

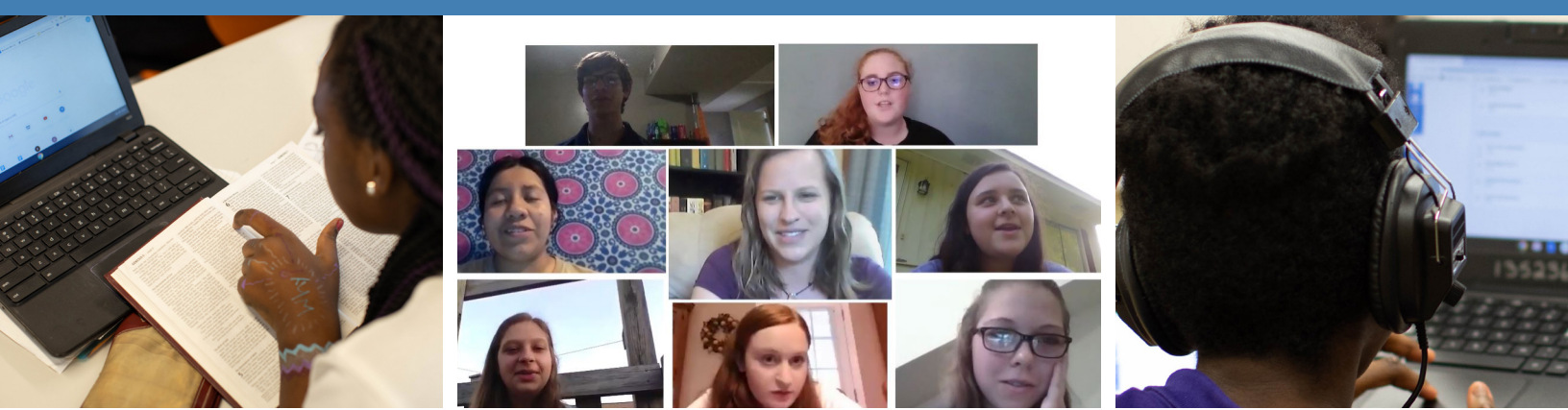
summer update

BIBLE
IN THE SCHOOLS
bibleintheschools.com

“

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SUMMER 2020

Dear Friend,

Some years ago in a graduate level class on School Business Management, our required reading included *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman. The 2005 book explained how the digitization of the world and advancements in data transmission would lead to a whole new level of global connectivity. Such technological advancements would supersede those of previous eras, and lead to a metaphorical “flattening” of the world. Friedman discussed the complexities that result from such rapid, global change, and described the flattening of old hierarchies, the leveling of the commercial playing field, and even the virtual handshake, all of which have become increasingly more relevant these past few months. The Coronavirus has most certainly challenged our familiar routines at home, school, and work, as it has forced the whole world to become flatter, much faster.

The spread of the Coronavirus has made the utilization of technology all the more imperative in educational settings, resulting in the implementation of digital classrooms. At Bible in the Schools, we are thankful that the 24 Hamilton County Bible History teachers, who are year-round **dispensers of hope**, were able to make the rapid changes needed to teach Bible History elective courses online. With the Bible being the official textbook of each course, **Bible History students’ transition to a digital version of the Bible was not only smooth, but also free.** Unlike many costly online textbooks, Bible History students were able to take advantage of the many free Bible apps and websites that make the Bible available online to anyone in a myriad of languages and translations.

Digital learning management systems such as Google Classroom and Canvas made it possible for teachers to continue to share announcements, post videos, and create assessments for ongoing student learning. More current technological advancements such as Google Meets, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom provided real-time spaces for teachers to have face-to-face interactions with students. We are excited to report that, **despite the shelter-in-place and social distancing requirements, 4,579 students were able to complete a Bible History course during the 2019-2020 academic year.**

We realize that many families have been negatively impacted by the Coronavirus, to whom we express our sincerest sympathy. However, if there is a redemptive side to COVID-19 in Hamilton County, it has been that thousands of students during quarantine continued to read their Bibles carefully and critically, but this time **in their own homes.** The break from the traditional school format has pushed Bible History lessons into the living rooms, kitchens, and dens of Hamilton County students, leaving a positive impact on hundreds of families. One student recently reported that because of discussing his Bible History lesson with his family at the dinner table, his dad left his unhealthy lifestyle and re-engaged his whole family with their faith community.

We pray for brighter days ahead for our nation, our community, our schools, and for each of you. We are also excited to announce that **we will be launching Bible History programs at two new schools next fall:** at the new East Hamilton Middle School expansion and at Tyner Middle Academy.

We are so grateful for your continued interest and investment in public school students. In closing, I would like to share a recent quote from Mr. Patrick Woolsey, Bible History teacher at Soddy Daisy High School: **“What COVID-19 has wrought upon our world I deeply lament. The costs have been too high and are still growing. However, I am thankful that in the midst of it all I can continue to impact the lives of my students with a material that has seen a lot of people through times of hardship and even death. Through Bible History, many of my students have found something deeply precious, not in a Zoom meeting, but in a text that still speaks.”**

With gratitude,

Cathy Scott, President

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SCHOOLS



4,579
STUDENTS