

# BIBLE



## IN THE SCHOOLS

# Bible in the Schools

P.O. Box 4228  
Chattanooga, TN 37405  
(423) 648-0500

[www.bibleintheschools.com](http://www.bibleintheschools.com)

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Bible in the Schools funds 17 Bible history teachers teaching in 20 Hamilton County public schools at no cost to taxpayers.



Nearly 3,800 public school students have elected a Bible history class for the 2015-2016 school year. By the end of this academic school year, Bible in the Schools will have made possible about 250,000 hours of court-approved, academically rigorous Bible history instruction.



"Bible in the Schools is in my opinion one of the most powerful and best things we can do in terms of providing hope for our children, in terms of changing the way they act, and really who they are. Really, they become different once the Bible becomes a part of their life." - Lurone "Coach" Jennings, Administrator, Chattanooga Dept. of Youth and Family Development, and Bible history alumnus.

Dear Friend,

Warm greetings to you from Bible in the Schools! I am excited to be a part of this great organization and humbled to have the opportunity to help further the mission and vision of Bible in the Schools. What a privilege, joy, and responsibility we have as a community to help enrich and equip the next generation with the wisdom and knowledge of the Bible.

**SYMPTOMS OF A DEEPER PROBLEM:** There is no question that the recent current events related to our city's public schools have brought to the forefront of our community a deep level of brokenness in the lives of many public school students. The steady stream of news of increasingly inappropriate levels of student activity has left many wondering **what has so inverted the moral compass of our youth** leading them to make choices that hurt themselves, hurt others, and overtly fracture the community? Furthermore, with each passing year, it seems more glaringly obvious that the moral anchors that used to fasten our somewhat normative society are no longer. The apparent disregard for human dignity seems to be shipwrecking our youth, thrusting them onto the sharp rocks of destructive choices, and leaving permanent scars on beautiful young lives. While the magnitude of problems within our public schools seems to be escalating, one thing remains constant: **the outward manifestation of this activity is merely symptomatic of a much deeper heart problem.**

**A MISSIONAL OPPORTUNITY:** Friends, we can't just sit back, watch from a distance, and hope the hearts of youth in our schools will change on their own. My plea is that our community and churches will see this as **an invitation to step up**—wherever possible—to make a difference, to challenge young people's worldviews, and **help positively impact this next generation.** It is exciting to see that Bible in the Schools is having this kind of impact by bringing hope and light to youth in a challenging and sometimes dark environment.

**BRINGING LIFE-AFFIRMING VALUES AND HOPE TO OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** Bible in the Schools currently funds 17 Bible history teachers who are not only **sharing the narrative of the Bible every day** with their students, they are also a **steady presence** and **positive role model** for them in a turbulent and often stress-filled environment. Through Bible history, students are learning of the hope of the Bible as well as being exposed to morals, ethics, and life-affirming values. While classes are designed for academic rigor, curricular components include class discussions around values such as humility, kindness, forgiveness, and selflessness. Students are learning that their lives and the lives of those around them have dignity, value, and worth. They're also learning that they should treat others the way they would like to be treated. Bible history truly is changing the lives of public school students – many of whom feel broken and void of hope. As our community's well-respected leader Lurone "Coach" Jennings affirms, our children "become different once the Bible becomes a part of their life."

**CHOOSING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** You may have received this communication because you are already a part of blessing public school youth through Bible in the Schools, and for this, we are profoundly grateful! Or you may have received this simply because we are just excited to tell you about Bible in the Schools. Thank you for sharing the vision of Bible in the Schools – to positively impact the next generation and **to reach every public school student in Hamilton County with the hope, wisdom, and knowledge of the Bible.**

Thank you for your kind interest in Bible in the Schools!

*Cathy Scott*

President

*"Helping young people to read and understand the Bible is a great joy and responsibility. It's amazing that we even have the opportunity to have this great task and call it our profession."*  
**Nathan Cates (Bible history teacher, Tyner Academy)**

Watch our most recent video at: [www.bibleintheschools.com/hope](http://www.bibleintheschools.com/hope)