



YELLOWSTONE SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2023

A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Dear Yellowstone friends and family,


Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

Almost 100 years after Frederick Douglass Elementary was built and 70 years after the “end” of segregation, many Black students across our city still receive a sub-par education in poorly maintained facilities.

Not so at Yellowstone!

We believe all students deserve a quality education in safe and clean facilities. This is why we’ve invested \$30 million in our remodeled 4-acre campus that now has 50+ classrooms and learning centers, a gym, a multi-purpose room, a library, a music room, an art studio, and an innovation hub. Plus, amazing age-appropriate playgrounds and green spaces.

This fall, we will welcome nearly 600 Yellowstone students, including our new class of 9th graders, to these facilities. Our students are thriving, with access to curriculum and services of the highest level.

You made this reality possible through your generous hearts. As we grow and equip more children for successful adulthood, consider how you can be part of our journey moving forward. We continue to need your guidance, prayers, and support. Let’s pave the way for a brighter future together! 

KERRI FLIES HIGH AT AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Yellowstone gave her the confidence to believe in herself

Kerri Johnson is the first to tell you that her time at Yellowstone set her up for success in life. The rising senior at the U.S. Air Force Academy is a legal studies major and on track to become a special investigations officer when she graduates in 2024.


“The small class sizes and personal attention at Yellowstone Schools really made a difference in giving me confidence. Yellowstone is more than a building. It’s a family, and I can still feel the love.”

She recently shared that love when she visited Mrs. Smith’s 3rd-grade class. “I wanted to thank [Mrs. Smith] for all she did for me and let the students know their time at Yellowstone is only the beginning. I want them to know it’s okay to let people wiser than you guide you.”



As a student, Kerri, the daughter of a single mother, gravitated to math and science classes and was a superb athlete. Because of your generous support, she was accepted to high school at Second Baptist, where she ran track and played basketball. She was offered scholarships to several Texas universities, but had her sights set on the Air Force Academy.

Kerri was accepted into a 5-year program at the Academy. Since then, she has been recognized for her leadership skills, becoming a Squadron Commander where she now helps shape newer cadets.

Thank you for believing in Kerri. Your investment spurred her to become a leader who will pay it forward in service to our country and others. 



David Dominy
Board Chair (PK-5th Grade)

FROM THE BOARD

As we conclude the celebration of our 20th year, I reflect on Kristi and David Lumpkins' founding vision to provide a life-changing, Christian education for the children of Houston's Greater Third Ward. Thank you for the

part you've played in Yellowstone's history—whether as a student, parent, donor, volunteer or staff member. You have played an important role in Yellowstone's success.

The *Yellowstone. Forever.* campaign is ensuring success for future generations. We are close to completing this \$30M fundraising campaign but still need your participation. To learn more about *Yellowstone. Forever.*, please visit yellowstoneschools.org/forever.

I hope each of you will stop by the campus to see your dollars at work, including the new expansion and the renovation of our existing building, which has been serving as the academic heart of this neighborhood for almost 100 years. For all of this and more, thank you!

Most importantly, our students are growing and thriving! Between the achievements of our students, our 20th anniversary, and the completion of our campus expansion, we have much to celebrate. Again, it is your generosity that makes such a difference with these wonderful kids!

We are in this together—here's to the next 20 years of Yellowstone scholars! 🙌

Mrs. Harris shares inside view of what makes Yellowstone special

Mrs. Connie Harris, a 3rd-grade educator at Yellowstone, first came to the school in 2008 as a parent and volunteer. She shared her gratitude with supporters as a featured speaker at this year's Party in the Park event. Here are excerpts from her remarks:

What if Yellowstone was never founded 20 years ago? I can tell you that hundreds—maybe even thousands—of children and families wouldn't have access

to a life-changing education or experiences. They'd be in sub-par schools with overcrowded classes, and you can bet many of those students would be falling through the cracks. If Yellowstone was never founded, many students wouldn't answer God's call to walk in his footsteps.

