

Bible Released Time Permission Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to be offering this wonderful opportunity for 3rd to 5th graders at Elizabethton elementary schools this year! Please read below to learn more about the program. If you have questions, please call or text 865-607-0205. We look forward to serving you and your child!



Dave Johnson, Director

To enroll your child, fill out the form below and return to your school.

I give permission for _____ to be excused from school for one class period, once a month, to attend the Bible Released Time program, sponsored by Children's Bible Ministries.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY CHILD'S FIRST & LAST NAME

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

DATE

Printed name of

Parent or Guardian _____ Email _____

If needed, best phone number to reach you: _____ Home Cell Work (Circle One)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Grade _____ Child's Birth Date _____ / _____ / _____
MONTH DAY YEAR

Bible Released Time... what's this all about?

If you are taking a moment to read this, you're doing exactly what I would do! My wife, Kathy and I raised four children, and when they wanted to go anywhere, we wanted to know *who they would be with and what they would be doing*. Any good parent would! In short, this is an elective "Bible story time" for children who, with parental consent, are excused from school for one class period, once per month. In Tennessee, thousands of children enroll in Bible Released Time programs each year. But since this is a "religious program", you may still have some questions about what your child will be taught and who we are. So let me share a little about us ...

First of all, Bible Released Time is sponsored by Children's Bible Ministries of East Tennessee (CBM). CBM is based right here in the Tri-Cities area at Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go, just outside Elizabethton. We are a respected, non-profit children's ministry, providing school programs and affordable summer camps for children since the 1940's. Many area parents and grandparents can still recall our monthly school visits and flannel board Bible stories in their school auditorium or gym when they grew up! Now held off school property at neighborhood churches, the program continues to grow with over 1000 students already enrolled this year in east Tennessee!

In 2020, Tennessee enacted a new law making Bible Released Time accessible for all students. The Elizabethton City Schools Board of Education can allow the program but does not sponsor or endorse it in any way. The additional form attached is to make sure you are aware of this and also needs your signature. Classes each month will take place during a non-tested subject time and will be considered an excused absence from school.

Our program is for students in grades 3-5. Kids enjoy our classes whether they go to church regularly or if they know very little about the Bible! Our presentations are not "preachy"... we just teach the Bible in a fun and creative way that your child can learn from. You may also appreciate knowing that CBM does not represent any church or denomination. We focus on Bible basics in our classes. Denominational teachings, we feel, should be left to parents and their church.

If you think this is something your child will enjoy, we encourage you to let them give it a try. Our experience is that classes grow during the school year since many students who miss the first trip decide they want to go after they hear their friends talking about it!



RELEASED TIME PERMISSION FORM (“FORM”)

(Please print all entries other than your signature.)

Student’s Name: _____ (“Student”) Student’s Grade: _____

School: _____ School Year 2023-2024

Parent/Guardian’s Full Name: _____ (“Parent/Guardian”)

Organization Responsible During Released Time: CHILDREN’S BIBLE MINISTRIES OF EAST TENNESSEE (“CBM”)

My signature on this Form confirms that the above named Student may be excused from school and may be transported during the school day to participate in a released time course off of school property under the following conditions as permitted by Tenn. Code Ann. 49-2-130(a) and Elizabethton Board Policy 6.200.

- Student is released for one hour per month. The released time course must coincide with school class schedules. Student may not be excused to participate in a released time course during any class in which subject matter is taught for which the State requires an examination for state or federal accountability purposes. The school’s principal, or his/her designee, shall determine the class(es) from which Student may be excused to participate in the released time course.
- CBM must maintain attendance records for Student and must make such records available to Elizabethton City Schools;
- Any transportation to/and from school to the place of released time instruction is the responsibility of CBM or the Parent/Guardian. Elizabethton City Schools is not responsible for transportation.
- No public funds will be expended, and no public school personnel will be involved in providing instruction for released time courses.
- Student is responsible for any missed schoolwork.
- The religious education program is NOT a school-sponsored activity and, as such, the Elizabethton City Schools does not endorse, sponsor, supervise or otherwise involve itself in transportation, religious instruction or any activities of CBM, its employees or its volunteers.
- Parent/Guardian and CBM assume all responsibility and liability for Student’s participation in the released time course and any transportation required for such participation. Parents/Guardians – on behalf of themselves and the minor Student – expressly waive any right to hold Student’s school and Elizabethton City Schools, including their agents, administrators, board members, contractors, and employees, and the State of Tennessee, liable for any and all claims, suits or damages related in any way to and/or stemming from Student’s participation in the released time course, including, but not limited to, transportation thereto or therefrom.

I certify that I am the legally responsible parent or guardian of the above named Student and that I have read and fully understand the conditions of my child’s participation in released time religious moral instruction.

Signature of the Parent/Guardian

_____/_____/_____
Date of Signing