



## Spotlight

### A Spotlight on Shenethe Parks

Meet Shenethe Parks, a true inspiration with an extraordinary journey! With a deep-rooted passion for uplifting marginalized communities, she has dedicated her life to creating transformative learning experiences. As an accomplished educator, Shenethe's career spans decades of empowering young minds and fostering a love for learning. Her tireless efforts have led to significant achievements in enhancing educational opportunities for underserved students, earning her recognition.

Shenethe's connection with E.R.E. is profound. She plays a vital role on our Board of Directors, as well as on our Development Committee and Fundraising Committee. Her expertise and unwavering commitment to educational equity have driven our initiatives forward, creating a lasting impact on students' lives. She states: "Follow your heart and passion. You have to believe in the work that you do and it will not feel like work."



To learn more about Shenethe, read her full spotlight [here](#).

## E.R.E. Updates

We are thrilled to announce that our team at E.R.E. has grown to over 80 dedicated volunteers! Our expanding team is working tirelessly to make a significant, positive impact on the lives of our students.

### TESTIMONIALS

Here is what people say about E.R.E

The first tutoring session was great. I was able to figure out different ways to tackle reading comprehension questions.

- 12th grader in Oak Park IL

The coach went over questions on my PSAT and recommended reading books to me. The coach helped me to understand the problems by asking me questions, and if I don't know the answer, the coach gladly helped me.

- 10th grader in Houston TX

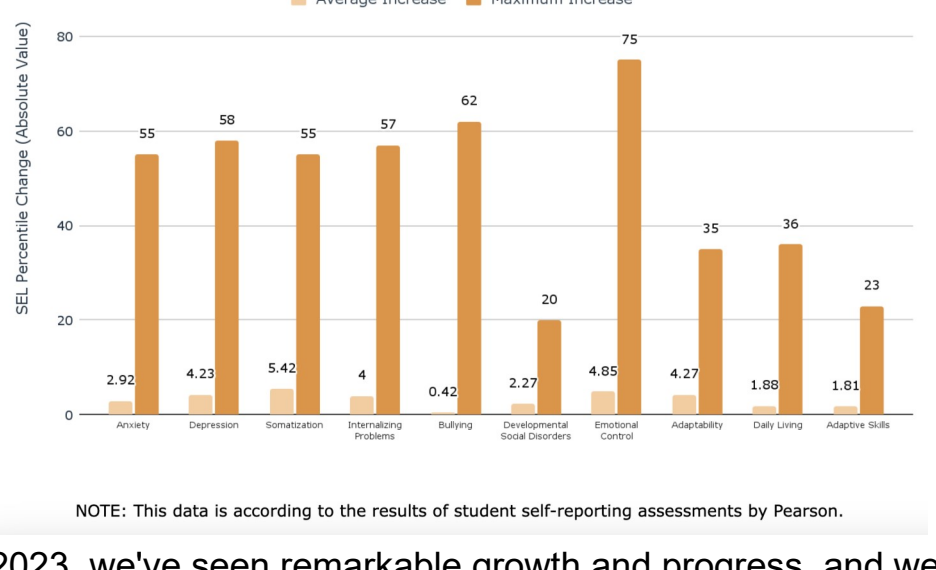
My daughter has improved in her writing skills. I can see that she is now more conscious of the details and the connections between paragraphs. Vocabulary has improved as well. For her final grades, she has all As and 1 B.

- Parent of 6th grader in Chicago

We used the SWOT form to talk about her goals and challenges. She is extremely hard working and very ambitious compared to any of the students I've worked with before.

- Tutor of 12th grader in Houston TX

### 2021-23 Soft Skills Changes After 4 Months of Tutoring (According to Parents)



In 2023, we've seen remarkable growth and progress, and we are committed to maintaining this momentum for the remainder of the year, striving for even greater achievements!

### Read our recent Blogs for students, parents, and educators:

- [Emotional Resilience, Inner Strength, and Well-Being](#)
- [How To Tutor Effectively](#)
- [Helping Your Community: Making An Impact With E.R.E.](#)

### Our 2nd Annual Trivia Night fundraiser in Chicago was a hit!

## TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER RECAP



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



55
\$1,540

TICKETS SOLD
MONEY RAISED




If you missed Trivia Night, don't worry. We have another fundraiser starting this week!

Our Knowledge is Power Back-to-School Fundraiser is taking place **Online 8/6 – 8/12**. Join us in this epic event where you'll find excellent deals at our exclusive **auction**, with bids starting at 50% off the cost! Participate in our **50/50 cash raffle** for a chance to win big while supporting a noble cause.

But wait, there's more!

We'll also be hosting two exciting **livestreams on August 6th (7-8 pm) and August 11th (12-1 pm)** Get ready for non-stop fun with games, entertainment, and prizes - all to uplift youth through education. Save the dates and don't miss this chance to be a part of something truly meaningful. It's all taking place [here!](#)

## E.R.E. Announcements

- Fundraising Committee:** We are searching for new members to join our dedicated fundraising team! As a member of our Fundraising Committee, you will play a significant role in our early phases of development and help ensure our sustainability for many years to come. [Join today!](#)
- Advisory Committee:** This committee is made up of parents, students, educators, and leaders in the communities of/near Chicago, DFW, and Houston. They provide a unique perspective of the students' needs, which E.R.E. highly values! To learn more, [email the Executive Director!](#)
- Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteer [ambassadors](#), [interns](#), [tutors](#), and [professionals](#). As a member of Educate. Radiate. Elevate. you will have the opportunity to collaborate with a varied group of people and make a real difference in society. [Apply now!](#)
- Donors:** We must work together to achieve our objectives to *educate* equitably, *radiate* success, and *elevate* society. Your contribution will provide children from less fortunate backgrounds with the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond. [Become a donor today!](#)

## Recent News in Education



[How Did Kids Fare In Texas Legislative Sessions? Advocate's List of Wins, Losses](#)

**Dallas News**  
July 21, 2023

The Texas legislature voted on the education budget on July 20th, addressing concerns that will impact 7.5 million students. Some changes were highly supported by advocates, such as tax credits for childcare providers to alleviate the shortage. However, efforts to increase public school funding were turned down in favor of charter schools, and a controversial new ruling allowed unlicensed ordained ministers to fulfill the role of counselors.

*What do you think of these new initiatives?*



[Department of Education to Host Admissions Diversity Summit After Supreme Court Guts Affirmative Action](#)

**CNN Politics**  
July 21, 2023

After the Supreme Court struck down the use of race as a factor in college admissions, schools became concerned that this would block equitable educational opportunities for thousands of students of color. Some educational establishments have responded by cutting legacy admissions or strengthening BIPOC resources. A Department of Education summit on July 26th brought K-12 schools, colleges, and educational researchers to discuss how to move forward.

*What do you hope are the outcomes of the Department of Education summit?*

We will continue to keep you in the loop with updates about Educate. Radiate. Elevate. as well about education, equity, community news, and the like. If you know someone who is also passionate about helping youth, supporting educational equity, and fostering community development, please forward them this newsletter so they can [sign up!](#)