



## estbury High School

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### A WESTBURY SUCCESS STORY

*Houston, TX-* Westbury High School student Phillip Harbor had been an outstanding football player and model student, but in his senior year he dropped out of school and started working full time. After being contacted by Westbury's Dropout Prevention Team, Phillip rethought his decision. Taking the advice of some friends, he showed up at the office a new Westbury counselor, Tashi Hickman. Ms. Hickman is Westbury's Athletic Academic Advisor, and she immediately took Phillip under her wing. He already had a high GPA, so Ms. Hickman encouraged him to consider the possibility of taking the SAT and applying for college. So Phillip dedicated himself to hard work and to applied for college and pursued scholarships. His efforts paid off when he was awarded a full scholarship to Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas. His mentor, Ms. Hickman, proudly drove him to the college to begin his work as a physical education major. Phillip's career goals include teaching and coaching at the high school level, maybe even back at Westbury. "I plan on returning to Westbury and coaching football," Philip says. "It's important to give back to the people who gave to you."

Tashi Hickman is one of the new Athletic Academic Advisors who have been placed in each HISD high school this academic year. Her job is to monitor the academic well-being of Westbury's athletes, keeping them on track for graduation and eventually college. She also helps them to complete their community service requirement and offers them leadership classes. Success stories like Phillip Harbor are certainly rewarding. Says Ms. Hickman, "Assisting Phillip and physically taking him to Jarvis College was one of the greatest moments of my career."

As a charter member of the Coalition of Essential Schools, Westbury High School continuously updates its academic and social structures to better serve its students and the community. In this century of technology-driven markets, Westbury strives to prepare students to survive economically, skillfully, socially, and artistically in order to compete in today's global society. Westbury High School is divided into seven Academies or Small Learning Communities, which focus on preparing students for specific career or collegiate paths beyond high school.

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