

2024

PROSPECTUS

Advancing Bible education for
students in Hamilton County
public schools



PROGRAM



5,249

Students

5,249 Students completed a Bible course last academic year.



33

Schools

61% of the participating schools are Title 1.



35

Teachers

All Bible teachers have completed a legal compliance course.

Participating Middle & High Schools

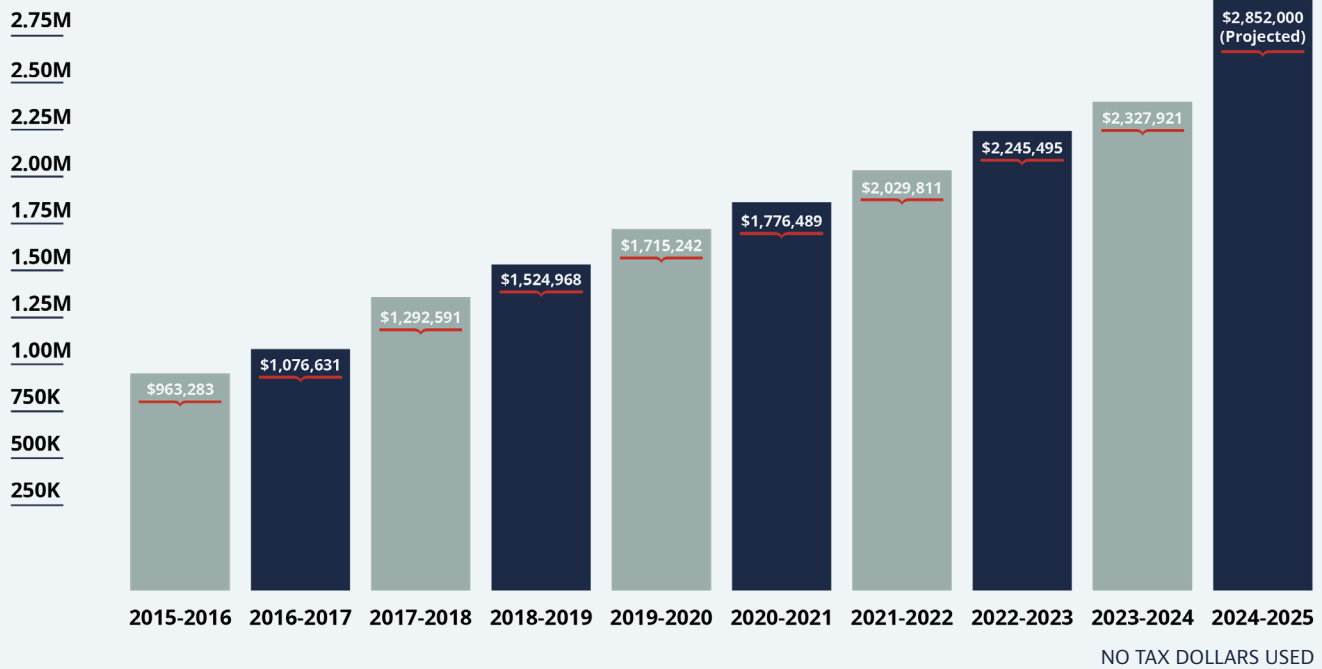
Brainerd High School
Brown Middle School
Central High School
Chattanooga Preparatory School
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy
Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences
Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts
Dalewood Middle School
East Hamilton High School
East Hamilton Middle School
East Lake Academy
East Ridge High School
East Ridge Middle School
Hamilton County Virtual School
Hixson High School
Hixson Middle School
The Howard School
Hunter Middle School
Ivy Academy
Loftis Middle School
Lookout Valley Middle/High School
Ooltewah High School
Ooltewah Middle School
Orchard Knob Middle School
Red Bank High School
Red Bank Middle School
Sale Creek High School
Sale Creek Middle School
Signal Mountain Middle/High School
Soddy Daisy High School
Soddy Daisy Middle School
Tyner High School
Tyner Middle Academy

Serving 15
ZIP Codes in
Hamilton County,
Tennessee



FUNDING

COMMUNITY GIVING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL BIBLE EDUCATION



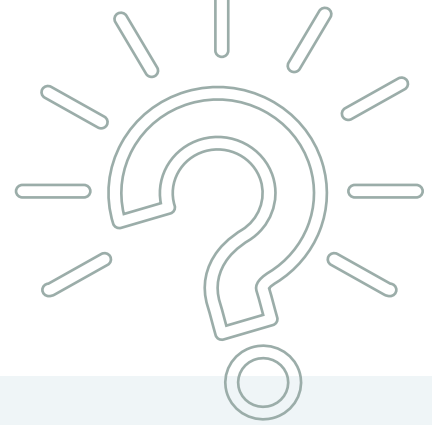
COMMUNITY GIFT

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of partners, Bible in the Schools presented Hamilton County Schools with a gift of just over \$2.3 million, as a reimbursement for the full cost of the 2023-2024 academic Bible elective program. Thank you to all who invested to make this possible.



Pictured L-R: Mr. Blake Freeman, HCS Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Sonia Stewart, HCS Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Justin Robertson, HCS Superintendent; Mr. Rob Huffaker, Bible in the Schools Board Chairman; Mrs. Cathy Scott, Bible in the Schools President

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Is it legal to teach Bible courses in public schools?

