

A YEAR TO THRIVE

BROOKSTONE SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT • 2022-2023



2023-2024

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us **THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS** and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us

RUN THE RACE with perseverance marked out for us.

Let us **FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

Brookstone Schools
Sowing Seeds of Wisdom

Our Mission

To glorify God by equipping under-resourced students spiritually, socially, and academically for future lives of leadership and service.





A Year to **THRIVE**

In 2001, our founders opened Brookstone Schools with a prayer and a belief that every student deserves equal access to high quality education.

This is still our mission today. We thank God for His divine providence in the 2022-2023 school year and for the opportunity to serve more than 200 students, celebrate with 17 graduates, expand athletic programs and create recreational spaces. This year, with our mission in the forefront, we trust God and believe that this will be a year to thrive.





A VITAL MISSION

Dear Brookstone Families and Friends—

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I present to you our 2022-23 Annual Report.

Reading through these pages, I hope you will be as encouraged as I am to reflect upon the many ways God has blessed our school over the past year. It is also an appropriate time to recognize all those who helped make 2022-23 the most successful fundraising year in school history through their gifts of time, talents, and resources. As a matter of fact, by God's grace, our giving has increased 40% since the 2019-2020 school year!

Please know that your generosity plays a tremendous role in providing high quality teachers, staff, and student services here at Brookstone. For example, the generosity of Coca Cola Consolidated and their \$1 million gift to create a scholarship fund, in honor of

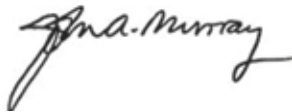
Bill Elmore, will provide multiple scholarships for students to attend Brookstone for years to come!

Along these lines, our focused goal for 2023-24 is to enable our students to THRIVE, as we seek to equip them spiritually, socially, and academically, for future lives of leadership and service—all to glorify God!

This is indeed a vital mission that we cannot do without you and the many others who have heeded this important call. For as the Apostle Paul declared to the Church of Rome, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose," (Romans 8:28). What a blessing to witness the body of Christ in action through your generous giving, as we seek to serve His image-bearers!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, administration, faculty, staff, and most importantly, the students, I want to thank you for your faithful support of Brookstone Schools.

God bless you!



John A. Murray



John Murray

Head of School

Leading Well

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Ngun Liang, Cherie May, Faith
Ojaide, Paulette Pennington,
Christopher Smith, Noah Taylor
Kimora Williams



8th GRADE TRIP TO D.C.

Students pose with Frederick
Douglass, an important advocate for
the abolishment of slavery.



Alumni Spotlight

Santiago Casteneda '20



My time at Brookstone was one of the most growth encouraging times of my life. Brookstone has taught me how to be a God-centered young man. Brookstone has also opened many doors for me in my life and I am so grateful.

One of my favorite memories was when my class went to Raleigh in 5th grade with my teacher, Ms. Spangler. I enjoyed that trip and my time with Ms. Spangler and all of my teachers. My teachers were great people and I have so much love for each and every one of them.

My family is so grateful for Brookstone. My two brothers still go there and I'm very convinced that they are in great hands. I know they are set for the future as God is with them. Brookstone has given so much to me, and I pray that Brookstone gets the recognition it deserves.



ERB Test Scores

THE NEED FOR BROOKSTONE

Recently, *Axios Charlotte* published an article sharing several heart-breaking data points around the performance of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Entitled, "CMS Celebrates Small Wins But Still Struggles With Student Performance,"* reporter Alexandria Sands noted the areas that CMS is failing to meet its goals. One example:

CMS GOAL

Increase the % of Black and Hispanic 3rd graders who are on track for "career- and college-readiness" from 15.9% in 2021 to 50% by next year

PROGRESS AS OF 2022-23

Only 17.9% Black students & 14.7% Hispanic students are on track

With thousands of students falling behind, now more than ever, great schools should be accessible to all children.

