

Chicken Soup

for

Friendswood ISD

Growing up in Friendswood, I always knew there was something unique and special about this community. There's a sense of security and comfort that is found in this place we call "home." We are a community that joins hands and walks through life's greatest and most difficult moments together. This is something I experienced first-hand when I found myself fighting for my life.

In August of 2021, one week before school started, I delivered my son. All of the joy we felt was quickly shaken a few days later when I ended up back in the hospital with major complications from giving birth. My world stopped but the hands and feet of Friendswood did not. While I couldn't, our community and school district cared for my family in a way I could have never imagined.

In the midst of the chaos and struggle of being away from my newborn, I felt a particular wrench in my gut for missing my daughter Andey's first day of kindergarten. Though it still weighs heavy on me, in that time I was yet again lifted up because I knew she was being loved on and taken care of by a village, MY village. My team at Westwood swooped in and made sure I was with her every step of the way - sending me photos throughout her first day of school gave me hope and strength as I pulled through my sickness.

When I was finally discharged from the hospital and sent home to continue my healing, the help poured in from all angles. We were fed for months, we had help from friends and family as we adjusted to our new normal, and my fight to get better was fueled by the love and support I received during this time. The light at the end of the tunnel was my goal to return to my calling: loving on kindergarten students in room 48 at Westwood Elementary. After months of healing and the gift of time, that was made possible and I returned to the classroom at the beginning of January. Being back in my element proved the nightmare we once walked was over, and the craving of our normal was BACK!

As an employee of FISD, I was reminded during this time of adversity that when you work in this district, we aren't just coworkers and colleagues - we are a work family. As a teacher of FISD, I was reminded of my WHY - parents of current and former students as well as students who just knew me from passing and hugs in the hall brought my family meals and provided for us in ways that went above and beyond. As a parent of an FISD student, I was reminded of the importance of raising your kids in a place where we love our neighbors well.

To everyone who helped, prayed, and loved us during this journey, I want to say the most genuine "thank you."

-Maegan Millet, Westwood Kindergarten Teacher