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**HOUSTON TEXANS WHITNEY MERCILUS AND THE WITHMERC
FOUNDATION SEND HISD STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE
-Returning 2 Learning-**

HOUSTON, TX - Houston Texans Whitney Mercilus is returning to the field this season for his 8th NFL season showing **NO MERCI**, and off the field he is assisting Houston Independent School District students as they are **RETURNING 2 LEARNING**. Mercilus is working through his foundation, The WithMerci Foundation, to provide under-served children with FREE haircuts, hair styles, schools supplies and vouchers for school clothes. **Mercilus will be joined by local celebrities, Texans mascot and community partners for "Returning 2 Learning", this Friday, August 16, 2019 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Billy Reagan K-8TH Educational Center located at 4842 Anderson Rd., Houston, Texas 77053.**

Mercilus created Returning 2 Learning to assist students in returning to school with their necessities after Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The collaborative efforts of change-agent Wanda Adams, HISD School Board member, were awe-inspiring in joining forces with Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation to meet students' needs. In 2017, 300 students were served and with an increase in new partners and sponsors for 2018, Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation were able to serve 600 kids. This year, WithMerci will be serving just over 1,000 kids.

This year the event's sponsoring partners are Houston Independent School District; Shipley Donuts, Whataburger Houston, Papa John's providing food and fun to students and their families; Empire Barber Studios, providing haircuts, Pepsi and many more.

"I started the WithMerci Foundation because I love working with children, and I've developed a passion to help underprivileged kids and their families. Returning 2 Learning is one of my favorite events, who doesn't like to look good on the first day of school! To be in a position to give back and especially to my community is always an honor. We play every Sunday with the City of Houston supporting us, it feels amazing to give them that same love and support," said Mercilus.

For more information, please visit www.withmerci.org. Also, follow @withmerci on Facebook and Instagram using #WithMerci and #Returning2Learning.

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ABOUT the WITHMERCi FOUNDATION

The WithMerci Foundation was founded in 2016 by Houston Texans Outside-Linebacker Whitney Mercilus. The Foundation provides opportunities and financial support to families of children with disabilities and specials needs. The foundation was created in 2016 and within the past two years it has raised nearly three-hundred thousand dollars. Each year the WithMerci Foundation chooses a different disability to focus on and use its' platform to educate the community. In 2017 the foundation focused on children with Autism, in 2018 the foundation focused on Cerebral Palsy and this year (2019) this foundation is focusing on Down Syndrome. The WithMerci Foundation offer grants to organizations who are working with children with disabilities each year. Organizations interested in receiving grant money from the WithMerci Foundation can apply at www.withmerci.org. Stay connected on social media @withmerci.

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