

Education Elevators Evaluation Quotes 2019-2020

SCHOOL COORDINATORS

EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY

The Elevators who visit our building have a direct impact on the students they are working with. We know this and value this. We often miss the indirect benefits of Elevators. They support the teachers of the students they are working with by providing needed attention to their students weekly. They also bring a strong sense of community partnership into the building.

-Leah Kersey, School Counselor

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Our students light up when they find out they are getting matched with an Elevator and when they get to see them weekly. They truly do make a huge impact on our students and their lives.

-Caitlin Lastoria, School Counselor

KANAWHA CITY ELEMENTARY

These students have become more successful in all areas of school. They look forward to Elevator visits and light up when with them.

-Rebecca Thomas, School Counselor

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

The Elevator program has helped children form much needed healthy relationships with great adult role models. Students really look forward to their weekly mentor visits. It has helped us be more mindful of those kids that need that positive adult interaction in their lives.

Our Elevators have been amazing during the Coronavirus crisis! They prepared goody boxes for their students along with hand written notes. They brought them to the school in prepaid mailing boxes and all we had to do was put the addresses on them! They also sent pictures and messages to their students to make them feel special!

-Beth Sturgill, Principal

PRO-KIDS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Education Elevators provides mentors for some of our struggling students. Students eagerly look forward to the day their Elevator comes. They are so excited to have someone just for them and I have already noticed changes in behaviors and attitudes as a result!

-Jill Woodrum, Executive Director

MARY C. SNOW ELEMENTARY - BOB BURDETTE CENTER

The program has been great for the Mary C. Snow After School Program. I have seen students who have trouble making friends look forward to seeing their Elevator. I have seen students who are insecure in school work become more involved with others and their school work.

Attendance to our after school program has even improved. I have other students asking if they could have a mentor. Parents and teachers will beg for their child or student to get an Elevator! Here are just some of the ways our students at MCS have been impacted:

5th grade student: He has been part of after school for three years and I have never seen him smile so much and be so confident. This student struggles in school with completing work as it tends to be hard for him and he struggles with making and keeping friends. However, he has smiled more, completed more homework and attended more after school days - he even stayed at after school extra days to be with his Elevator.

3rd grade student: This student has trouble getting along with others in and out of class and has trouble making and keeping friends. She has had more positive interactions with others and more importantly has shown growth in self control when it comes to lashing out or back at others. Before her Elevator, I rarely saw the student smile during school or after school. On the days her Elevator comes and while they are together, the student is always smiling.

4th grader: The student loves his Elevator and his Elevator has met some of his family. The family LOVES the Elevator as they are so encouraged to hear him speak positively about something. The family will text me and come later to ensure the Elevator has "all the time".

2nd grader: The student is one of 7 children in the home and having a little extra attention is just what he needs. In fact, it is because of this student that everyone knows about the Elevators program! He tells everyone about it!

4th grader: This student has only one friend and sometimes struggles to interact with her friend and others appropriately. She has made more friends and has become more social. Mom is happy to have a mentor for her child and is always asking if her Elevator is coming. This student has come to the after school program and stayed longer because she likes her Elevator.

2nd grader: This student is smart, talented, and knows it. He will ask several times during the week if his Elevator is coming and if he gets the days mixed up when they are to meet he will become upset. One time his mother walked "football" gloves over to school because he said he had to have them for when his "Elevator" came. He will often get in trouble for not listening to adults, but he is getting better at that. He loves to spend time with just his "Elevator" and his mother loves it too.

2nd grader: This student will plan her entire week around her Elevator. She will arrange her schedule to ensure she has her music lesson, dance team, and time with her Elevator. Her Elevator came to the Winter Concert and watched her play the violin. She tells everyone what fun they have and will invite other students to join. Everyone she tells wants to meet her Elevator, including adults.

-Natalie Blevins, After-School Coordinator

TEACHERS

EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY

Jon was so awesome with Kevin. Kevin needs love and attention from all the adults in his life. Jon was very consistent in Kevin's life, always coming the same day and the same time. Kevin can be a very angry young man, but the days Jon was coming...He would perk up. Kevin has bad weeks, but Jon was always a welcomed sight for him. Kevin has difficulty expressing his feelings. He will throw things, have tantrums, and completely shut down. Having Jon around gave him a way and an outlet for him to express his feelings in an appropriate manner.

