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PRESS RELEASE

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**HOUSTON TEXANS WHITNEY MERCILUS AND THE WITHMERCIFOUNDATION
SEND HISD STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE**

-Returning 2 Learning at Lawson Middle School-

HOUSTON, TX - Houston Texans Whitney Mercilus is returning to the field this season showing **NO MERCIF**, 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 underserved children with FREE haircuts, hair styles, schools supplies and vouchers for school clothes. **Mercilus will be joined by local celebrities, Texans mascot Toro, Ronald McDonald, Birdie and community partners for "Returning 2 Learning", this Friday, August 10, 2018 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Lawson Middle School located at 14000 Stancliff, Houston, Texas 77045.**

Mercilus created Returning 2 Learning to assist students in returning to school with their necessities after Hurricane Harvey last year. The collaborative efforts of change-agent Wanda Adams, President of the HISD School Board were awe-inspiring in joining forces with Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation to meet students' needs. Last year, 300 students were served and with an increase in new partners and sponsors for 2018, Mercilus and the WithMerci Foundation will be serving 500 kids.

This year the event's sponsoring partners are Houston Independent School District; McDonald's Owner/Operators Association of Greater Houston, providing food and fun to students and their families; Visible Changes, providing 30 professional stylist; Empire Barber Studios, providing haircuts Bank of Texas, 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 have to remember that we still have to work together as our city is still rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey, but know the heart of Houston lies within the resiliency of our people. We play every Sunday with the city of Houston supporting us, it feels amazing to give them that same love and support as we work to rebuild and heal our communities" said Mercilus.

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

ABOUT THE WITHMERCIFOUNDATION

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 special 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 and this year (2018) the foundation is focusing on Cerebral Palsy. 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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