

# Brookstone Schools

2009 Annual Report



"And let us not lose heart in doing good,  
for in due time we shall reap  
if we do not grow weary."

- Galatians 6:9



## Academic Highlights for Year 2008-09

### College-bound Academics

Brookstone Schools is a non-profit K-5 educational institution anchored in the Judeo-Christian traditions of moral virtue and academic excellence. Brookstone is open to all children in Charlotte, North Carolina, but focuses primarily on providing inner-city students a college-bound program within an orderly and structured learning environment.

Rigorous accountability is a key feature of the model adopted by Brookstone. From month to month, the focus is on measurable outcomes as evidence for adequate progress. The school expects the highest performance from students and sets clear goals for improvement from one year to the next. Outcomes in math and reading are attained through administration of the Stanford 10 (SAT 10).

### Academic Mission on Track

Data from this national test confirms that Brookstone is achieving its mission of academic excellence. Data (see tables A & B) show evidence that fourth and fifth grade students are performing significantly above their socio-economic peers in both mathematics and reading.



*Fourth grader Isaiah Shembo is an honor roll student who shows outstanding potential in critical thinking and math.*

2006-09 Stanford 10  
Grade Equivalent Outcomes for Grade 4

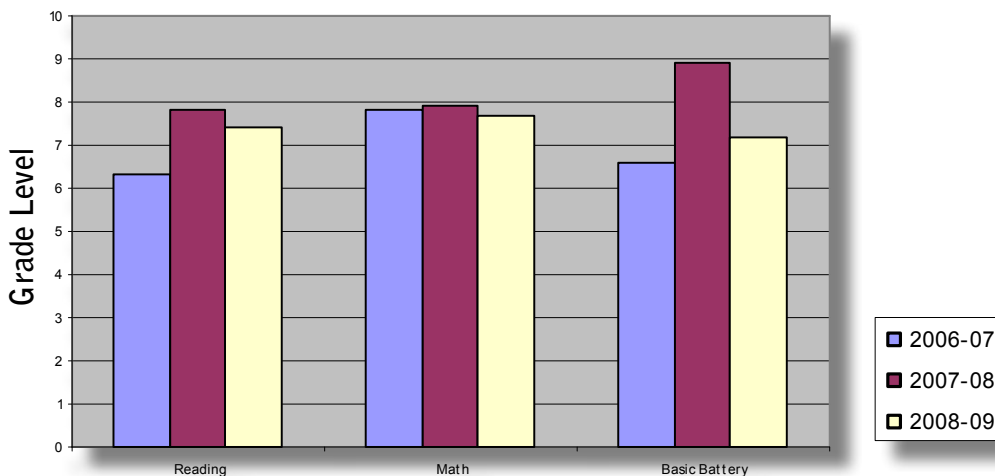


Table A: Spring testing in 2009 showed that fourth grade students were performing approximately 3 years above grade level in math and reading.



*"I love this ministry and having the opportunity to help shape lives."  
- Ray Kale Jackson, Teaching Assistant*

## Academic Highlights Continued

### High Quality Teaching Resources

#### Language Arts

Strong reading skills are crucial to a lifetime of learning and to academic success. Brookstone uses the Reading Mastery Series from SRA/ McGraw Hill in combination with quality literature to teach comprehension and critical thinking. Spelling, vocabulary, grammar and writing are taught and reinforced in other content areas of social studies and science.

#### Math

The math curriculum is Singapore Math (SM). This approach is nationally recognized as one that dramatically improves academic outcomes and motivation for learning math. SM provides a framework for teaching math competencies that successfully prepares elementary students for tackling higher levels of math in middle school and beyond. SM emphasizes problem solving so that students have a deeper understanding of formulas and procedures.

#### Core Knowledge

The Core Knowledge Curriculum (CKC) provides a coherent guide of content in science, social studies, and geography that allows students to build on knowledge and skills from one year to the next.

#### Bible

Utilizing "The Story of God and His People", a curriculum published by Christian Schools International, the teachers use a narrative approach to build a foundation of faith in young students.