Yes. In its 1963 decision in *Abington v. Schempp*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, "It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities. Nothing we have said here indicates that such study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education, may not be affected consistently with the First Amendment."

Are taxpayer funds used?

No tax dollars are used. Bible electives are 100% gifted to public schools by private charitable contributions from the community given through Bible in the Schools.

Who employs Bible program teachers?

The teachers are selected and hired by school principals and are employees of the school system.

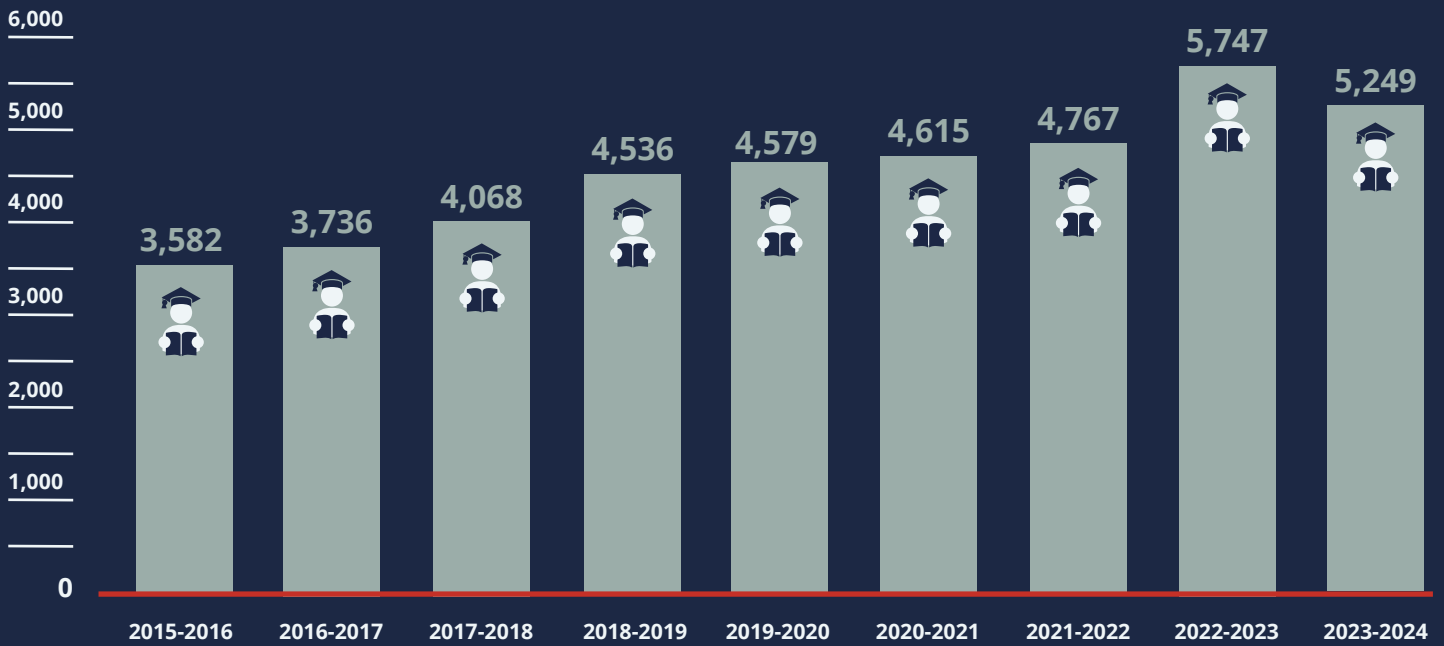
What role does Bible in the Schools have?

Bible in the Schools raises the funds that are then gifted to Hamilton County Schools for the specific use of the Bible program. Since no tax funds are used, Bible in the Schools is the conduit through which the community gives charitably to provide Bible electives to local public schools. Bible in the Schools reimburses the school system annually for the complete costs of the county-wide Bible program. Included in reimbursement costs are: teacher salaries, benefits, taxes, Bibles, classroom supplies, year-round teacher professional development, student workbooks, compliance training, and other resources.

Does the public school Bible program promote any religion or denomination?

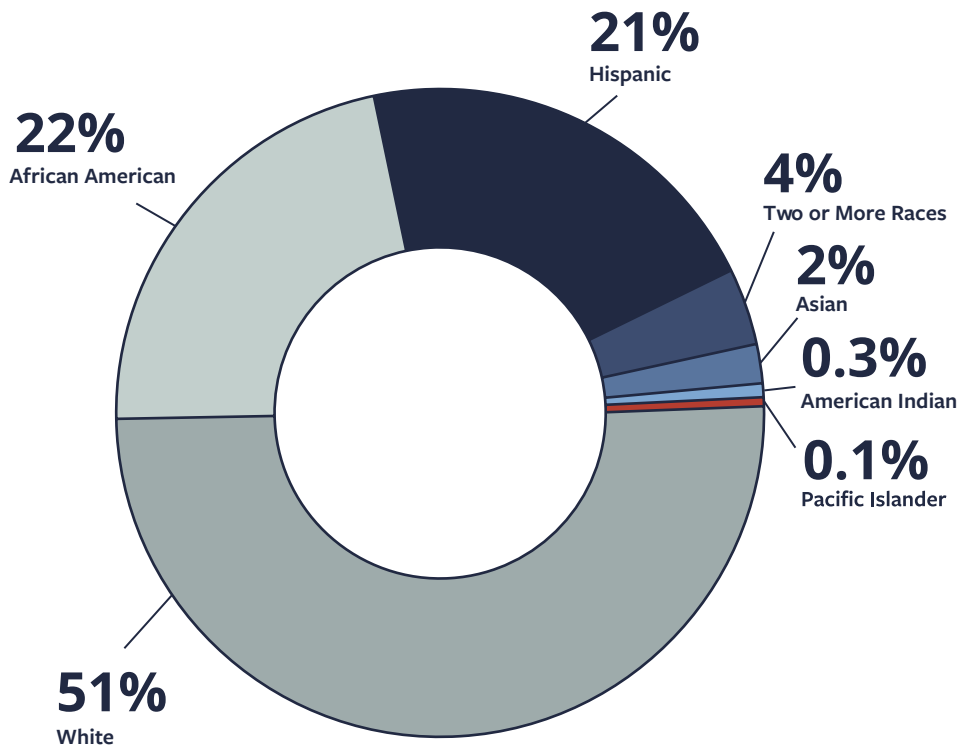
No. The public school Bible program does not promote or denigrate any religion or denomination, and seeks equal access for all students, from all walks of life.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BIBLE PROGRAM - STUDENT ENROLLMENT