-Andrea Perrow, Teacher

Kourtnea shares excitement when her Elevator comes and seems happier once she returns to class. Don't stop reaching out. You're impacting her in ways you can't see. Thank you for being an inspiration to such an impressionable girl.

-Christina Sleeth, Teacher

Tristen liked to spend time with Lance and I could see an improvement in Tristen's behavior. I have seen Tristen become easier to get along with. I love this program. I like how the Elevators come at lunch and recess, times that give the two an opportunity to talk.

-Amy Casto, Teacher

Savanna knows when Ms. Jeanie is supposed to come and looks forward to her arrival. Savanna enjoys the time they spend together because she comes from a large family. I like the Elevators coming at recess time and lunch time. This allows for a relaxed environment for the student and Elevator.

-Amy Castro, Teacher

Jesse is growing with his social skills. He still has some room for growth, but I think he is benefiting from this program. Keep up the good work. We and our students appreciate you!

-Brittany Holmes, Teacher

Amy always brightens Klaira's day! Klaira is excited to see her and always asks when she is coming. Klaira seems to be more confident in herself which translates to her academic performance. I think she enjoys talking with Amy and spending time with an adult whose focus is only on her.

-Sarah Suan, Teacher

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Mr. Lee was always there when he said he would be. He was a consistent person in Vinny's life. When he would have to miss for any reason, he would always communicate with me ahead of time so that Vinny would be prepared. He was a positive role model in Vinny's life and I believe that has caused an attitude shift for Vinny as well.

-Carly Dye, Teacher

Micah looks forward to Kelly coming each week. He knows that he can count on her to be there. He enjoys sharing his friends with her also. He seems to have more confidence and willingness to participate. She was consistent with her attendance. I didn't receive feedback from her or any questions about Micah, so I assumed she felt he was improving or that she was satisfied with her performance.

-Courtney Bess, Teacher

The student he mentors is genuinely happy to see him, and he has helped Canyon to become more social and confident. I see nothing but positive outcomes in this program. I think it is a fantastic program. I really see changes in my students that get these services.

-Kate Ward, Teacher

Juanita's Elevator has made a connection with her. She is reliable and communicates with me in regards to her schedule. I love seeing Juanita's face light up when her Elevator arrives.

-April Macchione, Teacher

Angel is a great child, and I never have problems out of her, but she needs someone in her life that will be consistent and encouraging to her. Erica seems to give her a boost and she loves to see her. It always seems to make her day much brighter. Angel has shown better relationships with her peers, and excitement when at school.

-Tawna Clark, Teacher

Chris is honestly, I believe, the best part of William's week. If William is having a bad day, Chris is usually readily available to come see him and always tries his best to be there for him. He even attends student conferences when he can! William has a rough home life, so seeing Chris is something he really looks forward to. Chris knows when his birthday is and visited him an extra day that week. He is a 100% constant in his life!

-Carli Bourne, Teacher

KANAWHA CITY ELEMENTARY

I like the program very much. It is well organized. The Elevators are flexible and always communicate if they cannot be there. They cover for each other. KCE is lucky to have this program.

-Pamela Hurst, Teacher

Lisa makes Mason feel that someone is there just for him. It calms him and refuels his spirit. He settles down after a cooling off period, and he's refreshed after spending time with Lisa. He is always so excited to see Lisa. He's up and out the door before I know what's happening sometimes! I think Lisa is like a mother figure to him, and as a twin - he always has to share. He doesn't have to share Lisa and that is something he needed.

-Stephanie Elkins, Teacher

I have seen great social and emotional improvement in Jazya since Angela began her visits. Angela has learned how to connect with Jazya through her interests. This program is amazing! We are lucky to have it at KCE!

-Kacie Atha, Teacher

Brooklin has had good grades and behavior all year long, but having Kristi come has helped her by having another person in her life that cares about her. It has given her some more confidence. Kristi even sent some presents to Brooklin during the pandemic. This experience has been very positive for Brooklin. It is great for her to have an adult in her life that is consistent and that cares about her.

-Ashley Britton, Teacher

Stephen's Elevator was effective because he enjoyed having his Elevator come. It gave him something to look forward to and be happy about. He also gained more confidence in himself.