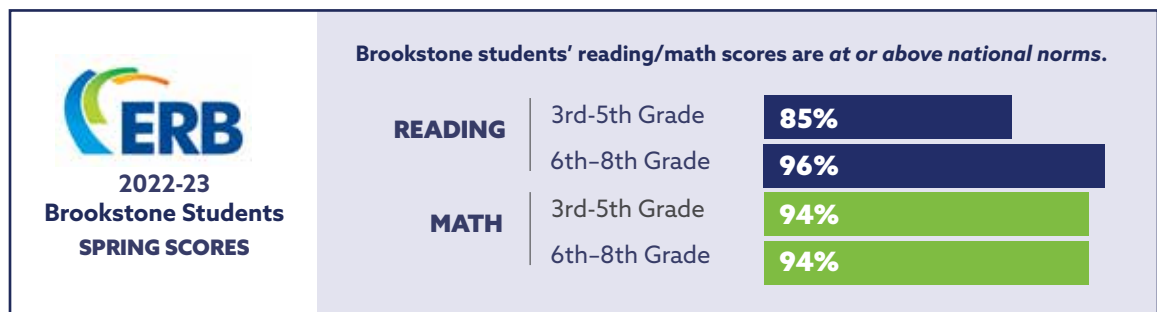
That is why Brookstone exists—to glorify God by equipping under-resourced students academically, socially, and spiritually for future lives of leadership and service.

Unlike charter and magnet schools, however, our instruction is infused with Biblical truth and reinforced through consistent study of Scripture, daily prayer, and weekly chapel services.

The results? By God's grace, a high majority (see graph below) of our 3rd through 8th grade students are performing at or above grade level in reading and math on the ERB's end-of-year standardized test.

And what is most amazing, through the generosity of our donors and friends of the school, if a student is accepted to Brookstone, his family only must pay what they can afford. Thus, while good public schools may be inaccessible and private schools unaffordable, our families have a wonderful option for their children to attend a Christ-centered, academically excellent school at a reasonable tuition price.

*SOURCE: <https://charlotte.axios.com/338619/cms-celebrates-small-wins-but-still-struggles-with-student-performance/>



thrive ≈ FLOURISH

97%

Students of color

50%

Faculty of color

14

Native dialects

Amharic, Burmese Zo, Burmese, Chin Hakha, Chin Mara, Chin Tedim, English, Jrai, Mizo, Nepali, Spanish, Vietnamese, Zomi, Zotung

ELECTIVES OFFERED



5th + 6th

Chess, Board Games, Entrepreneurship

7th + 8th

Nature Journaling, Wyldlife, Music



AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET

6%

Family tuition payment

22%

NC Opportunity Scholarship

72%

Fulfilled by supporter generosity

SPORTS PROGRAMMING

**Boys' and Girls' Basketball | Boys' and Girls' Soccer
Flag Football | Girls' Volleyball | Cheer Squad**

'23

Year Brookstone launched co-ed flag football, sponsored by the Carolina Panthers

2

Brookstone basketball players awarded "All Conference Player" titles for the '22-'23 season

Individualized Attention

With small class sizes—13 students maximum class size for K through 3rd grade and 18 students maximum class size for 4th through 8th—our students receive incredibly individualized attention by a high-quality faculty.

13:1

Student-to-teacher classroom ratio

40%

Faculty with advanced degrees

12

Average years of faculty teaching experience

Welcome new members of the Brookstone lower school team!



JAI'EISHA DURANT
Dean of Students



KELLY SHEFFIELD
Dean of Academics



SCAN HERE



to get to know our lower
school teachers and staff!



GRACE GANIM | First Grade



AMELIA GRIFFIN | Kindergarten



KAY VALAORAS | Math Specialist

Overflowing with Gratitude for Your **SUPPORT**

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Project of Charlotte
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Footsteps
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Anglican Church
Carolina Panthers
Charities

Charlotte Christian
School
Hope Community
Church
Myers Park United
Methodist Church
Resurrection Presbyte-
rian Church (OPC)
Snyder Fisher
Fellowship Bible Class
MPUMC
South Lake
Presbyterian Church
Sovereign Grace
Presbyterian Church
St. Matthew
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The Longview
Men's Group
Uptown Church, PCA
Weddington United
Methodist Church
Westminster
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DR. ERIC BARTEL | Math and Ancient World History



ANGELA CRAWLEY | Science



TAMIKO GREENLEE | English Language Arts



SEDAE SLAUGHTER | English and Modern World History

Welcome new members of the Brookstone upper school team!



SARAH ARENSMAN
Dean of Academics



SCAN HERE

to get to know our upper school teachers and staff!

Sacrificial Service

BUILDING AN OUTSTANDING LIBRARY

Speaking to an audience in 1957 in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Though this may not be one of his more popular quotes, it still has force. Life is busy. More than ever, we need reminders of our shared humanity and service to others.

How thankful we are for those who have made serving at Brookstone a priority in their lives. No matter what volunteer role they play—as a tutor, classroom helper, or lunch buddy—their presence uplifts children and multiplies the impact of our mission.

