

# CREW PROFILE



**DEBBIE JACKSON**

**UNIVERSITY PREP  
ART AND DESIGN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

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.

## ***Who or what inspired you to become a Kindergarten teacher?***

My 4th grade teacher, the late Francine Calloway & my late aunt Turley Porter. They both were great teachers & always instilled in me that I could do & be whatever I wanted to as long as I persevered and always did my best.

## ***What do you love most about teaching Kindergarten scholars?***

I love working with kids. I love their curiosity and love of learning. I love seeing their eyes light up when they realize they can now read. I even love when they have this look of confusion on their face in frustration while they concentrate so hard on a task they are so motivated to conquer. There have been moments that feel like a zoo in my classroom, yes, but the kids in my room each year are still by far my number one reason for what I do. Sometimes teaching makes me tired, and I know it isn't all peaches and cream. However, it truly is like no other profession, and I never wanted to do anything else.

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

First, look at the school's stability & look for one that is actually teaching kinders & not allowing them to play and nap. Also, look for a school that has a curriculum that allows creativity & is at times hands on for children.

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

U Prep's program starts out by teaching kinders how to become phonetically sound. This program is not the traditional kindergarten where scholars play & nap. U Prep is quite the opposite, learning to read and write is paramount in this program.

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

My most memorable experience is one scholar who entered my studio with very little knowledge of letter recognition, sounds and mathematical awareness. As time went on it was if a light went off & his ability to learn and retain information was the highlight of my day.

## ***What philosophical saying or belief do you live by?***

I believe that all students can learn something in my class and that no student knows everything. I believe that all children learn differently and teachers are facilitators of knowledge for children and to be cognizant of the way each child learns.