




Mya-Isabella is a 15 year old Student, Entrepreneur, Pageant Queen and Humanitarian.

 @mya_isabella_samuel

MYA Isabella

What led you to create your tutoring business, “Bella’s Study Buddies”?

A few years ago, I relocated to the Western New York area. School was very different in New York State. In addition to a new school, I also had many changes in my personal life. All these obstacles were distracting and caused me to need to make some adjustments. It led to the necessity of utilizing tutoring services because my mom was in and out of the hospital. It was really hard for her to help me do hours of homework every day when we first arrived. Being in a new state, I learned the curriculum is different in New York State. I was accustomed to the curriculum in North Carolina. I was confused and struggled staying focused, not to mention being in a foreign place. When I finally got a tutor, it changed everything for me.

Not only was it educationally motivating, but it helped increase my social confidence as well. My tutor helped me understand in a way that seemed easy. My tutor helped me with more than school problems. My tutor talked with me, mentored me, and let me be me. My tutor encouraged me so much that it inspired me to help others. Luckily, I got what I needed to get back on track. I had and I still have a small support system now. I want and need to do the same for the kids who may not have a mentor, a tutor, or a support system at all. I want to be a resource for those who have fallen through the cracks and just need a little encouragement, some motivation, a cheerleader to cheer them along their course in life, and a role model. Bella’s Study Buddies (BSB) tutors with academic needs, and we are a resource to listen, understand and point them in the right direction so they can get on track too!

What are two things you have learned so far while creating your own business?

I've learned to (1) be confident and (2) stay motivated, even when it's hard. It is not easy trying to juggle everything. Often, I get a lot of push back, although I don't always understand it. I have to remain confident in myself and in what I do. I stay motivated with Bella's Study Buddies (BSB), because I know and I see how Bella's Study Buddies (BSB) helps other young ladies and young men do better, to be more confident and climb up their mountain. One day, I suspect, they too will reach back and pay it forward by helping others as well.

How long did it take you to start your tutoring business?

It took me about 2 years before I formally started my tutoring business. Before that, I'd tutor for fun because I find so much joy in it and I really care about my students.

What mindset do you have when tutoring kids and donating to people?

My mindset when tutoring is thinking how I can make this a good experience for them, and how I can increase their desire to learn. I try to understand if they are simply lacking an understanding of the concepts, formulas and rules, or is it something more than that? What is that thing they need to do better and be better? Do they need to be steered to other resources such as counseling, family help resources like food and clothing pantries? Do they have vision or hearing problems? Might there be a learning disability or some other medical diagnosis? If so, do they have an active IEP or 504 plan in place? There are so many factors which can show up as symptomatic failures in their academia. I have to stay alert and use resources to understand what the root issues are, rather than only rely on what the symptoms are showing. When I donate to those kids and their families, I put myself in their shoes. My thoughts are genuinely empathetic, understanding, and purposeful. In my mind, I am always thinking of a way to help them, in whatever way that looks like.

What age or year did you know that helping people in need is what you essentially wanted to do in life?

From a little kid, I always wanted to help others. In kindergarten, I always wanted to be the teacher's helper. With my family, I would volunteer in the soup kitchen, help give out holiday meals, donate food, and donate my clothes and coats to those in need. In the third grade, I always enjoyed helping people and I knew that gave me satisfaction like nothing else, it is my passion. That year, I asked my mom to buy gifts for someone who wasn't going to get gifts, instead of buying toys and gifts for me. I asked her to give my gifts to this person who didn't expect to receive anything that Christmas. When that person received those gifts and some cookies that I helped my mom bake, it was the best feeling in the world. When I turned 13, whether it was helping teachers or the other students, I thought very seriously about what I wanted to do when I grew up. I realized my passion is to help people. I started my skincare line to help those like me, who suffer with really dry skin and eczema, and so that they have another option, because all causes may be different. I realized that helping others build self-confidence is difficult, yet, at the same time, very fulfilling and fun. I believe I'm getting on the right path!



What would you do if you won the lottery?

Wow, that would be awesome! (laughing) First, I would take my mom on a vacation to anywhere she'd want to go. I'd buy her a house and a new car because she deserves more than any amount of money could ever buy! Then I'd put some money aside for college because I want to become a Research Cosmetic Dermatologist. I want to see patients and create natural products for skin types. I'd definitely take part of it and donate to my students and my recruits. I'd grow Bella's Study Buddies (BSB) nationwide so they can make educated collegiate and vocational decisions, as well as provide additional resources for supplies, work and school clothes, food and individual resources. Of course, I'd look out for my brother and my sister and for my team who stand by me no matter what! Then I'd donate to some organizations that are close to my heart!

How would you describe yourself in one word? Why?

I would say that I'm trustworthy. I am a teenager growing and developing into a young woman. I live and make decisions with integrity, honesty, and compassion. I am often trusted with information. I take my responsibilities seriously, and keep the values instilled in me at the forefront of my mind. No matter what, you can always depend on me to be a trustworthy caring young lady. If you were to ask any of my friends, they'd tell you, that if ever they need me, even if it's just to talk on the phone, I always try to be there. No matter how busy I am, I am dependable, you can count on me.