

Elevations

The latest news and updates from Education Elevators
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A Note from the Executive Director

By: Allison McJunkin

It's been another very busy year at Education Elevators! In Kanawha County, Flaherty, Sensabaugh, Bonasso joined as one of our esteemed business partners. We are also working with the CHANCE Program to identify students in

need of Elevators. We launched new programs between Toyota and Buffalo Elementary in Putnam County and WVU Medicine and Tuscarora Elementary in Berkeley County.

This summer we recruited almost 40 new Elevators to be matched with students in need for a total of 139 Elevators! Elevators and students are meeting at 12 elementary schools and 5 middle schools. At one orientation, an Elevator said, "I love this so much. I want to come back every day!" At another, the grandmother of one little boy was brought to tears because she said she was so happy that her grandson had the opportunity to have an Elevator.

Principals, teachers and counselors are also incredibly supportive of our program and constantly sing its praises. Elevators boost student confidence, help improve attendance, assist with social and emotional skills, help improve relationships and optimism for the future, but most importantly, Elevators make these children feel loved and valued.

A teacher from Malden Elementary said, "Vicky has something to look forward to on the days her Elevator comes. She knows that there are adults that care about her tremendously. She knows there are adults that take an interest in her interests as well. Vicky has seen how people show love and care - for example, knowing that people who love you show up when they say they will, take special interests in the things you love, say and do kind things, etc. I believe Vicky is more confident in her academics, self-worth, and relationships because of her Elevator. I can tell Vicky feels important and loved because of her Elevator. I cannot state this enough. I am so thankful to have a partner in her education."

Another teacher said, "[t]he Elevators program has given our students a calm and safe space for a short amount of time in their busy and chaotic lives. Students are given a chance to express their emotions, practice social skills, and be themselves with an adult that cares and supports their choices or helps guide them in the best way possible. The Elevator visits give our students a chance to be heard and seen, which they may not have at home. They're eager to come to school. They know for that day, the day they get to see their Elevator, they're loved and important."

I invite you to read more quotes from our school and business partners, teachers and Elevators by clicking on the adjacent section. I mentioned this quote in our summer newsletter, but I think it bears repeating. A teacher from Ruffner Elementary said that, "Elevators provide students whose light felt dimmed or who may not have the opportunity to feel important the chance to shine." Your support has truly given so many children the opportunity to shine. In this season of giving, I hope you will consider making a donation to support Education Elevators and bring joy to so many kids who need it.

With Great Gratitude and Appreciation,

Allison McJunkin

WHAT OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS SAY!

I believe every child needs the opportunity to feel special. This program gives children that opportunity no matter their IQ or financial status.

-JULIE SAYRE, MALDEN ELEMENTARY

I have noticed many positive changes in our students who have an Elevator. The Elevators provide an outlet for students who may not have a positive role model at home or are going through a lot of things that many of us could not even imagine. Behavior problems in students have decreased drastically because of these positive interactions.

I witnessed a student, who doesn't smile very much, get called into the office to learn that he was being matched with an Elevator. When he arrived, he said, "I know what this is!!" and a huge smile came across his face. We are so grateful for our Elevators!

-STACEY BEANE, RUFFNER ELEMENTARY

We are so lucky to have the Education Elevator program at Piedmont. We have seen a huge difference in our students that are able to participate in the program.

-CAITLIN LASTORIA, PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

I am so pleased with all our matches! Our students look forward to their Elevators coming weekly. It is so nice to see their relationships grow. We are so thankful for each Elevator!

-JESSICA PINKERTON, KANAWHA CITY ELEMENTARY

Students need that person who is always there for them. They loved having the Elevators come and spread love and show that they are cared for. The students that were selected are so excited to see their Elevators and love spending time with them. I am so grateful for this program!

-DEANNA MYERS, EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY

Year after year, I see the impact on my students from having a caring adult to spend time with them and show them they care. Their attendance improves, their grades improve, they seem happier, and they know someone cares about them.

-WHITNEY CANADA, CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

Some of our students do not have a single caring adult in their life. It is beautiful to see them realize that people do care.

-ASHLEY THAXTON, WEBERWOOD ELEMENTARY

The EE program has allowed my students to receive an additional caring adult to spend quality time with. This supports my role as a school counselor and contributes to the positive school culture for all students.

I love hearing my students get excited to meet with their Elevators. You can truly see the impact it has on their self esteem. One of my students struggles with attendance, but is always motivated to come to school when his Elevator is coming!

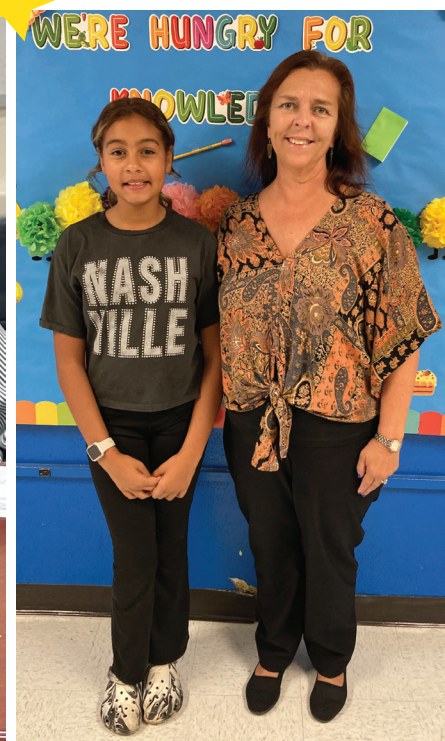
-MCKENZIE HENLEY, MONTROSE ELEMENTARY

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE>>](#)

"Education Elevators has been a huge blessing to our students. Elevators have helped to boost students' motivation in the classroom. They act as role models and build relationships that have helped build our students' self esteem. Elevators have also strengthened the school community to help our students foster a sense of belonging and help to make them feel special!"

-Destiny Spencer, Principal, Mary C. Snow Elementary School

THANK YOU FOR HELPING BRING JOY TO STUDENTS ALL YEAR LONG!



Education Elevators is Hiring!

In addition to financial resources, we need "human energy" to support our growth! We are looking for part time program coordinators to manage some of our new programs next fall. Ideal candidates are current or retired school counselors, special education/resource teachers, family support specialists, etc. who are organized, self-motivated and passionate about kids!

Please contact allison@educationelevators.org if you are interested!



The gift of mentoring lasts a lifetime!

Please consider making a donation to support our work.

Click **HERE** to donate to our program.



Please visit <https://www.educationelevators.org> and follow us on social media to see program updates and stay connected with us!

