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UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY-ELLEN THOMPSON CAMPUS

University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds that academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically engaged as change agents for themselves and their community.

CREW PROFILE

Who or what inspired you to become a Kindergarten teacher?

I've always wanted to be a teacher ever since the fourth grade. I was chosen to be a future teacher by my favorite English and Language Arts instructor, Ms. Clay. I was super excited! I read to Kindergartners and helped them with their handwriting. The looks on their faces after they did well on an assignment was the motivation I needed to become a teacher.

What do you love most about teaching Kindergarten scholars?

I love the relationships that I've built with my Kindergarten scholars. Every year I get a new set of students and each year, I have the most amazing time teaching my class. Kindergartners are full of life and curiosity, they love asking questions and figuring out the answers. Kindergarteners are at the very beginning of their education journey and I love to see how much they grow by the end of the school year.

What advice do you have for parents who are seeking a school for their Kindergarten scholar?

The culture and community at every school is very important. This sets the tone for how scholars' view education and school for the rest of their lives. A school that is student centered and encourages teachers to reflect and use data to drive instruction is also very important. Every scholar deserves a school that will cater to their emotional and mental needs as they grow in life.

How does U Prep's program prepare Kindergarten scholars for their educational journey?

U Prep's program prepared Kindergarten scholars for their educational journey by introducing them to exploration, problem solving and critical thinking at an early age. Scholars are encouraged to ask questions and explore their own questions to derive an answer. In classrooms you hear more student voices than adult voices. Scholars are in charge of their learning and teachers are the facilitators.

Describe a memorable experience that you had with a Kindergarten scholar in your classroom?

I remember it like it was yesterday, one of my scholars said, "I wish you were my auntie". What stuck out to me the most was the fact that this scholar and I had built such a strong bond that he considered me like family. This respect that he had for me was profound, appreciated and reciprocated.

What philosophical saying or belief do you live by?

"Fear is a reaction, courage is a choice."