Two volunteers in particular, Karen Mello and Jackie Ligon, have been exemplary in this respect. Their Christ-like sacrificial service in building an amazing school library deserves to be honored. Both have been deeply invested since our doors first opened in 2001.

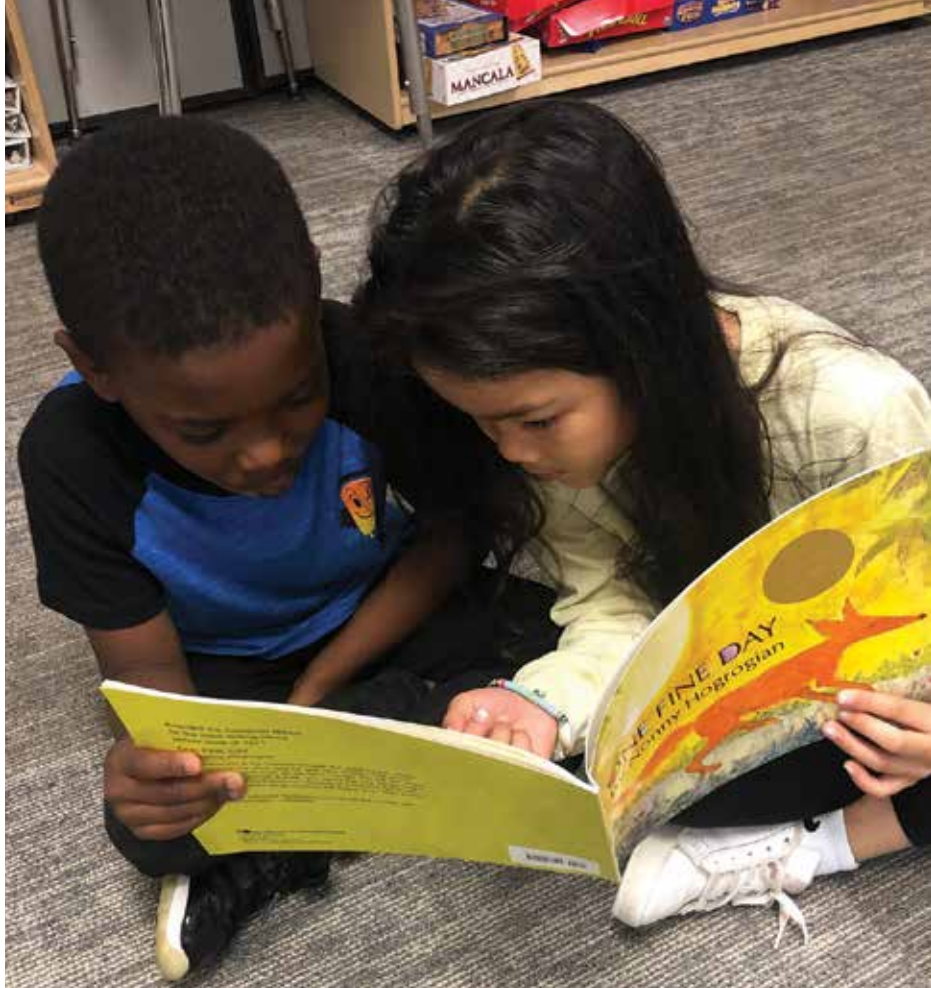
Our start-up might have seemed insignificant to some: two small schools located in needy neighborhoods, one in east Charlotte and the other on the west side. Resources were few: one teacher and classroom at each location. But when Karen and Jackie heard about our mission, right away they wanted to help. To borrow from scripture, they "put their hands to the plow and never looked back"!

Jackie jumped right in to do whatever was needed. Karen had another plan. She started with one box of books, filled a shelf, and then hunted for more. Slowly, one donated book at a time, the collection grew. Meanwhile, Brookstone continued to grow and serve more students. By 2005, when our two schools merged into one, it became difficult for Karen to manage everything on her own. That's when Jackie stepped up to help. Brookstone had a designated library with multiple bookshelves, with each book hand-picked for quality and content.





Jackie Ligon (top)
Karen Mello (bottom)



Incredible as it sounds, the library had no computer; book check-out was all done by hand! Eventually, Karen and Jackie taught themselves how to use the web-based Library World to streamline cataloging, barcoding, and book check-out. From that point on, the library program took off! Students had access to a variety of fiction and non-fiction titles including biographies, history, science, geography, art, and holidays.

