

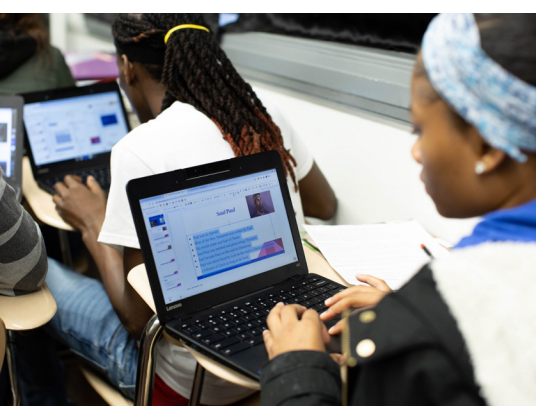
fall update

BIBLE
IN THE SCHOOLS
bibleintheschools.com

“

The Bible in our schools is much needed. It allows us to have positivity in our lives.

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Dear Friend,

FALL 2020

In 2006 American singer-songwriter John Mayer released a song called “Waiting on the World to Change.” I believe this song title well encapsulates the state of many people’s hearts as they yearn for life as they once knew it. In the wake of the Coronavirus, we consider the plight of teachers and students everywhere. Many truly are waiting on the world to change, longing for the day when life and school will return to normal.



28
SCHOOLS



4,600+
STUDENTS

While waiting, educators everywhere are reinventing instruction in order to answer the million dollar question, “How do we do school?” Or, more specifically, “How do we keep students meaningfully engaged in learning and moving forward on their educational journey?” This is no different for Bible teachers in Hamilton County. All are asking these same questions.

When school began this 2020-2021 academic year, students in Hamilton County Schools were given three options from which they could choose: 1) Attend school in person in accordance with the phase that their school was in, 2) Attend HCS@Home, a virtual version of their normal curriculum, or 3) Enroll in Hamilton County Virtual School. Bible elective courses are available in all three options. Teachers are dealing with a myriad of scenarios and schedules, and all are striving to adapt accordingly. Students are experiencing a historic sense of anxiety and stress due to events beyond their control. Both at home and in the classroom, they are engaging in new modes of learning that prove challenging at every turn. The many changes our schools have faced have left many feeling discouraged; however, Bible enrollment and student interest remain strong.

Despite the year’s challenges, we still have much to be thankful for. The highest number of students ever completed a Bible course during the 2019-2020 academic year. Faithful friends gave generously so that all 4,579 students received a sponsor. In July, Hamilton County Schools received \$1.7 million as reimbursement for the full cost of Bible in 26 schools. And despite this year’s volatile economy, we are truly humbled that the generosity of this community has allowed us to add two new Bible programs. Placing Bible teachers at the East Hamilton Middle School expansion and Tyner Middle Academy has given 682 more public school students the opportunity to study the Bible. In addition, we give thanks for three wonderful years with Mr. Chris Maclellan as Chairman of our Board of Directors, and we are delighted to welcome Mr. Tom Glenn as our ninth Board Chairman.

In the midst of a season that has outlasted our expectations, what you as a Bible in the Schools supporter provide is a message of hope to a world of chaos. On a daily basis, teachers deliver to students ancient stories that still speak new words of encouragement and comfort, of justice and hope. The curriculum unfolds characters, places, and events, but also messages of good news, joy, and calm in the face of the storm. Bible is present in our public schools because of the support of our community. For that, we thank you.

Now more than ever, our students need a positive voice. One student recently said, “The Bible in our schools is much needed. It allows us to have positivity in our lives.” Since 1922, the Bible has delivered a message of hope to public school students across Hamilton County. We are grateful that this year, thousands of students across 28 public schools will open their Bibles each day. And while we are waiting on the world to change, we give thanks for dear friends like you who provide public school youth a Book that never changes.

With gratitude,

Cathy Scott, President

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