

# Anisa Lucas

INSTRUCTIONAL LEAD TEACHER, BILL ARP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**A**nisa Lucas has overcome more challenges before turning 40 than most people have in a lifetime.

Lucas grew up in the inner city, one street over from an area with gang activity, drive-by shootings and drugs. As a teenager, she survived a drive-by shooting aimed at her boyfriend, recalling that she got out of the car “and shell casings dropped from my lap.”

“This environment took a toll on me, but I refused to be defeated,” she said. “I kept my eye on the prize which was education and went on to graduate college.”

As an adult, she has had numerous surgeries and been on countless medications. A few years ago, she suffered a mini-stroke while at work.

But Lucas is driven. An Instructional Lead Teacher at Bill Arp Elementary School in Douglas County, Lucas asks: “How can I teach about a positive mindset and perseverance if I don’t model it myself with my classroom?”

Fast forward to 2021 and she has only missed one day of work and has a position where she says she is “greatly appreciated and respected.”

At Bill Arp, Lucas works with a team of coaches to write K-5 writing units that will be implemented district-wide.

Lucas said her “passion and purpose” are deeply rooted in giving back to others. She is grateful for her support system, which she attributes to helping her get where she is today.

Outside of work, Lucas serves on the executive board of the E.D.G.E. Foundation, which aims to educate mankind through programs, workshops, relationships and rewards.

Lucas said even on an educator’s salary she adopts multiple families and provides them with basic necessities such as school supplies, food and clothing. She has even paid bills for families and helped with furniture and appliances.



Growing up, Lucas said she enjoyed playing school with her little brother and friends. That’s when she said she developed her passion for education. She said teachers in high school were instrumental in her success. She finished high school at the top of her class

with a 3.97 GPA and went on to college where she graduated magna cum laude.

“If I had given up when faced with a challenge, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” Lucas said.