



## Testimonials

### The Villabolos Family

Before attending nursing school, Katie Villabolos homeschooled her children, but couldn't continue after she enrolled in school. "So I searched for other options. I wasn't comfortable with the local public school option, the overall spirit and atmosphere of the people at that school. I felt like my kids weren't getting what they needed and I felt a strong sense of possible racism, since my kids are half African American and half Caucasian. My step-daughters are teenagers and Mexican-American, and endured racism in the local public school system, too."

Not only did Villabolos harbor concerns for her children's self esteem and safety in the public school setting, she also desperately sought a faith-based education for her children. "We are a strong Christian family. We believe in Jesus Christ and do our best to follow in the ways of the Lord. The public school system is not following the ways of God, and have departed far from Him, so I felt it was time to depart from their schools."

One thing Villabolos had to consider was her family budget. "I knew I couldn't afford the other expensive Christian schools, so I was kind of giving up hope, and then one day I was listening to the radio and I heard an ad for Joshua Christian Academy. I went to the website and I gave them a call to see if I could come check out their school. They were very welcoming, met with me, explained about the school and the tuition, and after praying about it and talking with my husband, we decided Joshua Christian Academy was the place for our children."

Not only does the academy offer the Villabolos family the faith-based education they sought and a welcoming environment for the kids, they appreciate their children learning scripture, having daily chapel time, singing gospel songs and lifelong skills they'll need when they graduate. "They are learning how to keep their faith in God, even when the world is turning away from him. I am so happy knowing that the teachers and leaders at Joshua Christian Academy are strong in their convictions and faith in God. This is what our kids need the most."

The Villabolos family highly recommends others check out the academy if they are seeking a superior, God-centered education based upon truth. "It all comes from Him. The kids remember what they learn in school, they tell me about things I didn't know existed and are constantly absorbing information and retaining it because of the way they're taught. They are happy when they go to school and happy when they return. They know they are cared for at the academy."

## **The King Family**

When the King family was seeking a school that would offer a similar faith-based curriculum as what their children had been absorbing while homeschooled, they came across Joshua Christian Academy. “We had friends whose children attended there and they loved it. When a couple of our older kids were ready to stop homeschooling, we decided to try the school and have been going there ever since.”

While the Kings appreciate the teachers, the Christ-centered education and God-centered theme, the children enjoy making friends and socializing positively in a school setting. “The kids just love their school and have enjoyed their teachers. There are good things about public schools, but there are things taught there that we’d rather our kids not learn. We prefer to have the Bible every day and we love that it’s like they’re getting Sunday school every day.”

The educational components also please the Kings. “They will recite different things, like Bible passages, the Emancipation Proclamation, things that require them to stand up front of an audience and gain that experience.”

Affordability also is key for a bigger family like the Kings. “They make it affordable for families like ours. We couldn’t send all of our kids to other Christian schools. This opportunity also allows my kids to be immersed in an experience unlike others. There’s so much diversity here, that’s a wonderful experience for everyone.”

As much as Joshua Christian Academy appeals to the Kings, they believe others would love the school, too. “They’ve grown so much over the past few years, from a very small school that is doing everything right and growing in the right manner. They have quality teachers who know how to work with kids. It’s run in a way that I think pleases God.”

## **The Johnson Family**

The Johnson family's faith is of utmost importance to them, so when considering education for their two children, they turned to Joshua Christian Academy. "It became apparent to us that God was not welcomed in the public schools and our children were being taught to challenge all the Biblical foundations we believe in. We needed to have our children in a school that allowed them to pray and speak about God openly without having to feel like it was not normal."

With several faith-based educational opportunities in the Des Moines area from which to choose, the Johnsons settled on Joshua Christian Academy, because it is a growing, developing school. "Having our kids there allows us to grow with the school and have input in that growth."

The Johnsons also appreciate the academy's rigorous educational curriculum. "When our kids were in public school, they were not being challenged academically. Although they performed well, the bar was not set high enough. Since enrolling at Joshua Christian Academy, our kids have not only been challenged, but continue to excel. The small class sizes have a noticeable difference on the amount of time spent making sure a child is truly understanding what is being taught."

The family encourages others seeking a similar faith-based educational opportunity to consider Joshua Christian Academy. "We have recommended the school to our friends and family, because they truly care for your child's well-being, both intellectually and spiritually. The faculty and staff are wonderful. Parents are welcome and we feel that. There is no place like it in our city. Jesus has rescued our family through Joshua Christian Academy. We are relieved, we are grateful to academy supporters and we look forward to spending many more years there."