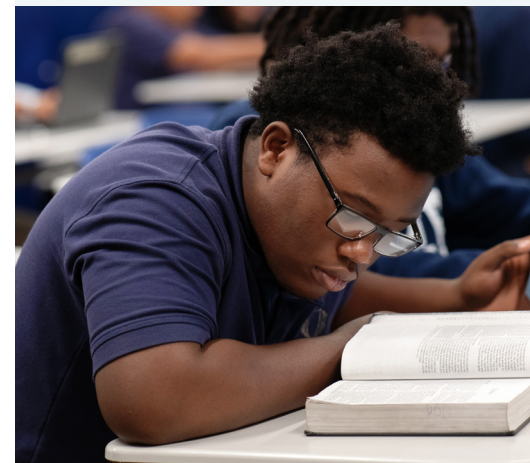
The decrease in student enrollment is largely a result of many middle school courses moving from quarter-long courses to semester-long courses. The advantage: more time in the text leads to greater mastery of the Bible.

BIBLE STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY (GRADES 6-12)



91%

of middle and high school students in Hamilton County public schools have access to Bible elective courses.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Senior Spotlight: Keyon Evans

As Chattanooga Preparatory School celebrates its first graduating class this year, one senior, Keyon Evans, reflects on his unique journey through high school and the value of studying the Bible in school. Keyon, an Honors Program student with an impressive track record in both academics and athletics, has completed all four years at Chatt Prep, building a family-like bond with classmates and faculty.

Raised in a Christian home, Keyon was familiar with the Bible before enrolling in the year-long Old Testament course during his sophomore year. "My mother is a Christian, and we go to church down the street," he shared. "She turned to faith during a tough time when I was in middle school, and that foundation grew on us too."

Despite his background, studying the Bible in a classroom setting was a new experience. "In class, we approached the Bible from a literary and academic perspective," Keyon explained. "My teacher showed us different ways to look at the Bible, which helped me understand it in a new way." He recalls their in-depth study of Genesis, describing how the discussions on the patterns of humanity deepened his understanding of the book. "When I read it on my own, I wasn't as open-minded. But studying it in class brought new insights that strengthened my perspective."

For Keyon, the class environment felt like a family. "We were a small group, just about 16 of us. It was meaningful to study something I follow personally, with friends who may not have had much background in the Bible," he said. The Bible program didn't just enrich his understanding of the Bible; it also strengthened his academic approach. "I became really dedicated to studying the Bible," Keyon noted. "That discipline carried over to my history class, and I ended up passing my AP World History exam. I know the skills I developed in my Bible class helped me do that." Keyon

would journal and read the Bible on his own time,

complementing his in-class notes, a habit that solidified his commitment to disciplined study.

When asked what advice he would give to younger students considering the program, Keyon encouraged them to approach it from both academic and personal perspectives. "Try to learn from both angles," he suggested. "This class can make a big difference. It impacted me in ways I didn't expect."

As he looks to the future, Keyon feels inspired to share his knowledge of the Bible. "I've realized how many people in my generation don't know these stories or the history behind them. It motivates me to keep studying and to teach others," he said. His plans after graduation reflect his passion for helping others. He hopes to attend Georgia State University to study counseling and psychology. Eventually, he plans to work as a school counselor and, one day, open his own practice.

Reflecting on his time at Chatt Prep, Keyon expressed gratitude for the close-knit community he has become part of. "There are less than 50 of us in the senior class. I can name everyone's first and last names," he smiled. "I know we'll stay in touch. It feels like a family that will always be there for me." For Keyon Evans, the Bible program has been more than just a class; it has been an experience that has shaped his education, informed his faith, and inspired his future.



PROGRAM

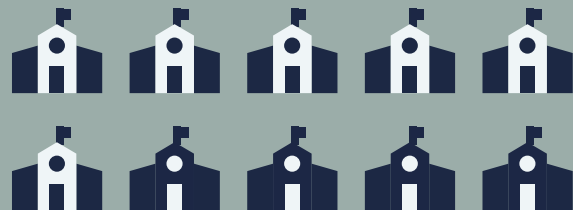
The Bible education program is inclusive and seeks equal access for all Hamilton County public school students in grades 6-12.