2006-09 Stanford 10  
Grade Equivalent Outcomes for Grade 5

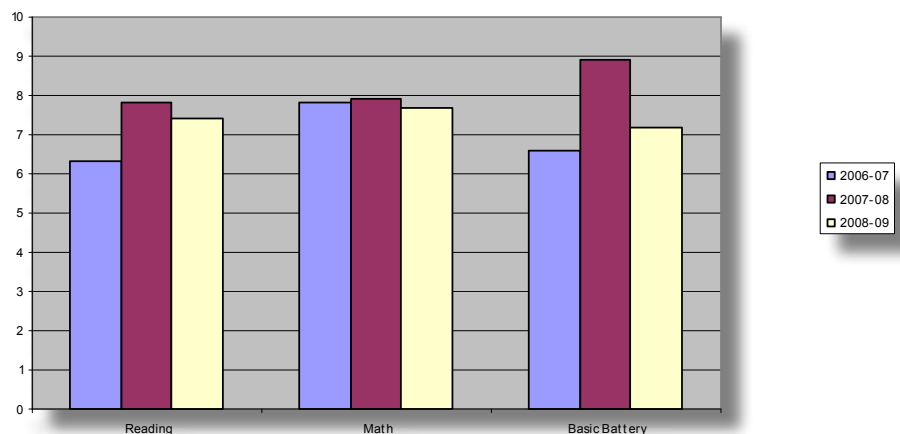


Table B:  
Spring testing in 2009 showed that fifth grade students were performing approximately 1.4 to 1.7 years above grade level in math and reading.

## Brookstone Board of Directors

Board chairman Miller Porterfield worked at Union Carbide before his retirement to Charlotte in 1998. "I have become increasingly involved in this mission these past 6 years. Providing an excellent faith-based education to inner-city children is having a positive and dramatic impact on many lives in Charlotte."

The all-volunteer nine member Board of Directors serves the school in a critical oversight capacity and communicates the purpose of Brookstone to the wider community. Four current members were founders of the school and have been active on the board since its formation.

The board is comprised of four subcommittees: operations, development, personnel and academics. The staff and Board work closely together in the management of the school. The Board's committees once a month to perform their oversight function and the entire Board meets quarterly or as required.

Miller Porterfield  
*Engineering - Retired*

Courtenay Miller  
*Financial Planning*

Miller Byne  
*Business- Retired*

Dean Jones  
*Development YMCA*

Sam Cornwell  
*Insurance*

Mollie Faison  
*Community Advocate*

Carole Ardizzone  
*Television/Education*

Alex Frelier  
*Business*

Rebecca Pitts  
*Banking/Protocol*



*"I have had the privilege to partner with three children since the school opened in 2001. This has blessed me more than I could have possibly imagined."*

*Board director Sam Cornwell is one of the original founders of the school.*

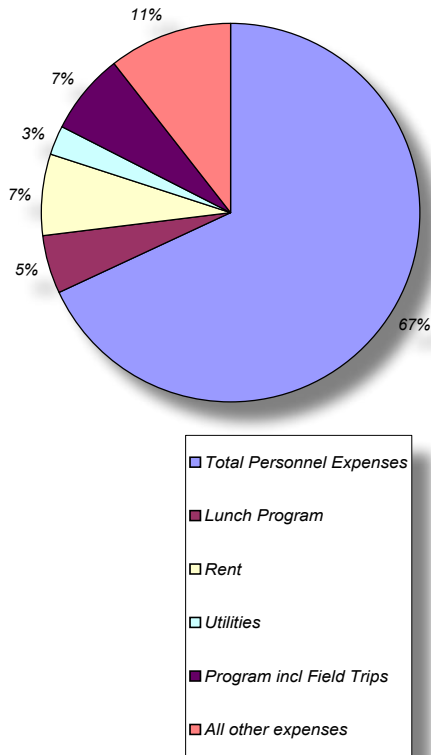


*Partner Days, held 4 times a year, bring together a caring community of people who are eager to make a difference in the life of a child.*

