



"Thank you for providing Bible. It is really helping me through tough times because it put the Bible in my weekly schedule."  
– Bible Student



"Bible means a lot to me because it provides a place to be open-minded. It allows us students to have a time of peaceful learning with our great teacher."  
– Bible Student



"I am thankful for this class. It makes me think about my actions."  
– Bible Student

Dear Friend of Bible in the Schools,

**ACCELERATING ACCESS:** Another school year is over and summer is upon us. Once again we give thanks for each of you and for your generous investment in making the world's most disseminated text, the Bible, available to public school youth through Bible. Thank you! Your gracious gifts have accelerated student access to Bible in Hamilton County from **67% to 81%** in the last 24 months! Truly, Chattanooga has something special — being the only city in the nation in which over four fifths (81%) of all middle and high school youth can, if desired, study the Bible during the regular school day, in the public school classroom, while also receiving graduation credit.

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU:** Your valued friendship and faithful partnership this 2017-2018 school year provided Bible programs for **23** Hamilton County public schools. Collectively holding 46 degrees, 20 highly qualified Bible teachers taught 5 different courses: **Genesis**, to 6th grade, **Exodus** (7th), **The Life of Jesus** (8th), and **Old Testament Survey** and **New Testament Survey** to grades 9-12. Every day of the academic school year, students are being exposed to the wisdom and knowledge of the Bible at a time in their lives when they're asking, "Who am I?" and, "What is my purpose?" Moreover, while improving literacy skills and learning to critically engage with complex text, students are unlocking the hidden treasure within. All of this is thanks to you!

**BOOSTING BIBLICAL LITERACY:** Biblical literacy in our local public schools continues to rise. Hamilton County Department of Education recently reported annual cumulative pre/post-test data for 2017-2018, which revealed a **95%** increase in students' overall Bible content knowledge. This is a testimony to the pedagogy and skilled curriculum design of excellent teachers.

**ESCALATING ENROLLMENT:** Bible courses were completed this year by **4,068** students — a **9%** increase over the previous school year. It is your generosity that allows us to respond to growing student demand. Bible began in **3** new schools last fall with subsequent enrollment as follows: Sale Creek Middle/High School, **105**; Red Bank High School, **67**; and Ivy Academy, **84** students.

**ON THE HORIZON:** This coming August, an additional **2** schools will add Bible programs: Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy (full-time) and Lookout Valley Middle/High School (part-time). This will give approximately **700** more students the option to take Bible for graduation credit. This growth brings the total to **25** schools, **22** teachers, and **1** full-time Program Coordinator. Strategic conversations also continue at the board level as to how we can meet growing demand, not only in Hamilton County, but also from many other districts in at least 11 states seeking to replicate this program.

**MÁS BIBLIAS POR FAVOR?** Spanish/English Bibles, that your gifts also provide, made the Bible more relevant specifically to students at East Lake Academy and The Howard School where over **50%** of all Bible students this past year were of Hispanic origin. Upon providing a large order of bilingual Bibles for The Howard School, we inquired about the impact. The teacher there reported that many of the parents of his students asked if they might have a Bible too. It's on occasions like this when we rejoice that the blessing and impact of Bible is overflowing from classrooms into homes, and more importantly into hearts, as lives are touched in numerous ways.

With sincere appreciation,

*Cathy Scott*

President

### 25 HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFERING A BIBLE ELECTIVE, 2018-2019

Brainerd High School; Brown Middle School; Central High School; Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy; Dalewood Middle School; East Hamilton School; East Lake Academy; East Ridge High School; East Ridge Middle School; Hixson High School; Hixson Middle School; The Howard School; Hunter Middle School; Ivy Academy Chattanooga; Loftis Middle School; Lookout Valley Middle/High; Ooltewah High School; Ooltewah Middle School; Red Bank High School; Red Bank Middle School; Signal Mountain High School; Signal Mountain Middle School; Sale Creek Middle/High School; Soddy Daisy Middle/High School; Tyner Academy

# BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS

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This publication is dedicated  
to the loving memory of  
Mrs. Nancy Maclellan, 1940-2018 and  
Mr. Jerry Adams, 1943-2018.

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