-Ashley Britton, Teacher

BUSINESS COORDINATORS

STEPTOE & JOHNSON

The single most important thing I got out of being an Elevator is the feeling that I can help make a difference in the life of one child. Education Elevators is an incredible program. If it could continue to be scaled up in the Valley, it would have even more of an impact.

-Bryan Cokeley, Managing Partner

JACKSON KELLY, PLLC & SUTTLE & STALNAKER

Caitlin does a great job. I really appreciate the calendars in the sign-in book to help me alert EL's to upcoming events. You are doing a great thing - please keep it up.

-Marie Long, Suttle & Stalaker Elevator & Business Coordinator

TC ENERGY

"The program is very successful! I always enjoy recruiting new employees and seeing their excitement when meeting and interacting with their students."

-Amy Crist

ORDERS CONSTRUCTION

Orders Construction partnered with Education Elevators in hopes of making at least a small improvement in our community and state over the long-term. Today's elementary students are tomorrow's citizens, and so many of those students lack a positive role model. Our Elevators can be those role models, and hopefully, at least one of us is making an impact that will last a lifetime.

The immediate impacts of the partnership have been to raise Orders Construction's corporate profile in the community, and improve morale of our team members who see our company doing good things for local children.

-Nate Orders, Owner

The Education Elevators Foundation has provided games and activities, answered questions when asked and been extremely helpful! Building a relationship between Central and Orders has been very rewarding.

-Janette Peggs

ADVANTAGE TECHNOLOGY

We were first introduced to EE through a presentation at our local Rotary Club. Personally, what attracted me to the organization was having the opportunity to be the difference in a child's life. Thankfully, I always had a solid role model in my mother. Without the fortune of having her in my life, I could have been that student that needed someone. I want each of the students seeking an Elevator to know that someone in the world cares about them, no matter what may be going on in their lives.

Many employees say that their favorite day of the week is the day they're able to visit their student. It's important to Advantage to give back to the community in any way we have the opportunity. With the struggles West Virginia faces, it's important to make an impact in the future of the state we call home; I can't think of a better investment of time than improving the life of a child, encouraging them that they are worthy and capable.

-Nina Shell

ELEVATORS

JACKSON KELLY, PLLC

Being an Elevator allows a student to feel special, which is what they need.

-Briana Breault

The most important thing that I got out of being an Elevator is the satisfaction of teaching Damonz to read, and teaching Kendell to read music. Kendell has grown, physically and emotionally, and seems more confident. I was with him for several years before I knew he has a stutter and he is more likely to speak spontaneously now.

-Sherry Suppa

The thing I love most about being an Elevator is being able to spend time with Daniah and have her open up. Some positive changes I noticed in Daniah are that she definitely opened up more and started talking to me and telling me more.

-Whytni Cline

POTESTA & ASSOCIATES

The program is working great, at least as far as I have been involved. I really enjoy my time spent with Stephen. Stephen always seems happy to see me and he always tells me he enjoys what we do. I have emailed his mom to ask about him while school has been closed and she tells me he says he misses me and our time together. I think I have made a difference for Stephen. He is doing well and we play games that help with different aspects of schoolwork - reading, math, science experiments, etc.

-Rhonda Henson

Education Elevators has fulfilled their side of the relationship. I can not think of anything else that could be done. I really enjoy this program and I will be forever grateful that Potesta decided to join up. I'm looking forward to next year with Summer. It'll be a bittersweet year since she'll be a 5th grader and our journey will be coming to an end.

-Lisa DeCrease

Ariana was shy at the beginning but as we got to know each other, she became very open and engaging. I am pleased with the fact that Ariana and I established a good relationship in which we could talk about many things and listen to each other.

-Agatha Munyanyi

Things are going great, but how about a field trip or EE get together or something similar? Jeffrey still has some behavioral issues in class, but never with me. Other than not listening occasionally. I'd say he's doing great for a 7 year old, all things considered. He's got a rough home life I've been told. It's been a humbling experience - not everyone has it as good as I did growing up. I hope I'm helping!

