ELEVATE
BIRMINGHAM

PLACE OF BELONGING

At Elevate Birmingham, we have seven core beliefs that define our work. Each of those seven core beliefs begins with the statement, "We believe that...." These are statements of assertion; they root our values and guide our work. Throughout the next few months, I will expand on why it's so important to us here at Elevate and how we embody this belief in our regular rhythms.

Our first Core Belief is "**We Believe that EVERY CHILD is of great worth and has the desire and potential to succeed."** Every life has value and deserves the investment of others for them to be and become all they were created to be. At Elevate Birmingham, we facilitate a culture of belief and high expectations. Our vision is to see generations of thriving urban leaders, and we call these leaders "thriving contributors." We believe that our students can do more than just survive; they can thrive given the right support, encouragement, relationships, and opportunities.

Marian Wright Edelman, the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, once said, "Children must have at least one person who believes in them. It could be a great counselor, a teacher, a preacher, or a friend. It could be you. You never know what a little love, a little support will plant a small seed of hope." We know that the students we serve come from families who love and support them, and many of them have multiple people in their lives who share our beliefs. We also work alongside students who may not have anyone who has expressed that belief.

At Elevate, we seek to create a place of belonging for students inside and outside the classroom. When students feel like they belong and matter, it gives them safety and security to try hard things. To reach for their dreams, to discover the unique ways they were designed to contribute, and to have a vision for a brighter future. But above all, as Mrs. Edelman said, it gives them hope. Our hope is that every child would know that they matter and have great worth. **That's why Elevate shows up because no one gets to "success" or "thriving" alone.**

Written by Executive Director, Danny Brister

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Kristian Hudson

Kristian serves at Elevate Birmingham as a Teacher Mentor at Wenonah High School. She holds a Master's degree from the University of Nebraska and an undergraduate degree from Florida International University.

Kristian starred in the classroom and on the basketball court at both universities, winning the Conference USA Player of the Year award and earning multiple distinguished scholar recognitions. She has a passion for developing and serving young people through the game of basketball and through mentoring. Kristian looks forward to giving back to the community and city that raised her. We are grateful to have her as a member of our Elevate team.

PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATE

The 2022 school year has started off with two great events with our Elevate students! Our Huffman and Wenonah students had their own tailgates to celebrate their home openers for the 2022 Football season. Students enjoyed great food, fellowship, and Friday Night Lights! Event season is kicking off and here are our upcoming events:

- **September 22nd**: Huffman Family Night
- **September 28th**: Wenonah Family Night

Written by Program Manager, Samantha Nelms

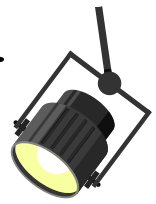## CHECK OUT OUR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT HANDBOOK!

CLICK HERE

NO ONE GETS THERE ALONE

HUFFMAN STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Taylor

Grade: 9th

Fun Fact: I like to cook and my
favorite color is orange.

Favorite Part About Elevate:

When I come to Elevate I feel relaxed
and comfortable.

First event of the 2022 school year! Our students and staff enjoyed a tailgate with great food, then headed off to watch our Vikings at their first home game of the season.

WENONAH STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Angel Purdie

Grade: 9th

Fun Fact: My favorite thing to do is read and listen to music.

Favorite Part About Elevate: How much our mentors care about us!

Wenonah also kicked off their first home game of the season with a tailgate. They ate some great food and then headed off to watch their Dragons pull off a victory!