## Financial Highlights

Statement of Activity July 1, 2008 through June 18, 2009

### Main Areas Where Funds Spent



### Revenue

Total Contributions	\$537,165
Total Student Fees	\$46,476
Other Income	\$32,203

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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$615,846</b>
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### Expenses

Personnel costs	\$434,717
Rent	\$44,384
Program costs	\$43,633
Lunch Program	\$32,571
Utilities	\$16,326
All other expenses	\$67,752

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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$639,360</b>
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Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$23,514)
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### Expenses & Cost Cutting

Since Brookstone has been providing a K-5 comprehensive educational program, total expenses have remained approximately \$640,000 per year. We are actively implementing ways to minimize costs where it does not impact the quality of our educational programs. In the 2009-10 academic year, we will be eliminating two positions and restructuring management in order to reduce personnel costs by \$50,000. Additionally, we will no longer provide health care and retirement to employees but will assist them in finding affordable health care, if necessary.

### Relocation

Brookstone will also be relocating to a church located close to our present location. This is a much-improved facility that will offer the possibility of expanding our program beyond 5th grade. There will be some expenses involved in the move, estimated to be around \$30,000. However, rent will be substantially lower and more than offset the costs in the long run.

## Highlights of Development Plan

### Main Fundraising Strategies

Board members have historically been very committed to the mission of the school and have invested their resources accordingly. In addition to the contributions of time and skills, donations in excess of \$70,000 per year have been received from board members.

The Partner Program has provided a major source of income for the school. Partners are paired with a student and they remain with the student as long as they remain in the school. A minimum annual contribution of \$2500 is requested from the partners. Our active partners contribute approximately \$187,000 per year to support the school.

Foundation grants have also provided a substantial portion of our income. Several local foundations, such as the Levine Foundation, the Belk Foundation, the Family Foundation and the Kasay Family Foundation, have strongly supported the mission and its expansion. The Levine Foundation recently provided a one-time matching gift donation of \$100,000.

Several area Churches have provided continuous support of our school as an outreach mission and a number have made a one-time donation after a visit to the school. A new program is being developed to improve the sustainability of gifts from this source.

One area that is untapped is the Small Donor Area. We have never had a program to target the \$5-50 contributors and we know that many charitable organizations survive from this population. A new campaign is being developed which will target this market.

We have had two successful Major Fund Raisers during our eight-year history and another is being planned for academic year 2009-10.

We are actively strengthening the development infrastructure by hiring a Development Director who will work with the Board and a new Professional Advisory Committee that will assist in identifying and cultivating donors.



*An important aspect of instilling hope in our students is showing them that there are others who care and are committed to developing a personal relationship with them. Partner Days, held 4 times a year, are a special bonding time for a child and his Partner.*



*Attracting parents to participate in the life of the school is vital part of our mission.*



*"My classroom is a place where I can model and pass on the faith and values I've inherited from my family, especially my mother. I love the mission and also the fact that each child is nurtured and challenged."*

*Elizabeth Orr joined the mission after teaching in CMS for twenty-five years. She knows that teachers in a faith-based school have a unique opportunity to teach to the whole child.*

## General Information

### Vision

The vision of Brookstone Schools is to ensure that the lives of our children will be transformed with a desire for excellence and a heart for the future of our community.

### Mission

The mission is to equip urban students spiritually, academically, and socially for lives of future leadership and service.

### Short History

Brookstone Schools is committed to serving inner-city children who have traditionally not performed well in school or contributed to society, largely because of the societal issues linked with poverty and social decay.

The seed idea for founding Brookstone was sown in the mid-90's by Noah Manyika, a missionary from Zimbabwe who had settled in Charlotte. Noah saw firsthand the challenges children face growing up in low-income neighborhoods and believed that a Christian school could powerfully counteract the disadvantages of poverty. Moreover, he foresaw that this faith community would become one day become an inspiring place that would breathe hope into the lives of parents.