-Lenny Wilson

SUTTLE & STALNAKER

Towards the 2nd half of the year, Amir's Technology teacher stopped by and informed me how well he was doing in their coding class. I asked Amir if he was interested in building and programming a robot with me and at first he was hesitant because he didn't believe he could do it. I brought a robot building kit and we started building and as it progressed his confidence really grew and by the end of it, he stated that he could do anything, even going past the directions and started programming additional "features" he thought was necessary. I am so proud of him and how smart he is, he just needed a little help realizing his potential. The biggest suggestion I have is getting more people and businesses aware of this program and getting others to understand the value this program has for the student!

The most important thing I got out of this program is how much a little bit of time could really impact a student and myself in a positive way. I am so glad that I started this program. I loved getting to see Amir get excited when I came into his class room and seeing him wanting to learn as much as he could about our robot. It is amazing how much a young child can learn when they are excited and interested in something. He was so proud and wanted to show everyone who walked by his progress and in the beginning of our journey he was really shy. His end goal was to get his robot fully functioning and driving it into the principal's office to show her. I am sad we weren't able to do this. At our last Elevator time, I was planning on giving him the robot to take home so he could continue to work and tinker with it over the summer, so I would love to find a way I could send it to him.

-Nick Burdette

ORDERS CONSTRUCTION

Christian's energy is contagious. He loves interacting with adults and dives into every activity with great enthusiasm. He is a joy to be around. Reflecting on the past several months, the thing I have most enjoyed, is watching Christian's development as a student and person. It's amazing how fast second-graders grow up! Since I started meeting with Christian, I have been pleased to see him improve his patience and politeness. These are traits that will serve him well for the rest of his life. Talking to Christian, and to the staff at his school, has opened my eyes to the struggles many local families experience every day. Being an Elevator has made me even more grateful for what I have, and inspired me to do more to help those in need. The best thing about being an Elevator is the happiness I can bring to Christian's life, just by showing up. It's really that easy!

-Nate Orders

The foundation has been very supportive and provided games and activities. Continuing with that helps keep the time I spend with Ashlynn full. This is my 2nd year with Ashlynn and she seems to be more comfortable with me. She started asking me questions about my family and opens up a bit more with stuff going on in her life. I think that the program is extremely successful. I feel like we get support from the foundation when needed and the school seems very happy to have us there. I feel like Ashlynn doesn't get to feel like she is a top priority to the people in her life. With me, she gets all of my attention and I try to make her feel like the most important thing in my world when I am with her. She reacts with happiness when she sees me. She always says, "I knew you were going to come today!" Knowing that for a brief 30 minutes a week I am trying to make a child a little happier. Hopefully giving her some needed one on one time, helping to raise her confidence.

-Janette Peggs

STEPTOE & JOHNSON

After meeting Taytum for the first time, I was worried that she was going to be very shy and timid toward me. However, as we spent time together, she really opened up with me and started to come out of her shell. She seemed to enjoy our time together and even asked her Uncle on multiple occasions if she could stay later just to hang out with me.

-Skyler Assif Matthews

TC ENERGY

The single most important thing I got out of this program is being able to help a child. After we started meeting, Kourtnea was more talkative and shared things with me. We have a good relationship. It breaks my heart when she says she wishes we could play more.

-Rachel Cokeley

ADVANTAGE TECHNOLOGY

I enjoy being able to take an hour and just act like a kid. Whether it's painting, making bracelets or trying our luck at yoga, I have an hour of dedicated time that the outside world is "shut off" and I am present. It's made me a better parent, understanding the value of putting the phone (and with it work) down occasionally to live in the moment.

-Nina Shell

I like knowing that such a simple act can have such a tremendous effect on the future of a child. There are very few areas in life that you will give so little of yourself and gain so much for a child and yourself. I haven't done anything special except to show up consistently and be his friend and everything is changing in him. He just needed to know someone cared. It is amazing what 45 minutes a week can do for a child. He has taught me how important those little interactions really are and how much we can change the course of these little lives.

-Chris May

CITI BANK

I feel it is so rewarding being an Elevator. I volunteered to be an Elevator several years ago in hopes that I would be able to help a student, which I feel I am doing, but I have gotten so much more out of the experience than I expected. It is awesome to see Mason succeed in school and be such a happy, sweet kid even with the tremendous adversity he has faced in his young life. It is truly inspiring to know what he has been through and to see it not define him or bring him down. Rather, he has risen above it and has so much potential to do great things in his future.

-Lisa Mason