9 out of 10

eligible Hamilton County Schools students have access to a Bible education.

2023-2024 Hamilton County Schools' Enrollment Data



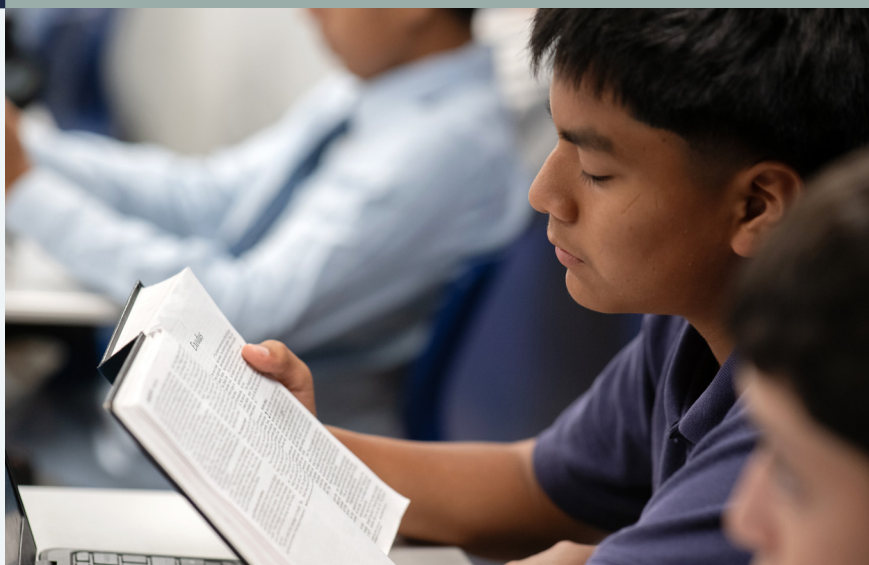
61%

of participating schools are classified as Title I.



"Bible is important to me because it gives me a challenging environment in which to study and learn about the Bible."

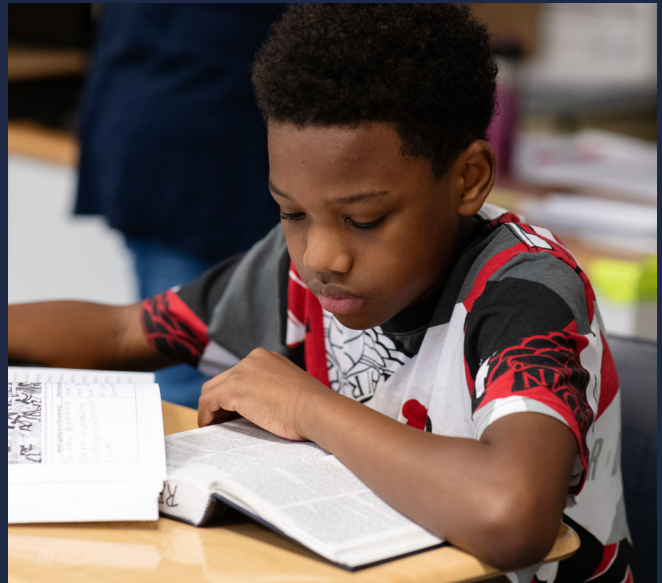
- Bible Student





Thank you for allowing me to not only learn through the Bible, but also the ways in which the world can be looked at through the Bible.

I'm glad I took this class because I learned many things I didn't know about. I have a different interpretation about the Bible now that I got to learn new things about it.



Learning in this class really affected my life in a good way. I now use what I learned in class in my regular life. I feel like everyone should take the time out of their day to read the Bible because it really is a great thing.



I feel like learning and expanding my knowledge past the regular core classes is great. Bible is a great class for non-religious or religious students everywhere.



I'm so grateful for this class and the donations for this class course. This is my second year taking Bible. I took Old Testament last year and New Testament this year. I love them both.

I've been taking Bible classes since 6th grade, and I absolutely love it. Now that I'm in high school, we've gotten into the depth of the Bible. My favorite part about my teacher is that he makes complex lessons easy to understand. He has taught us how to read the Bible more deeply and how to think more critically. This year, I learned a little bit of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

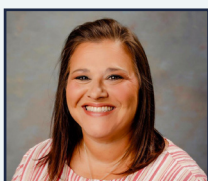


PROGRAM

2024-2025 PUBLIC SCHOOL BIBLE TEACHERS



Betty Artigas
East Lake Academy



Dr. Rosalie Joy Bruno
Hunter Middle School



Drake Cabe
Chattanooga Preparatory School



Korey Chambers
Sale Creek Middle School/High School



Steve Clinton
East Ridge Middle School



Patricia Cone

Hamilton County Schools Bible Content Lead

Bible courses are offered as a secondary English elective in Hamilton County Schools. This unique opportunity allows students to study the Bible as a piece of literature in a nonsectarian and academic context in the classroom. Students acquire an understanding and appreciation of the Bible's major ideas, historical and geographical contexts, and literary forms. Additionally, the high school students have the opportunity to take a college equivalency test through Chattanooga State Community College, which upon passing results in three hours of humanities elective credits.



