



ANGELA BELL

**UNIVERSITY PREP
SCIENCE AND MATH
ELEMENTARY**

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?

Since I was a child, I have always had the desire to be with small children. I was always babysitting and taking care of the neighborhood's kids. When I graduated, I knew that I wanted to work with children. I have been teaching now for 30 years. I taught 1st grade for over 20 years. After being a Reading Specialist for 4 years, I decided to go back into the classroom, when our school needed a Kindergarten Teacher. Coming from First Grade, I didn't think it would be much of a difference, but it was. Over the past 5 years, I've learned that it takes a special anointing to be a Kindergarten Teacher. If you ask me now, what's my superpower? I will respond, "Teaching Kindergarten students on Zoom!"

What do you love most about teaching Kindergarten scholars?

I love to see how much they grow in a year. When they come in the fall, they barely know any letters and sounds. When they leave, they are reading like champions!!

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

Our school is a place for involved families who are serious about their child's education. Students are expected to arrive on time and complete daily class and homework assignments. Students are also expected to produce high-quality work. In Kindergarten we do not take naps or play all day. Our school is an Expeditionary Learning school, so we are doing hands-on learning all the time, for example through projects. Our curriculum challenges each scholar academically. The students get a well-rounded education with special classes which include: Music, Art, Science, and Physical Education.

What philosophical saying or belief do you live by?

Excellence or nothing at all!!!

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

Our ELA curriculum has many different components. First, we have whole group instruction. Here, I would teach the class as a group on the skills that are at grade level. From there, we break out into our skills block time. During this time, the lessons are designed for students at different reading levels. Our Module time is where the students learn how to have conversations with one another and have an accountable talk. The students study 3 topics throughout the year, for example, Toys, Weather, and Trees. At the end of each module, the students will produce a project to share their learning with their families at a Celebration of learning. In Math, the students will learn grade-level skills, for example, writing and counting to 100, adding and subtraction, 2d, and 3d shapes just to name a few.

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