A core group of volunteers and donors caught Noah's vision and in the summer of 2001 the seed took root. Brookstone opened in two fragile neighborhoods, Jackson Park on the west side and Briarcreek in east central Charlotte. The total enrollment was 18 children in kindergarten and first grade. The projected enrollment for the 2009-10 school year is 80 students. After eight years, this small beginning has grown to offer a comprehensive college-bound program that holds much promise as a model for transforming lives in our inner-city.



## What Has Been Accomplished

### Academic Success

The school is providing an orderly and structured environment where students learn to set goals, work hard and persevere to succeed in school.

Achievement scores show that Brookstone students are performing at or above grade level and that these high outcomes are being sustained from one year to the next. Results also vindicate an emerging model for economically disadvantaged students, a model that could be replicated throughout low income neighborhoods on the west side of Charlotte.

We keep in touch with our graduates as they transition to middle school. Currently, 83% of our Brookstone students earned A/B Honor Roll or higher during the 2008-09 academic year. Several earned top honors in their class.

### Innovative Programs & Enrichment

Educational excellence includes offering hands-on learning as well as participation in the fine arts. Highlights of our program offerings in 2008-09 include:

- **Singapore Math** - Helping students become competitive with their math skills.
- **Investigative Science Clubs** - Providing opportunity to explore science in a hands-on way
- **Field Trips** - Giving students knowledge and life experience beyond the classroom
- **Performing Arts** - Building skills and confidence through music, dance and drama

### Social & Spiritual Growth

Students are learning how to give back to others through community service. For example, in 2008-09 students participated in Operation Christmas Child and delivered hand-made valentines to children at the Levine Children's Hospital. They also wrote letters of encouragement to US soldiers in Iraq and raised funds for orphanages.

The mission inspires patriotism and respect for the civic values that undergird our democracy. This year fifth graders studied aspects of government and American history.

Students helped to raise funds for a field trip to Washington to visit Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum and other places of historic interest.



*"Brookstone taught me that whatever I put my mind to, I can achieve."*

*- Kwame Barrett,  
2007 Brookstone graduate*



*Students collected funds for Rice Bowls, a ministry that supports orphanages in developing countries. Community service is all part of the heart-work of our mission.*



*"Just knowing that my son is being trained up in a Christian school has been a blessing. So many kids in our neighborhood don't care about school. What fires me up is when my son comes home from school excited about what he's learning, especially scripture."*

*- George Wise, parent*

## Community Impact

### Community Building Among Parents

Parent involvement in the school has grown dramatically through the years. For example, parent attendance at student conferences in 2008-09 was 100%. Family turn-out for Math Curriculum Night, Nations Day, musical and other school related events has been high throughout the year.

Parents are loyal to the mission and proud to talk about what their children are achieving. Enrollment continues to grow as families spread the word to others.

### Working Together for the Common Good

The school is having a ripple impact on the wider community as donors, volunteers and visitors see firsthand the good work that is being accomplished by the mission. Brookstone's Partnership Program is providing a forum for students to establish relationships with interested mentors and is creating new opportunities for understanding and cooperation across socio-economic and cultural boundaries.



*"What blesses me is to see my child's emotional and spiritual growth."*

*- Olive Cornwell, Brookstone Partner*

## 2008-09 Supporters

### Foundations and Corporations

Bank of America Foundation  
Barringer & Barringer  
Belk Foundation  
Duke Energy Foundation  
Foundation for the Carolinas  
Ingersol Rand Charitable Foundation  
JMB MGT LTD Partnership  
Kasay Family Foundation  
Leon Levine Foundation  
Linden Thomas & Company  
Lubrizol Foundation  
Providence Packaging  
Provident Benevolent Foundation  
Risk Management Association  
Solomon Enterprises, LLLP  
Teague Group  
Trinity Consulting  
United Way of Central Carolina  
United Way, Bank of America  
Wachovia Foundation  
Wal-Mart Foundation

### Churches

All Saints Anglican Church  
Carmel Presbyterian Church  
Matthews Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
Southlake Presbyterian Church  
Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church  
St. Giles Presbyterian Church  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
First Baptist Church, Huntersville