Karen and Jackie have devoted so much of their lives in service to the children of Brookstone. Their heart has been to make the library visually appealing and fun, bring the magic of books alive, and help kids see books as their friends! Above all, their goal has been to motivate students to love learning and succeed.

What a story—from one insignificant box of books to becoming an outstanding library with over 10,000 books! How grateful we are to Karen and Jackie for their years of sacrificial service. The library is an outstanding achievement. Without diminishing this fact, we must also not lose sight of how God chooses to work through ordinary people to do wondrous things in his world!

—Suzanne Wilson, *Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving*

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

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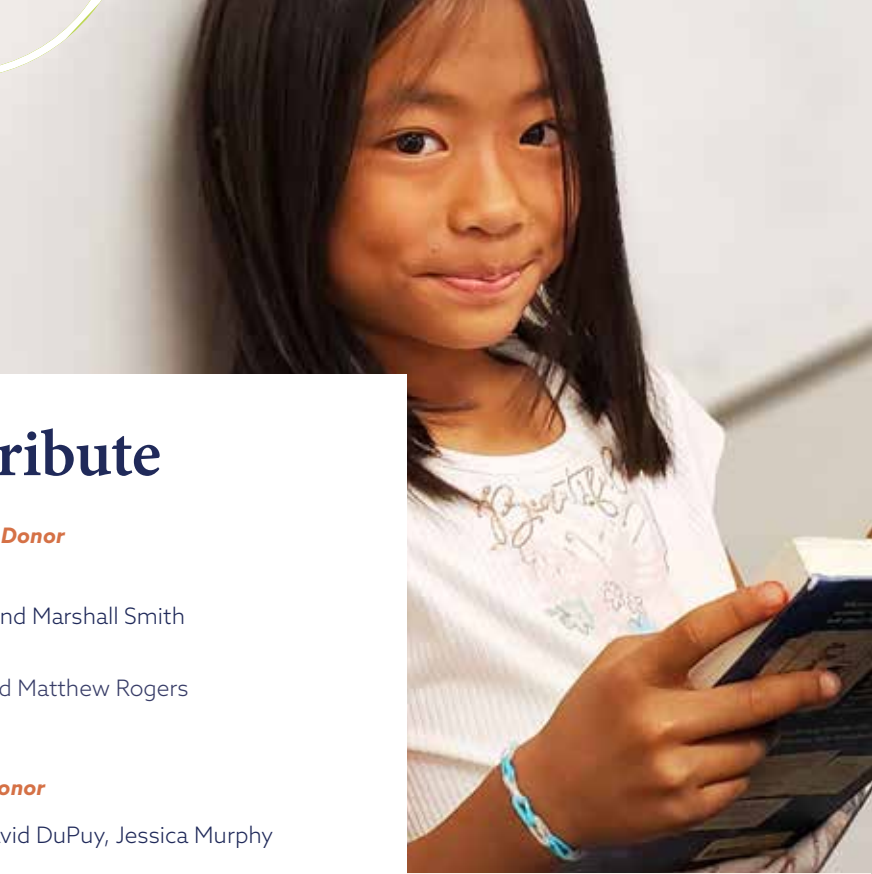
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Franklin



New Play Space

Brookstone students have access to fun play equipment in a safe space thanks to First Baptist Charlotte and the following generous supporters:

Ellie and Bill Elmore

Meg and Gary Hancock

Lisa and Bob Menzel

The Longview Men's Ministry

Julia and Dave Priester



Becca and
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Aubrey Springer
Terrell Stauffer
Cheree Stauffer
Erika Steiner
Kate Stewart
Kathy and Mike
Stieglitz**
Letty and Keith
Stoneman
Sandra Strunk
Millard Strunk
Gary Sugg
Suzanne and
Dennis Tan
Virginia A. Tewey
Carol Timblin
Bradley Touma
Natascha Truong
Julie Tyson
Emily Jarrell
Urbanek*
Dawn and Brad
Van Hoy

Begee and
Clifton Vann
Gene R. Waddell
John Wagner
Nancy Kate Walker
Joe Wall
Alicia and Craig
Wardlaw
Martha-Ann and
Craig Wardlaw*
Susan and
Adam Webb
Kathy Weiss
Whitney Wheeler
White
Nancy White and
Wendy Burnham
Laura and Wade
Wilkerson
Angela Willis
Tanya Wood
Lauren Wooden
Jo Woytek
Steve Wylie and
Steve Duprey

**Pioneer Patrons*

***Pacesetter Patrons*

Our Volunteers Help Us to Thrive

Our volunteers make Brookstone better! Parents, alumni, and community volunteers help in so many ways to reach our missional goals and support our student population.



