

What does the **ANNUAL BURSARY CAMPAIGN** mean to you?

We asked families at Smithville Christian to tell us why the bursary matters to them. Here are just a few of their answers:



*“The blessing of a bursary has allowed our family to provide a Christian education for our daughter at a time of unexpected life events. It has been an extremely difficult year for us, and the choice to have our daughter receive a Christian education would be out of reach without the support of the Smithville Christian High School bursary. We feel extremely humbled by your care and generosity. This is our first experience in a Christian school environment and we can't express how grateful we are to be a part of such an amazing community of people. Thank you so much for your help in making our dream a reality.”*

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“I don't have the words to truly express how much of a blessing your support has been to my family. The opportunity for my kids to be connected in a community that cares deeply about them, and about every aspect of them... their success in school, their social growth, their spiritual growth, and helping them become all that God has created them to be. I am so grateful that they are able to get an education that points them to The Creator in all subjects, and all situations. They are surrounded by teachers and staff who are investing in them deeply. We have experienced the public school system, and the worldview teaching that comes out. My children have been told to stop singing Sunday school songs in the classroom or to refrain from including references to God in a school project. I am blessed every day, when I hear my kids pray, giving thanks to God for the schools they go to. They too, know what a blessing it is. Without the support of those of you who believe that Christian education should be accessible to all, my family would not be able to belong to this larger beautiful family. I cannot thank you enough for the support that we have received through the bursaries your generosity has provided.”

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*“As a family, one of our priorities is for our children to grow in the knowledge, love, and fear of God. We have been praising the Lord ever since we were introduced to Christian schools. It is definitely a huge financial commitment, and we could not do it without the support of the bursary program. We thank God that there are people who have it in their hearts to help struggling families who wish to keep their children in these amazing Christian schools.”*



“The bursary program has been a saving grace for us. It has allowed us the means to send our son to Smithville Christian High School. Christian education can be a financial sacrifice, but your generous assistance has helped us enormously. We could not do it without you. We see daily how the school has greatly benefitted our son. We see him growing and learning in a school that is full of opportunities, friendships, and dedicated people all striving for the best in him. He simply loves his school, his teachers, his friends, and he loves to learn. Every day he come home with a smile and eagerly talks about the day he's had. Sometimes, we've been asked if Christian education is worth the money. Yes, yes it is – every penny. We cannot imagine sending him anywhere else, and we cannot thank the school enough for the assistance provided through the bursary program. Thank you so much for making a difference in the life our son, and in turn, our lives as well.”



*“Christian education always seemed out of reach for us financially so we never considered it as an option. As our daughter approached high school, we prayerfully considered the different possibilities. We had heard great things about Smithville Christian so we decided to attend the open house. After the open house, we knew we wanted her to be able to attend Smithville but the reality was that we could not afford it. We have long relied on and trusted the Lord to provide for our needs. Even though it's hard and humbling to ask for help, we decided to apply for a bursary. We are so thankful that we did. She is now thriving at Smithville Christian High School. She's developing positive and encouraging friendships. Teachers are encouraging her to discover and grow in her God-given gifts. She is becoming a confident young person seeking to follow Jesus. Thank you to those who make the bursaries possible.”*



“Having access to Christian schools for our children has been an answer to prayer. When we came for a tour of Smithville Christian we knew with all of our hearts that God is at work there and we just knew that this was the school for our son. Without this program our children would not be thriving and enjoying having a Christian education on the level they are experiencing now. We are so thankful to the Lord Jesus for the huge blessing and pray God's hand will continue to be in this and to also guide bless and protect all of those involved in this unique Christian school community which includes the staff, children and families, volunteers, and donors. Thank you all and God bless.”



*“As a family, we say: thank you. We acknowledge that giving in this way offers so much more than just money. It also enables possibilities for our school community to grow, and, as a family who directly benefits from this gift, it relieves emotional and financial stress that otherwise weighs heavily on our shoulders. The longing to belong and to enter into community is universal, and your gift is part of something larger than just an ethic of reciprocity. We all belong to something bigger than ourselves, something larger than a social construction of who fits and who doesn't. We cannot ignore the Biblical mandate of living in communities of belonging. Creating opportunity for each other to enter and belong is truly a beautiful and complicated thing, and it is a risk worth taking. Thank you for taking that risk for us.”*