### Individuals

Louise Allred  
Cindy & Scott Anderson  
Barbara & Dale Ardizzone  
Carole & Ray Ardizzone  
Karen & James Bailey  
Deborah & John Barringer  
William Baynard  
Ann Belk  
Dorothy & Neil Biggs  
Sara Bissell  
Martha & Shem Blackey, Jr.  
Barret & Bryan Butler  
Robert Broocks  
Joan & Michael Brown  
John Brown  
Frances & Donald Bryant  
Frances Bultman  
Gaye & Herbert Burns  
Sara & Miller Byne

Cynthia & Jack Carmola  
Kay & Bud Carrier  
Barbara & Steady Cash  
Rebecca & Glenn Chambers  
Peggy Chisholm  
Jane & David Conlan  
Cheryl & Christopher Cornwell  
Olive & Samuel Cornwell  
Cathy & Rodney Culbertson  
Beverly Davenport  
Dorothy Davis  
Herma & Henry DeBoer  
Alan Dickson  
Jane & Don Dixon  
Kara Dula  
Anne & Harold Eddins  
Henry Faison  
Lane Faison  
Mollie Faison  
Olga & Jay Faison  
Mary & Danny Fontana  
Robin & Alex Frelier  
Mary Frick  
Gayle & David Friley  
Evelyn Galloway  
Bonn Gilbert  
Ruth Ellen & Thold Gill  
Ann & John Glover  
Susan & Roy Goode  
Carol & Bill Grier  
William Grubb  
Olivia Guess  
Timothy Gunderman  
Vicki & Jim Hafele  
Brad Harter  
John Heimann  
Debra & Stephen Hix  
Jane & Dean Jones  
Caroline Kelly  
Hillary & Richard Maclean  
Sue & Dennis Makepeace  
Frances Martin  
Judy & Ned Martin  
Roosevelt Maske  
Eston & Bob Mason  
Ann-Miller & Gordon Mattocks  
Katherine & Gordon Mattocks  
Karen & Mike Mayer  
Susan & Alex McAlister  
Jane McColl  
Valerie McDougald  
Elizabeth & Mark McLean  
Karen & Ralph Mello  
Lisa & Bob Menzel  
Amelia & Courtenay Miller

Kenneth Ward Miller  
Susan Milner  
Julie & Kendall Moore  
Sue & James Moore  
Lori & Randall Mountcastle  
Melissa & John Myers  
Millie Newton  
Laura & James Ormond  
Elizabeth & Larry Orr  
Jacqueline Pfeiffer  
M. C. Pilon  
Rebecca Pitts  
Susan & Steven Plunkett  
Gale & Miller Porterfield  
Nancy & Robert Porterfield  
Lynn & Preston Purdum  
Patti & David Ratcliffe  
Amy & Adam Reischer, Jr  
Catherine & Jay Rivers  
Aline & Keith Robelen  
Hilda Rugherford  
Carole & Davis Sample  
Ruth & Ken Samuelson  
Betsy Schoonhagen  
Marion & Michael Shields  
Laura & Bobby Silver  
Suzanne & Sam Sloan  
Alice Smyth  
Charlotte Springer  
Kathy Stanley  
Sandra & Paul Stewman  
Sharon & Robert Stratton  
Ann & Michael Tarwater  
Suzanne Ten  
Ann Thomas  
Cathy Thompson  
Susan & William Tome  
Christopher Ullman  
Carla & Larry Vitez  
Martha-Ann & Craig Wardlaw  
Cristina & Will Warlick  
Robin Weaver  
Donna West  
Betsy & Bill White  
Julie & Perry White  
Suzanne & Peter Wilson  
Tammy & Alan Wise  
Debbie & Stuart Woodhouse  
J. H. Wyatt  
Mary Marshall Young  
Nancy Young



"For I know the plans I have for you,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you a hope and a future."

- Jeremiah 29:11

## **Brookstone Schools**