

What DISD/ DEF/ QUEST means to me...

“Mom, I need a dollar to watch a movie Friday, and a dollar to wear athletic shorts”

Do you ever hesitate to give them the dollar? Do you wonder why are you paying for such things?

Let me tell you why, this is my story about how a dollar here and there made such a difference.

I moved to Dumas in 1996 after getting out of an abusive marriage, to have a better life for myself and my children. I had a daughter entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and a 5 year old son that would start Kindergarten.

That fall I enrolled my children in DISD and they started at Morningside.

The very first day of school my boy’s Kindergarten teacher ask if I was aware that he could read some words.... I just smiled at told her that he could do so much more.

Within a week they had my son tested and realized he was far beyond a Kindergarten level.

Over the next few weeks the DISD/Morningside staff worked to find a place for him. A place that would challenge him, yet a place that he would fit in. They moved him to first grade, then second, he spent time with third and fourth grade, finally settling him in a first grade classroom and allowing him to spend parts of his days in higher classes for subjects that he excelled in.

He started PEGS and truly breezed through Elementary.

At the age of 12 my son decided he would graduate early and pursue a career in aviation of some sort.

I was a single mom with two children, working two jobs to make ends meet. I was not able to set aside a College Fund. Both of my children did well in school, making a’s and b’s...

In February of 2007 my son turned 16 and graduated that same May.

He qualified for QUEST Monies and applied them to the Aviation Program at Amarillo College.

Without QUEST I am not sure how we would have accomplished paying for the program.

He graduated from the program at Amarillo College at the age of 18. He applied and was tested at Bell Helicopter and hired on at the age of 20. One of the youngest employees in their history.

He has been there five years now, and makes a nice annual salary. He speaks often about how he loves his career and owes so much to the QUEST program at DISD.

I was blessed to find a wonderful man, remarry and we have had three other children. They all three strive to meet QUEST requirements.

I am happy to give them a dollar for a movie, to wear athletic clothing, or to be a part of some fun activity. I often throw in an extra dollar or two for the kids whose parents might not be able to.

I would like to thank DISD, DEF and every parent through the years who have given their children a dollar for DEF activities.

I promise you it makes a bigger difference than you could ever know.

Thank you for your time,

A VERY PROUD DISD MOM,

Regina Gorham