



JOLIKA WELBORNE

**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?

My love for working with children and in education, inspired me to become a kindergarten teacher.

What do you love most about teaching kindergarten scholars?

Have you ever heard the saying, "Everything I need to know, I learned in kindergarten?" Well, I love facilitating social and emotional development, setting a strong foundation for advanced academic concepts that will help students be successful in their educational journey, creating independent thinkers and building relationships that can last a lifetime.

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

Parents should look for schools that provide teachers with mentors, instruction and discussion of best practices. They should see teachers who show that they care about the scholars through meaningful interaction. Parents should look for scholars who are engaged in purposeful learning activities through a rigorous curriculum and enjoy time for recess.

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

U Prep's kindergarten program produces scholars with a high quality foundation that enables healthy development and academic success. Our district is committed to creating safe environments that inspire imagination, cooperation, care and joyful discovery. We promote deep understanding, where scholars become leaders of their own learning. Scholars are not only exposed to rich literature and mathematical concepts, but they also participate in science, art, music and physical education- all while developing confidence in their oral language and social skills.



UNIVERSITY PREP SCHOOLS

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

I've had lots of memorable experiences as a kindergarten teacher at U Prep. One of my favorite memories would have to be building leprechaun traps with my scholars during year two. The class was divided into groups and each group designed a trap, using a variety of materials. We used paper bags, Lego blocks, string, straws, paint etc. There were several different kinds of traps. The scholars had so much fun designing a trap. Before the scholars went home for the day, we hung gold coins as bait for the leprechauns. That evening, I collected the gold coins and left little green footprints all over the classroom. The next morning when scholars arrived, they were super excited, as they saw that the bait had been taken! I watched with delight as scholars and some parents searched the room with magnifying glasses. They checked every trap and followed the footprints to see how the leprechaun had gotten away. The run was buzzing with excitement and I watched scholars initiate a conversation about how they could improve their traps to outsmart the leprechaun next time. There were so many smiles, high fives and hugs!

What philosophy or saying do you live by?

A belief I live by is to treat people the way I want to be treated. When I plan my lessons, I try to think about what it would take to keep me engaged in this lesson as a five year old. I want to meet the needs of different types of learners so I have to place myself in their shoes. If I am successful or I need additional support, how would I want my teacher to respond? It's important to look at each scholar as an individual with specific wants and needs, and understanding how to address them.

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