

## **Montgomery County Schools**

### **Request for Program Review**

#### **Feasibility of offering Bible Classes in MCS**

1. After attending a State School Board Association meeting recently, several MCS board members asked that I investigate the feasibility of offering Bible classes to our students.
2. I am familiar with the curriculum and process as a previous school system I worked in offered these classes for their students.
3. I have reviewed the curriculum material that was graciously supplied by Ms. Shirley Threadgill and would fully support offering these classes in our schools and would make an enthusiastic administrative recommendation to do so in a future meeting.
4. As far as feasibility, there are several points to review to see if it would be possible:
  - a. Each high school will conduct a survey to see if there is sufficient student interest in taking such a course. Anecdotal data tells me yes. Please see b. below.
  - b. Our administrative staff will need to meet with the staff of Montgomery Community College for curricular alignment. MCC offers an online class option that is popular with our students and we do not want to simply repeat what is offered there. We want to expand upon and supplement that online class which is currently offered.
  - c. To fund the additional position, we would need community support to pay for the additional position. In the previous school system I worked for, the salary for the positions were paid from an external Bible Association that raised the funds needed to ensure the program's survival from year to year.
  - d. Once funding for salaries are established, the school system would need to budget funding for benefits for the selected teacher. That would be the school system's match to the community contribution.
  - e. We will need the classes to align to English (Bible Literature) or Social Studies (Bible History) curricula and they must be taught from that perspective. My first glance at this issue would lead me to recommend that the classes be called Bible History to align with our social studies curriculum. That would help particularly at WMHS where class sizes in social studies have grown over the last year.
  - f. The classes would be offered both at EMHS and WMHS as student interests allow.
5. We would now like to seek community support from our faith-based partners for offering the classes and provide you updates at subsequent Board meetings. I have had some preliminary discussions with local leaders who were excited about this possibility. I request a board vote for permission to move forward.