepreneurs, tradesmen, and so much more. All because of the opportunities you opened up for them.

Kristi and I have been blown away by your generosity over the years. And now, 20 years later, I can honestly say that Yellowstone has never been better positioned to achieve our mission with these kids and the Third Ward community. I hope you will continue to join us for the next 20 years. The best is yet to come!

David Lumpkins

Alumna finds success as a cosmetologist and mom!

When Melquisha was preparing to graduate from high school, she shared these words with us: "My mom learned about Yellowstone when I was entering first grade. Once enrolled, my mom liked the school even more because the teachers and volunteers were all from different backgrounds. Most of all, she liked that they taught us about God. I didn't know at the time how these things would impact my life."

Melquisha was a bright student and a talented worker. After graduating with our 8th-grade class of 2012, Melquisha enrolled at Sterling High School. She was later accepted into the Jobs for Progress program with the City of Houston, and worked a full shift after school each day.



Melquisha and her son had graduations on the same day!

When her son was born, Melquisha was nervous about the future. She didn't know how she was going to earn a degree and raise her child at the same time. Fortunately, Melquisha knew her Yellowstone family would always be there for her. She also knew she needed to provide a stable home for her family.

Originally, Melquisha planned to study mortuary science, but she quickly learned that she preferred to work with living subjects. She recently graduated from Houston Community College with an associates degree in cosmetology. At the same time, her son graduated from Kindergarten.

Thanks to your constant support, Melquisha has overcome some incredible obstacles. Now, she is a grateful mother and her cosmetology degree is providing a stable life for her family.



Lyneisha started with us as a four-year old student!



Lyneisha poses for her high school portrait.

You're making a high school dream come true for scholars at Yellowstone Schools.

We met Lyneisha the first year we opened. Back in 2002, she was a quiet four-year old who was hesitant to try new things, whispered her answers, and kept her head down. Unlike most four-year-olds, her prayer requests were not for dolls and toys, but for everyday household needs for her family. However, she lit up when praised, and her grandmother once told us, "She loves being at school! It doesn't matter what day it is, she drives us crazy until we take her to school."

You gave Lyneisha the opportunity to attend Yellowstone Schools, and we watched as she grew into a confident student. Lyneisha always found a way to get to school, and she graduated with our 8th-grade class of 2012.

As a sophomore in high school, Lyneisha asked one of her former teachers, **"How come we didn't have a Yellowstone high school? Cause it's like home."**

"She loves being at school! It doesn't matter what day it is, she drives us crazy until we take her to school."

At the time, Lyneisha was a student at an excellent college-prep school, but she felt something was missing. For ten years, you provided her with a school that became her family and her place of stability. While she loved her high school, she missed being at Yellowstone.

You helped us build and sustain an alumni support program that kept our students on track in high school and beyond. **Now, we are less than a year away from the launch of a high school program at Yellowstone Schools thanks to your generous support for our *Yellowstone. Forever.* campaign.**

This new programming, paired with our new construction, will allow us to support our students through their pivotal high school years like never before. Instead of leaving their Yellowstone family, students like Lyneisha will be able to continue excelling in the safety and security of their home away from home.

Today, Lyneisha is still working hard to achieve her dreams. Like many of our alumni, figuring out how to afford a college education has been especially difficult. The tenacity Lyneisha displayed as a four-year-old determined to get to school is still in full force today. Nothing will stop her from achieving her academic goals.

Thank you for standing with students like Lyneisha. Your support and care for them in these early years is making an incredible difference in their lives. 🎓

Learn more about the *Yellowstone. Forever.* campaign on our website at <https://yellowstoneschools.org/forever>.



Thank you for providing desks to students for 20 years!

A desks represents so much more than just a place in a classroom. It represents an opportunity. Since 2002, you have given students at Yellowstone the opportunities they need to succeed in life.

Despite these efforts, there are still thousands of students across Houston who are stuck in underperforming schools each year. To meet this incredible need, we have set an ambitious goal to serve 750 students in PreK through 12th grade by 2026.

We want to provide more opportunities to more students—and we need your help.

In honor of our 20th year, you can give a desk to a student for only \$20 per month.

PLUS—everyone who makes a gift during our 20th anniversary year will be recognized in a special way when we open our new building.

Will you provide a child with a desk this year?

YES! I want to give a child a desk at Yellowstone Schools!



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

- \$20/month = 1 Desk (and endless opportunities!)**
- \$100/month = 5 Desks
- \$200/month = 10 Desks
- \$400/month = Give an entire classroom a desk!
- \$ _____

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.

Give online at YELLOWSTONESCHOOLS.ORG/give20

