



## WEEKDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Public School Families who seek Christian education for their children

### **The situation of America today is failing America's children:**

- 21 million American children live in homes with no biological father.
- 15 million American children are without a parent due to incarceration.
- 58 million American children attend 100,000 public schools. Ninety-two percent receive no Bible teaching or instruction during the public school day.
- 26 million American children never had an adult personally read a single verse of Scripture to them. (source U.S. Department of education, Washington D.C. U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, Washington D.C. Gallup Poll, New York, N.Y.; Children's Defense Fund, Washington D.C.)

Weekday Religious Education is a Christian program that works in cooperation with area public school systems to allow third and fourth grade students to make time out of their regular class schedule to participate in religious education. WRE classes are voluntary for children in the third and fourth grade in Morgan County Public school. Nearly 64% of local public school children participate with parent's permission. These classes meet one each week in mobile classrooms near their school or a church building close to the school for up to 60 minutes each week. This program has existed in Morgan County for 70 years. Churches, civic groups and individuals support this program financially.

The goal of Weekday Religious Education is to bring hope to youth through Released-time Bible Education. The Bible is our textbook. The teaching is non-denominational in outlook.

### **Our children need:**

- Purpose and meaning for their lives beyond the accumulation of wealth or achievement of social and/or professional status.
- Safe venues where they can ask deeply challenging and sensitive questions without fear or censure.
- Bible Education that prepares them to be responsible adults contributing community citizens and godly teachers empowered to live out their faith.

We believe Release-Time Bible Education addresses these needs. It is a unique program approved by the Supreme Court whereby students may leave school to attend off-campus Bible classes during the public school day. Released-Time Bible Education is the only legal means by which Christian education (intended to instruct students in a biblical world view) is allowed during the public school day. In all cases written requests/permission from a student's parent or guardian must be obtained.

### **Benefits to Public Education:**



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- A comparative review between the academic performance scores of Oakland Released-Time students and all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders that students at Oakland Released-Time perform better and then their classmates as a whole in almost every category.
- Oakland Released-Time curriculum reinforce key literary components such as spelling and reading comprehension and reflects positively on the relevancy of the instruction to the academic performance of children participating in the program.
- Overall the scores of Oakland Released-Time students improved after one year (between the academic year in three stages of literacy, comprehension, spelling, and vocabulary).

Across the country, many public schools are trying to improve the academic performance of their students and at the same time curb delinquent behavior that disrupts teaching and the overall academic climate of schools. Today hundreds of thousands of American public school students are receiving Bible truth during the public school day because committed parents, pastors, business leaders, school officials, concerned citizens, financial supporters, and volunteers have made a choice to become involved.

We join you in your sincere concern and care for the welfare of the students in Morgan County and know that we all desire the best education for our children. Let us work together so that we can reach our goals and further develop and enhance our children and prepare them for the future both academically and spiritually. Weekday Religious Education provides teachers and principals with an unparalleled tool to enhance the professional educator's goals in developing our students into people of strong character and moral fiber. With the cooperation of the parents of the students in Morgan County, the school officials, and WRE we can flood our community with students who make good choices in life who will make a profound difference in our community and country.