SCAN HERE

to learn more about how to help and how to apply!

SOME OF THE WAYS A VOLUNTEER COULD HELP INCLUDE:

Administrative Support



Classroom Support



Lunch Buddy/Partner



Financial Year in Review

REVENUE

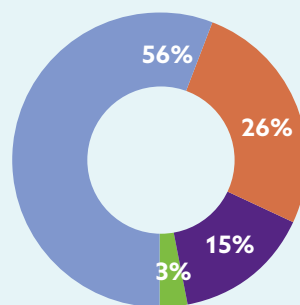
Total Contributions	\$2,395,419.82
Student Tuition and Fees	\$263,776.53
NC Opportunity Scholarships	\$702,240.00
Restricted Income & Endowments	\$439,049.38
Employee Retention Credit Refund	\$760,925.63
Miscellaneous & Investment Income	\$150,503.68
Sale of West Boulevard Properties	\$602,212.36
Total Income	\$5,314,127.40

EXPENSES

Personnel Costs	\$2,742,846.68
Occupancy	\$231,992.93
Program Costs	\$377,127.12
Fundraiser	\$97,688.80
Administrative Overhead	\$352,085.85
Marketing and Development	\$45,425.22
Other Expenses	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$3,847,166.60
Net Income	\$1,466,960.80

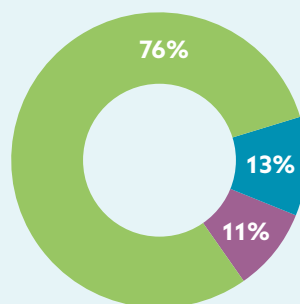
This report is a compiled cash basis statement. Audited financials are available upon request after the completion of the annual audit process.

DONATION REVENUE



- Households
- Foundations
- Businesses
- Churches

EXPENSES



- Programs
- Development
- Management

Brookstone Legacy Society

Each of us wants to live on in the memory of those who are important to us. Leaving a planned gift to Brookstone is one way to create a legacy for generations to come.

The Brookstone Legacy Society recognizes and honors the generosity of donors who remember Brookstone Schools in their estate plans through a documented planned gift.

A gift to our endowment (Brookstone Legacy Fund) allows individuals to experience the value and blessing of Brookstone in their lives today, while ensuring that its mission and services are available to under-resourced youth for generations to come.

DECIDING ON A LEGACY GIFT

Leaving a legacy gift, or planned gift as it is often called, is a very personal and thoughtful decision, but it is not complicated. The simplest and most common form of a legacy gift is a charitable bequest—a gift left through a will or trust of an estate plan, which allows you to retain your assets while you are living.

Brookstone Schools will also honor other legacy gifts, depending on your personal and financial goals including:

- › Retirement Plan Assets
- › Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- › Life Insurance
- › Real Estate
- › Life Income

Please consult with your legal or financial advisor to determine how to leave your legacy. Through God's grace and your generosity, Brookstone Schools will be well equipped to "Sow Seeds of Wisdom" for generations to come.



SCAN HERE

**to learn all the ways you can
invest in Brookstone Schools**

OUR CURRENT LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Ann and Tim Bowen
Alice and Bill Brafford
Dr. Debra Hix Christensen
James C. Evans
Lois and Mark Hawkins
Dr. Charlie M. Holcomb Sr.
Sue and Dennis Makepeace

Debbie and Katie Miller
Jackie and Lou Pfeiffer
Jane and Gibson Smith
Rosemary Smith
Bradley Touma
Melanie and Charles Winton

Are you looking for a private Christian education for your child?

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

for the 2024-25 school year!

Are you interested in learning more about how to give your child a top-notch, Christ-centered education?

Brookstone is:

- › **AFFORDABLE** Tuition is based on the family's ability to pay
- › **ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS** Our students reach high student achievement
- › **WELL-ROUNDED** We educate the whole child—Academic, Art, and Sports programming with a biblical worldview



APPLY NOW!

**NEW for 2024-25:
We're adding Junior
Kindergarten!**

Visit our Brookstone Admissions page for more information at <https://brookstoneschools.org/students/admissions/#admission-requirements>

Brookstone Schools

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Charlotte, NC 28202

704.392.6330

brookstoneschools.org

