

Mary Martin Star Teacher

Mrs. Martin is one of the greatest influences on my life, and has been since the beginning of my freshman year at Bessemer City High School. She was my teacher for ninth grade English honors, eleventh grade AP English, and twelfth grade Yearbook/Journalism. Ninth grade was a very hard year for me, mentally. Fresh into high school, still learning who I was, I struggled with anxiety and self-hate and it really showed during my first year at high school. I was the quiet kid who only socialized with a handful of very close friends. Mrs. Martin helped me come out of my shell that year.

She was always assigning group work and it forced me to socialize with people I might not have talked to normally because of my anxiety. She was there for me when I was stressing about a test or a class and always gave me advice on how to deal with that stress. She was my teacher, but she was also a person I could go to and talk about my problems. She always helped me find a solution.

I've dealt with insecurities, and I have lacked the confidence that I was good enough to be successful. Mrs. Martin showed me that I was good enough, and that I would do something great in the future. She was one teacher who always pushed me to be great. She would analyze my work so that I could learn from my mistakes, and make them better. She helped me in so many ways. I am so grateful for her.

If someone had asked me freshman year if I would be who I am now, I would have shaken my head and walked away. She watched me grow from a quiet freshman to a confident and opinionated junior, and then to an even louder and more confident senior.

This is why I proudly choose to make Mrs. Martin the Star Teacher for Bessemer City High School. She pushed me on an academic level, but she has also helped me excel as an individual, which I will carry with me throughout my future.

Luke Hogan
Bessemer City High School
Star Student 2022