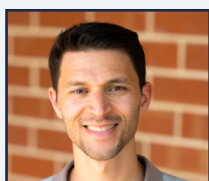
Dr. Pete Cuison
Brown Middle School



Meg Day
Signal Mountain Middle School



Donnie Dehnke
Ivy Academy



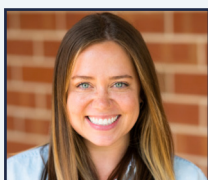
Samuel Delgado
East Ridge High School



Jeremy Eklund
Hixson Middle School



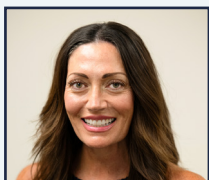
Jeff Fairbanks
East Hamilton High School



Brittany Hall
East Hamilton Middle School



Kendall Harrison
Signal Mountain Middle & High School



Deanna Hickman
Soddy Daisy Middle School



Stacy Hill
Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences



Kyle Hinch
Soddy Daisy High School



Cabot Huffstutter
Lookout Valley Middle/High School



Dr. Dustin Humphreys
Red Bank High School



Larry Hurston
Tyner Middle School



Leslie Johnson
Loftis Middle School



Melika Jones
Brainerd High School



Michael Kaiser DeBacker
Tyner High School



Paul Lasley
Sale Creek High School



Stephen Leong
The Howard School



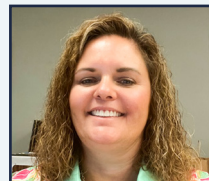
Kendal Merrill
Red Bank Middle School



Mark Miller
Orchard Knob Middle School



Joseph Morris
Hixson High School



Leangela Rogers
Hamilton County Virtual School



Esther Starcher
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy



David Sternberg
Ooltewah Middle School



Tyler Hughes
Dalewood Middle School



Heather Wyatt
Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts



Randy Young
Central High School



Daniel Ziegenmer
Ooltewah High School



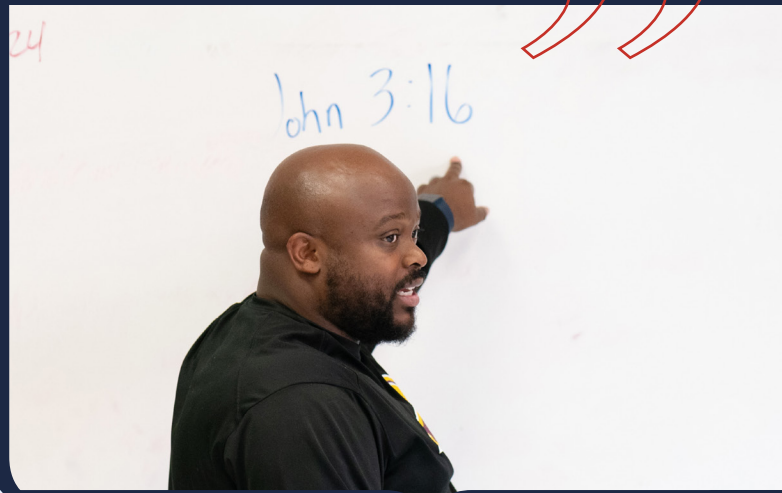
We very much appreciate the support we receive from Bible in the Schools that provides an elective course opportunity for many of our students in grades 6-12. Thanks to the generosity of the group and its supporters, our unique partnership has been in place for over 100 years, and we look forward to continuing our joint work to serve Hamilton County students in the future.

- Dr. Justin Robertson, Hamilton County Schools Superintendent



1. What do you notice?
2. What is going on in this image?
3. What do you see that makes you think that?

Be prepared to share your thinking with the group.



Tennessee Bible Standards Framework
 The purpose of this course is to enable students to have a personal appreciation of the Bible's major ideas, historical forms, and messages.

General objectives

A. Describe how the Bible was transmitted, and its authority by religious communities from ancient times to the present.

B. Select and use appropriate study and research methods.

C. Read biblical narratives to identify the elements of plot, such as characters, settings, and resolutions; describe and analyze the impact of the text on the reader.



GENESIS 6TH GRADE

Students will engage in an academic study of the book of Genesis and the details related to the origin and development of the Bible. Students will read the creation and flood narratives, the formation of early civilizations, and the founding of the early Abrahamic and Israelite traditions.



EXODUS 7TH GRADE

Students will engage in an academic study of the book of Exodus. Students will read the narrative of the Israelite experience in Egypt, as well as their enslavement and eventual exodus from Egypt, including an overview of the life and leadership of Moses and the early rituals, practices, and systems of ancient Israelite culture.



LIFE OF JESUS 8TH GRADE

Students will engage in an academic study of the first four books of the New Testament, the Gospels. Students will complete an academic survey of Jesus' life, using the Book of Luke as the primary text. This will include Jesus' early life, his work and teachings, and his arrest and execution.

*All courses are taught in compliance with the Tennessee Department of Education Standards.



SCHOOL BIBLE COURSES



OLD TESTAMENT

9-12TH GRADE

This class provides an academic overview of the Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible, beginning with the formation of the biblical canon and the creation of narratives through the Babylonian exile and the Second Temple Period. The course emphasizes understanding the thought and culture of ancient Israel.



NEW TESTAMENT

9-12TH GRADE

This class provides an academic overview of the entire New Testament. Students engage in a comparative study of the four Gospels and trace the development of the early Christian church. Emphasis is given to the life and teachings of Jesus. Students also investigate the various writings of Paul, as well as the many cultural challenges faced by the early church.



