

CLARA BENTLEY

HEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH



As a coach, I believe success is built on hard work, discipline, and perseverance. My coaching philosophy is centered on developing athletes both on and off the court, teaching them the value of commitment, teamwork, accountability, and believing in themselves.

My journey as an athlete began at the age of 8 and continued through the collegiate level, where I played two years of JUCO basketball at the University of the Virgin Islands. During my collegiate career, I earned numerous honors, including Gulf Coast Athletic Conference All-Academic Team, Gulf Coast Athletic Conference First Team, and Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year. I was also honored with a Presidential Award and experienced the accomplishment of becoming a JXC Champion.



Beyond my playing career, I have dedicated myself to education and youth development. I spent five years as a first-grade teacher, an experience that strengthened my ability to mentor, motivate, communicate with, and develop young people. I have also served as an AAU coach, providing young athletes with opportunities to improve their skills, build confidence, and learn the importance of discipline and teamwork.

As a coach, my goal is to create an environment where athletes are challenged to work hard, remain disciplined through adversity, and persevere when things get difficult. I believe coaching is about more than wins and losses—it is about helping young athletes develop the character, confidence, and life skills they need to succeed on the court and in life.