SHSU tutor returns to her elementary school to provide accelerated instruction

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Misty Banville

When Misty Banville learned that she had a four-centimeter meningioma pushing against her brain stem, the Spring ISD graduate and mother of four was scared, not sure whether she was going to live or die. After a successful brain surgery to remove the tumor, Banville had to re-learn how to walk and perform other everyday activities she previously had taken for granted.

The experience, and its aftermath, completely upended her life, but also convinced Banville that it was finally time to go back to school, finish her degree, and pursue her dream of becoming a teacher.

“I was scared to death,” Banville said of weathering the medical and personal difficulties that followed her diagnosis, “but I think it made me really tough, you know? Because I was kind of lollygagging on going back to school, and that really made me want it, really bad, and want to fight for it.”

Two years later, Banville is not only walking, but has re-enrolled in college at Sam Houston State University to finish her degree in education. And now – through a partnership between Sam Houston and Spring ISD – Banville has come, in her own words, “full circle,” back to Winship Elementary School. There, she and other educators-in-training are working alongside certified teachers during an eight-week rotation – one full day each week – to help prepare themselves for the classroom while also tutoring students in core subjects like math, science and reading.