COLLEGE CREDIT OFFERED

A college Local Dual Credit option is now offered for both the Old Testament and New Testament courses, offering students the opportunity to earn up to six hours of college credit at Chattanooga State Community College.

1,000+
students currently enrolled in a
Local Dual Credit course



COMMUNITY

OUR



COMMUNITY

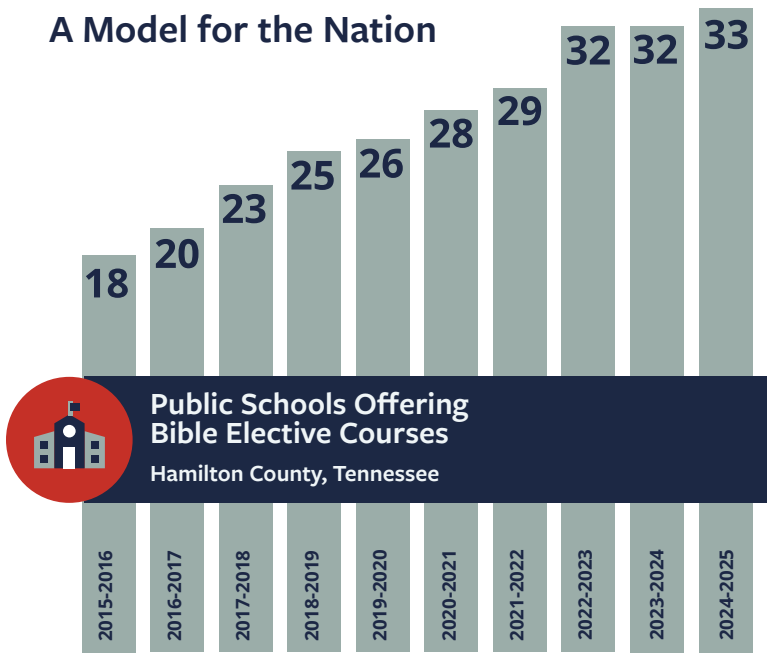


LOOKING AHEAD



HAMILTON COUNTY BIBLE EDUCATION PROGRAM

A Model for the Nation



Public Schools Offering Bible Elective Courses

Hamilton County, Tennessee



Dalewood Middle School
Part Time to Full Time



Signal Mountain Middle/High School
Additional Part Time Teacher



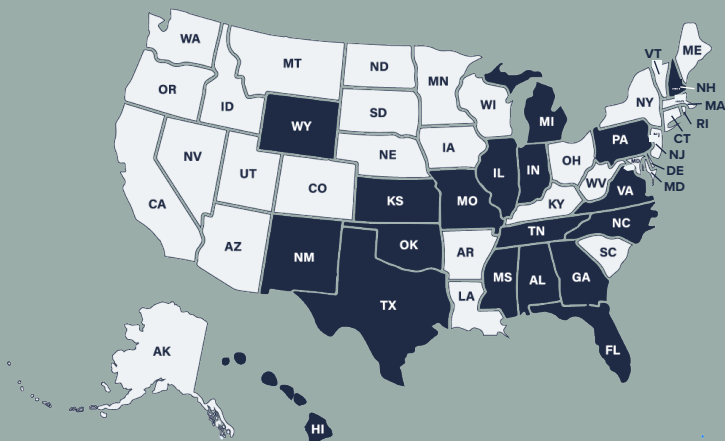
Sale Creek High School
Additional Part-Time Teacher



Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences
NEW Program, Full Time

REQUESTS FOR PROGRAM REPLICATION

The vision of Bible in the Schools is to provide all students the opportunity to study the Bible and to be a leading model for advancing Bible education.





THE BIBLE: A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND CONNECTION IN LOVING MEMORY OF SAM JESSEN

This fall, my students returned to school after tragically losing their friend and classmate, Sam Jessen. Experiencing any form of loss can be incredibly difficult, particularly when it involves the passing of a student. While our school provided professional support for our students, I also recognized the importance of finding solace in our Bible classes. As a result, we chose to explore the narrative of Jacob’s Ladder in Genesis 28: 10-19, which presents the concept of memorializing significant individuals, places, and events in both the Christian and Jewish traditions. The biblical account (NLT) reads as follows:



Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.” Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

In the story, Jacob’s dream is so significant that he memorializes it with a stone pillar. Like Jacob’s dream at Bethel, Sam’s life was significant and worth commemorating, so we created a classroom memorial. As we created our memorial, each student shared a story about Sam as they stacked a stone. This activity, a testament to Sam’s lasting impact, was a step towards healing for my grieving students. The tribute, a symbol of our love and respect for Sam, will remain in my classroom for as long as I teach at CSLA, a constant reminder of Sam and his fun, lively, and joyous personality. Sam always lived life to its fullest, a personality trait described by his family and friends as “living full flame.” The Bible is full of stories that both enrich their education and provide comfort, peace, and healing. Thank you to all who give generously to make Bible education possible in our public schools.



Heather Wyatt
Bible Teacher
Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts



CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION

OUR DONORS SHARE WHY THEY SUPPORT BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS

**Mr. Tom Glenn, President,
Elder's Ace Hardware**

"Our immediate and extended family supports Bible in the Schools because of the cultural and historical relevance of the Bible in our society. For many students it may be their only exposure to the Bible, and that could have eternal significance to them and to future generations."



