



A Fresh Beginning

Student Fusion Camp Meets the Needs of an Elementary School

The command in Luke 14:23 to go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come into the master's house is no small task. It is a command that we cannot fulfill on our own as it reveals our need for partnership. Partnership at its best was seen this summer in Bristol, VA through SBC of Virginia Student Fusion Camp. Five churches partnered to send 78 of their students and chaperones to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. The camp also included interns funded by the Vision Virginia Missions Offering. Altogether, the church groups and interns invested 1,200 hours of ministry!

Fusion's outreach efforts focused primarily on Washington Lee Elementary School. The principal of the school, Dr. Faith Mabe, was moved

to tears on multiple occasions by the way the Fusion campers blessed the community.

Seven years ago, Washington Lee Elementary School's test scores were in the bottom 3% of the state; in 2019, they were in the top 3%. When asked what caused the positive change, Dr. Mabe responded that they prayed even more than they taught. Dr. Mabe and the teachers and support staff at Washington Lee have worked tirelessly to provide quality education and a safe place for the students in that community. SBCV Fusion campers were able to handle many of the tasks that might otherwise not have been completed before the new school year.

Tasks included praying over the school, pulling weeds, power-washing playground equipment,

spreading mulch, trimming overgrown landscape, painting classrooms, and deep cleaning. New life was brought to an outdoor map with fresh paint, classroom furniture and boxes of supplies were moved, and furniture was cleaned. Fusion participants provided lunch for teachers and cookies for first responders.

No room in the school was overlooked by Student Fusion Camp, and every nook and cranny, teacher, administrator, and student were prayed over.

"It has been a week of revival for us here at Washington Lee," Dr. Mabe shared. "Not only because of the work that is being done but because of the joy we see and hear from those who are working." ■