



## Preparing Scholars To Be Future Leaders

### ***Kimberly Llorens – UPA Elementary - Mark Murray Campus***

UPREP prepares scholars to be future leaders by encouraging them each and every day to have empathy for others. We also share the importance of being part of a community that builds everyone up and teaches self-love as the greatest gift they can give themselves. Of course, we also provide a rigorous high-quality education but at the heart of that education is a belief in themselves, their community and a shared belief that people working together to make remarkable changes.



### ***Derrick Kellam – UPA High School***

University Prep Academy High School develops students to become leaders by teaching with an intense focus on literacy, effective communication, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. Our project-based approach immerses students in authentic learning experiences based around real life problems. UPA High School promotes and develops student voice while encouraging students to be active members in their school and neighborhood communities. This development is accomplished through extra-curricula programming such as: student leadership, debate, robotics, youth entrepreneurs, and peer mentoring. Students are also involved in the planning, promoting, and executing school activities and events.



***Felicia Brimage – UPAD Elementary School***

During these uncertain times, working together as a community and family is more important than ever. We believe nurturing future leaders begins by uplifting our scholars as the leaders they already are. We believe our scholars have the right to be seen, be heard, be uplifted and be loved. At UPAD ES, we strive to develop lasting relationships rooted in the shared mission of developing scholars for the global community. Developing future leaders is a great privilege because we believe in shared leadership. Our staff supports opportunities to give scholars access to leading with their voice through conversations, leading crew in the morning for the class, or virtually during schoolwide crew. UPAD ES has scholar leaders who greet visitors, restate directions, read the learning object and/or support one another when navigating online platforms. Our scholars have become even more motivated to succeed, taking on a new learning environment, and challenging themselves to do better each day. As a community, we are strong and we aim to prepare our scholars for the global community.



### ***LaTasha. Goodall – UPSM Middle School***

*“Preparing students for a future full of possibilities,”* is not just a mantra of UPREP Schools, but a belief system that we truly carry out at UPSM Middle School! We are constantly challenging our scholars, and pushing their thinking toward what they want to be in life towards the outcome of productive, successful, and strong contributors to society.

Our school is preparing scholars to be future leaders by a couple of ways I would like to highlight. First and foremost, each Crew teacher meets with their scholars to complete their Educational Development Plan (EDP) at the start of each school year. Our school counselor coaches and trains our teachers around having these conversations and creating an intentional space where scholars build a plan on what they want to be in the future, and how they plan to get there. We also have scholars to hold leadership roles in our school by being our Dean of Culture’s *DOC Sidekicks* (The Dean’s hallway helpers), *Student Council Members*, and holding offices in the *National Junior Honor’s Society*; where both groups take a trip to Chicago each year to the LEAD Conference, and attend sessions to deepen their leadership skills.

The other student leadership prep period happens every year on or around Halloween. Instead of scholars dressing up as a ghost or goblin, we have them to dress up as *‘Their Future Self’* and share thoughts on why they see themselves in this light for their future. It is such a great day of engaging in rich conversation in the present to envision that future full of possibilities coming true.



### ***Melissa Lloyd – UPA Middle School***

The dedicated learning community at UPA MS prepares scholars to be future leaders with our award-winning curriculum and combination of crucial experiences that position them for college and career success. Our school community recognizes that specific skills are essential for the globalized industry: Critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, technology literacy, and leadership are embedded in our learning design so that our scholars develop the initiative to become leaders of their own learning.

Creating authentic experiences with subject matter is another key component for success at UPA Middle School. Learned skills are applied and amplified in unique and relevant contexts where scholars put them into immediate practice. Our classrooms are equipped with the latest technology that allows scholars to have a customizable learning environment according to their needs - allowing for a more personalized and adaptive experience. Finally, extracurricular opportunities abound in a wide array of choices for our scholars' many interests. From a robotics team and science partnerships with local universities to afterschool art classes and athletic programs, we encourage holistic growth of the whole scholar.

Purposeful programs and learning design at UPA Middle School allow scholars to develop academically, socially, and emotionally, placing them in an optimal position for future leadership success.



### ***Walter Reese – UPSM Elementary School***

At University Preparatory Science and Math Elementary School, we are preparing our scholars to be future leaders by engaging them in critical thinking activities and allowing them to express themselves when discussing current event topics during class discussions. Scholars are encouraged to listen to their peers and share a thought of support or respectful rebuttal. During virtual learning, scholars have risen to the challenge of leadership, by being selected as a co-host or volunteering to share their screen to model how to access websites or complete assignments.