**Mr. Frank Brock, Founder,
Brow Wood**

"There's just something different about Chattanooga. I can not help but think that that's partly because of Biblical literacy. People are concerned about our youth, the direction of our country, and the quality of life in our communities. They need to be concerned about Bible in the Schools because it's about all these things."



FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

TRUSTED BY THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 102 YEARS

The public school Bible elective program is funded entirely through private charitable contributions through the Public School Bible Study Committee, doing business as Bible in the Schools. NO TAX DOLLARS ARE USED. Hamilton County Schools was reimbursed just over \$2.3 million for the complete cost of the countywide Bible program in 32 participating schools, which served 15 ZIP codes in the 2023-2024 academic year. Included in these costs are: teacher salaries, benefits, taxes, Bibles, classroom supplies and other resources, year-round teacher professional development, and legal compliance training.

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PLLC - Certified Public Accountants*

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Business Officer for Signal Energy*

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*Senior Advisor, Decosimo Corporate
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RockPoint Bank*

Mr. Travis Lytle
*Director of Community
Development, SmartBank*

Mr. Marshall Harvey
ACCOUNTANT
Chief Financial Officer, Tekwell Services

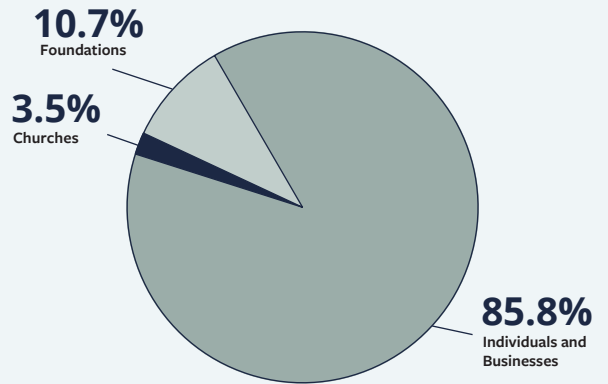
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BOARD CHAIRMAN
*Practice Leader for Employee Benefits,
McGriff*

Mr. Franklin Farrow
*Chief Executive Officer, Independent
Healthcare Properties*

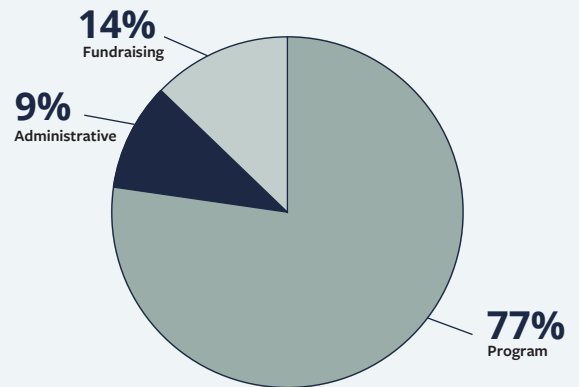
Mr. Oliver Richmond
President, Kingdom Partners

Mrs. Cathy Scott (ex officio)
President, Bible in the Schools

CONTRIBUTIONS



EXPENSES



* FALL 2024 AUDIT

FAST FACTS

- 100% charitable community contributions
- Approximate cost per student: \$65/month, \$780/year
- 2023-2024 Annual Fund Contributions: \$3,084,791
- Accountant: Mr. Marshall Harvey, Chief Financial Officer, Tekwell Services
- Last Financial Audit: August 2024
- **NO TAX DOLLARS USED**

OUR PLEDGE TO YOU

Bible in the Schools pledges to steward all donations with the highest level of integrity, accountability, and wisdom. Thank you for your generosity, partnership, and trust.

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

Charity
Navigator



+ FOUR-STAR +

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Mr. Rob Huffaker, Jr.
Chairman

"I am honored to stand with this organization as we continue our commitment to advancing Bible education for public school students in Hamilton County. Over the past 102 years, our mission has remained steadfast: to advance Bible education for students in Hamilton County public schools by offering the opportunity to study the Bible. With heartfelt appreciation for the generosity of our supporters, we look forward to continued growth and meaningful work in the years ahead."



Mr. Bruce Zeiser,
Vice Chairman

Mr. John Henegar,
Treasurer

Mr. Benjamin Pitts,
Secretary

Mrs. Cathy Scott,
President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Retired - Former Chief Risk & Business Officer for Signal Energy

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President, Kingdom Partners

Mr. Chris Sands

Executive Director of Community Safety, City of Chattanooga

Mrs. Cathy Scott

President, Bible in the Schools

Mr. Mike St. Charles

Attorney, Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel, P.C.

Mr. Britton Stansell

Chief Executive Officer, BrightBase

Dr. Edna Varner

Senior Advisor for Leading and Learning, Public Education Foundation

Mrs. Kakhi Huffaker Wakefield

Owner, K Wakefield Designs

Mr. Thad Whitfield

Attorney, Miller & Martin PLLC

Mrs. Teresa Whitton

President, Southeastern Trust Company

Mr. Bruce Zeiser

Vice Chairman of the Board
Executive Vice President,
Southern Champion Tray

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Former United States Senator for Tennessee;
Former Chair of United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Mr. Doug Daugherty

President, Vision Consulting

Mr. David Fowler

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President, Family Action Council of Tennessee

Mrs. Patsy Hazlewood

Former Member, Tennessee House of Representatives, District 27

Mr. Henry Henegar

Retired

Mr. Lurone Jennings

Administrator, Chattanooga's Department of Youth and Family Development

The Honorable Ron Littlefield

Former Mayor of Chattanooga

Mr. Hugh Maclellan, Jr.

