



FAITH DYSARD

**UNIVERSITY PREP
ART AND DESIGN
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?

I was inspired because Kindergarten is where many scholars are first exposed to school and a structured learning environment. I believe that a scholar's Kindergarten year will begin their love for education and learning, and I want to be the one to give them the joyous experience.

What do you love most about teaching Kindergarten scholars?

The thing I love most about teaching Kindergarten is they are at the age where they have no filter and question everything. The questions and comments that I hear daily keep me entertained and on my toes. I also love the 'ah ha' moments. The times where scholars make real word connections and communicate their learning back to me. That makes me feel good to know they understood what I have taught.

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

Advice that I would give parents seeking a school for their Kindergarten scholar is to attend Open Houses. Most times, at an Open House, you will get a feel for the school's culture, the curriculum being used, and the opportunity to ask as many questions as you want. Listen to the answers being given, see if they align to your beliefs and how you would like your child to learn. Ask if there are any current parents available to speak to and learn why they choose the school for their child. Note, I said houses so you can compare different schools to see what works for you and your scholar.

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

U Prep's Kindergarten program prepares scholars to become independent learners who can use multiple skills to problem solve and communicate their thinking. Our scholars love to learn because we provide hands on experiences, even in the virtual setting, where scholars can make connections to what is being taught. Our program also meets scholars where they are. We differentiate instruction within the lessons and our small groups to assist scholars with their growth. U Prep Schools also provides multiple support systems that are available for scholars at the very beginning, to make sure they are on track for 1st grade.

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

The most memorable experience that I had with a Kindergarten scholar in my classroom was with a scholar who had severe social and emotional difficulties that went so far as they would not even allow me near them. This scholar would have violent fits, yelling, and would even leave the room. This lasted for 3 months. After multiple meetings and talking to their parents, I finally found out some of the things that the scholar was interested in. When I placed those things in the room, gave the scholar "jobs", and had one-on-one conversations with the scholar, they developed trust in me and the behavior turned completely around. Now, that scholar is excelling both academically and behaviorally.

What philosophical saying or belief do you live by?

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are older, they will not depart from it."