As a Parent: I was so impressed—very small class sizes, Christian teachers, prayer in the classroom. But most importantly, my children participated in faith-building activities.

On Starting the PTO: Yellowstone had a women's Bible study group in the library. Building relationships with other mothers helped redefine who I was in the Lord. Out of the Bible study, the idea of forming a parent-teacher organization evolved to support the students, staff, and other parents. Somehow, I was even convinced to be PTO president!

On Teaching: This school year, I started in my usual Pre-K assistant position, when a role unexpectedly opened up in 3rd grade. Principal Lapid approached me to fill it. I accepted the call, and now I teach 3rd-grade math and love every minute of it. The students are thriving, and so am I! 🙌





\$8 million gift a catalyst for educational excellence

Yellowstone. Forever. campaign co-chairs, Anne and Les Csorba and Janet and Brad Childers, recall that the going was tough to raise funds during COVID, and at one point, it looked doubtful that the campaign goal would be met. Then a miracle happened.

Superintendent Dolibois received an unmarked envelope in the mail. Inside was an anonymous \$8 million gift, with a note that read:


Don't be afraid. Move forward with your capital project. God Bless you.

This was the catalyst to proceed on a foundation of faith and re-energized the campaign to double Yellowstone's campus and invest heavily in academics.

Les Csorba sees a new energy on campus as finishing touches are made. "It is so inspirational to see the look on supporters' faces as they tour

the grounds," he says. "Yellowstone is truly an oasis of hope and promise, and it would not have been possible without a huge team effort over the last few years."


With new facilities and grounds in place, Csorba believes the next challenge is ensuring that educators, administrators, and, ultimately, students have unmatched resources to pursue a rigorous education. "We have to keep the pipeline filled," he adds, "to build on what has been accomplished to date."

"Our gratitude is immense," says Brad Childers. "Faithfulness, prayers and a vision to accelerate academic excellence are propelling us forward to the next chapter of Yellowstone's history. Your care and support of our students is making an astonishing impact in our community." 

In-kind donations deserve a special shout-out

Philanthropy comes in all shapes and sizes. Often, it is the small things that can make a difference to our students and teachers. One example is Ascend Performance Materials' recent donation of pencils. This wonderful gift prepared all of our elementary and middle school students for upcoming testing. Not just writing utensils, these were confidence-boosters!

We received many gifts that made our kids feel special during the Easter season. Working with our librarian and Kindred Stories, St. Martin's Episcopal Church purchased books as a gift to our

scholars. Also, making our annual campus Easter Egg Hunt especially fun this year, pre-filled eggs were donated by a variety of individuals coming from Ascend Performance Materials, Christ the King Presbyterian Church, and the National Charity League Memorial Chapter. 

These donations and others like them are incredibly important to students, and we are always thankful for your support.

To learn more about our in-kind needs, contact advancement@yellowstoneschools.org.



Unlocking a World of Opportunity: Empower Students Through Summer Academic Enrichment

This summer, you have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of young learners by supporting our summer academic enrichment program. With small class sizes, a shortened day, and a dedicated focus on building foundational skills in reading and math, we are committed to providing an exceptional learning experience.

Small class sizes ensure that each student receives personalized attention and individualized instruction, fostering a supportive and engaging environment. Our experienced educators are dedicated to nurturing the unique abilities and talents of every student, allowing them to thrive personally and academically.

Our carefully designed curriculum focuses on building strong foundations in reading and math, equipping students with essential skills that are vital for future academic success. Through interactive lessons, engaging exercises, and stimulating projects, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.

Your support is crucial in making this enriching experience accessible to our students. By donating you invest in the intellectual growth and development of young minds, preparing them for a brighter future. Join us today and help us create a summer of learning, growth, and endless possibilities. 🙌

YES! I want to unlock opportunity for a child at Yellowstone this summer!

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.

Give online at YELLOWSTONESCHOOLS.ORG/SUMMER