Chairman Emeritus, The Maclellan Foundation

Mr. Thomas McCallie

Retired, Executive Director, The Robert L. & Kathrina H. Maclellan Foundation

The Honorable Zach Wamp

Former United States Congressman

Mr. David Worland

Executive Director, The Knoble

Mr. Charles "Chuck" Zeiser

Former President and CEO, Southern Champion Tray; Chairman of the Board, Southern Champion Tray

IN LOVING MEMORY

Mr. John Guerry
Board of Reference
1925-2024



PRESIDENT'S GREETING

My daily commute to work is on a highway that twists and turns around the majestic Tennessee River here in Chattanooga. Every day the river paints a different picture. On calm sunny days, like clear glass, it mirrors the beautiful scenery around it and the splashes of color as the sky emerges from a deep purple at dawn, to a brilliant midday blue, followed by spectacular sunsets and a peaceful warm evening glow. When there is a soft breeze or a strong wind, the reflections are less clear as the ripples hide the picturesque trees and dense foliage that embrace this powerful Tennessee landmark. On rough and stormy days, the river presents as cold, churned up, and formidable.

Like the Tennessee River, students in our public schools often mirror what they are subjected to. Some students show up at school happy, peaceful, and calm, with lives that are fairly healthy. Others are struggling to manage the noise and winds of the culture that make life feel less clear. Their lives and self-worth can feel blurred by addictive digital landscapes, which studies report are creating anxiety, confusion, and a questioning of self-worth. For others, school is their safe place as their homes are churned up by storms, turmoil, or formidable difficulty. All of these students either internally or externally reflect what they are subject to, yet all need love, care, safety, acceptance, and people in their lives who will value and invest in them.

For over 102 years, through community generosity, Bible in the Schools has been investing in students in Hamilton County public schools by providing the rare and free gift of elective Bible classes and caring Bible teachers, at no cost to taxpayers. This academic, for-credit option is enjoyed by 4,000-5,000 middle and high school students annually, and is accessible in 33 out of 40 public middle and high schools. Birthed in 1922, the strength and size of this public school Bible program has also become a noteworthy Tennessee landmark. Offered now in 15 ZIP codes, it has made Hamilton County Schools distinct from any other public school district in the nation.

Students from any background and all walks of life can opt-into a Bible literature course, at no cost to taxpayers. The Old and New



Testament Survey courses, now available for local dual college credit, in partnership with Chattanooga State Community College, provide an attractive option for students seeking post-secondary opportunities, while electively studying the Bible.

Every day of the academic year in Hamilton County public schools, irrespective of the joys or challenges students are subject to, all are benefiting from the positive, life-affirming, and mind-broadening wisdom of the Bible. As students all around the country mine the depths of textbooks of all kinds, thanks to you, public school students in Hamilton County, Tennessee, can study the Bible, a book that has arguably had the most significant influence on academia, culture, and the world around them.

It is my joy and privilege to be on this journey with you, and to wake up every morning to help advance this worthy cause. Thank you for your dedicated trust and valued partnership, as together, we keep the Bible at the forefront of public school education.

CATHY SCOTT
PRESIDENT



Carissa Algea
Advancement Officer



Marshall Harvey



Rachel James
Accountant



Gabriel Michaelis
Development Associate



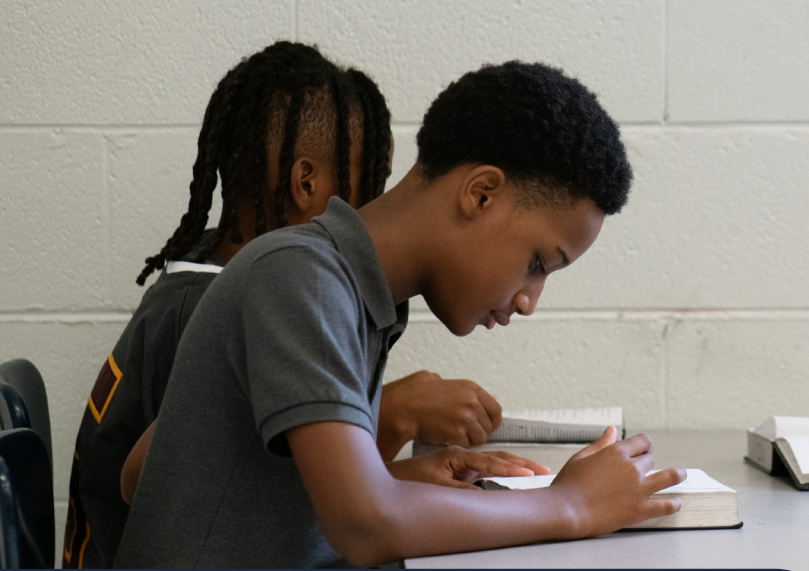
Amanda Tingle
Director of
Administration and
Special Projects



Patti Wallace
Executive Assistant to
the President

MISSION

To advance Bible education for students in Hamilton County public schools



VISION

To provide all students the opportunity to study the Bible and to be a leading model for advancing Bible education



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