

Our Grace Story

Seven years ago, I stepped into the Convention Center to attend the Black and Latino Student Fund event. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I knew I had to find a school that would fit the needs of my then almost four-year-old son, Cam. It was time for him to move on from daycare, and his late birthday was going to cause an issue with matriculating into the public school system. So I went to the event searching for a school that was just as amazing and innovative as he was. I probably gathered materials from at least twenty institutions before I happened upon the Grace table. I immediately was drawn to their warm and welcoming spirits, and signed up for an open house tour without hesitation. So a few weeks later, I piled my mom, sister and aunt into the car and we headed up 495. As we entered Grace, I instantly felt like this was home. The smiles were genuine, the energy was positive, and you could see that Grace truly was the place! After talking with several staff members about the Pre-Kindergarten program and the school community, I prayed and put in an application. A few months later, as I was checking my email while my 7th graders ate their breakfast, I saw the acceptance letter from Grace! I immediately burst into tears! My students jumped up and screamed, "What's wrong Ms. Yates?" "He got in!" I screamed and just cried and cried. They surrounded me and hugged me and told me how happy they were for Cam!

It's been 6 years since Cam entered Grace, and the same excitement I felt in 2015 has only grown over the years. Grace is truly a family. We care for each other, we uplift each other, and we learn and grow together. I have been a public school teacher for over 15 years, and some people question why I chose to send Cam to Grace over a public school. My response is that God led me to a home away from home for my son. He led me to a place that would nurture my child academically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially. And even though I am not sure where Cam will head next after 5th grade, I know that he will be more than prepared for the next leg of his academic journey. I love Grace, not just because they love Cam, but because they are great people that do great things with and for children and their families. Grace is truly a blessing, and I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for this unique and amazing school community.