### ***Clare Mckenna – UPAD Middle School***

This year, at UPAD Middle School, our big goal is “Strengthening our relational trust through Ujima: collective work and responsibility.” We are preparing our scholars to be future leaders by ensuring Ujima is at the forefront of everything that we do as a school, because we see leadership as taking responsibility and doing the necessary collective work with your community. We believe the first step of preparing our future leaders is to honor our students through empowering their voices. This began on the very first day of school, as every teacher started their class for the year by facilitating student conversations on what Ujima looks like in that content area. From there, our students worked collaboratively to create social contracts, where our students named what they expect of themselves, of each other, and of their teacher within their learning environments. Now in November, we see students and teachers referring to their social contracts, reminding each other what they agreed upon, and working together to achieve their academic goals.

Student leadership is also cultivated within Crew. Every other Thursday our crews compete in our Crew Challenges, where they work collectively to complete the challenge, earning points for their crew. We see leadership as the Crew works together to assign roles and responsibilities, making sure every aspect of the challenge is met. Students have worked together to create Ujima quilts that represent their Crew, they have competed in trivia challenges, and cover art recreation challenges, and all virtually - truly showing that it is still possible to come together even throughout this time.

Most excitingly, our Crews work together and foster leadership as they prepare for our monthly All School Crews. In October, Crews competed in our first ever “Wild’n Out” All School Crew. Crews selected representatives to create and perform Crew introductions and Hip Hop History rhymes. In November, students created T-Shirt designs to represent their Grade Level Crew, and performed original spoken word and raps on Social Justice. This is truly honoring and empowering their voices: giving our students a schoolwide platform to share their creations, their words, their opinions, their beliefs on what is currently happening in our country and what they want to see happen for themselves and our community. Check out our Instagram to listen to their performances!



**Kyra White – UPA Elementary - Ellen Thompson Campus**  
ET is preparing our scholars to be future leaders by providing focused daily dialogue that helps ground them in the various Rights of the Body beginning with the 'right to be here'. When a child develops confidence regarding who they are and their place in the world, they are unstoppable. We're excited to see each of our scholars continue to blossom as they exemplify leadership during these unprecedented times.

### ***Rights of the Body***

- The right to be here
- The right to feel
- The right to act
- The right to love and be loved
- The right to speak truth to power
- The right to see
- The right to know



## ***Joseph Hines – UPAD High School***

- We are preparing our students for leadership through extracurricular activities, sports, and student government.
- Through our Senior Mastery Process (SMP) /lunch with an executive/career day we teach leadership in careers.
- Throughout our mission of “black excellence” we teach students to have pride in their cultures and advocacy in their community.
- Through our volunteer requirements we teach students to be active leaders in their community
- Student council election in a virtual learning space. Council will be responsible for school wide crew planning
- National Honor Society sponsoring community service initiatives, meetings on leadership
- Nat'l Art Honor Society just finished officer elections and are running their application process for interested students
- Crew lessons focus on SEL, building self-awareness and tools for sound decision making



### ***John Lockhart – UPSM High School***

At UPSM High School, we believe in nurturing the creative genius of our students, within a culture of Black excellence. We are driven to create classrooms that teach students how to take responsibility for their learning and become more independent to direct that learning. Leadership starts with one's self.

We offer specific programs for students to further develop leadership. One program in particular, is our *Student Leadership* course. Composed of seniors and juniors, these future leaders learn to analyze problems, to plan and coordinate events, to solicit input from others, and to promote excellence and pride in self and community, by walking the walk. They contribute as well to the dialogue and planning of the school's staff.

When issues come up between students at UPSM, we work together to understand where each other comes from and how to work toward an agreement and forward movement. Our preference is to educate rather than punish. Our *student peer mediators* are essential to this process. Peer mediators use their training, as well as their life experience and peer understanding, to help students resolve issues as well as develop skills to resolve issues in the future. These leaders not only help to increase the peace at UPSM, they also educate their peers on ways to effectively take care of problems and get focused again on life and academics.

With UPSM's unique *Pathways Program*, students enrolled in the *Senior Seminar* courses (Engineering, Zoology, and Game Design), are actively engaged in using the engineering design process or scientific methods to study a topic of their own choosing. The end goal is to represent new knowledge and/or an engineering product that solves an existing problem. Leaders can study the context, understand how something works, ask a good question, be able to get some answers to the question, and communicate their learning to others. We are very excited about the seniors' projects that we will be able to witness in the late spring, and we know they will take these skills with them past the graduation stage.

