

PBS: Prayer and Bible Study

About five years ago Greater Lansing Adventist School implemented a program called Prayer and Bible Study. Since its inception it has gone through a number of changes in the attempt to find the most effective way to deliver the program. This year we have arrived at a system with which we feel comfortable. We believe that we will do PBS this way from now on. Here's how it works:

Each student at our school is placed in a "Faculty Family". Each faculty member's family includes students from all grades represented at our school. The faculty families meet together each day from 2:45 – 3:15. This year the entire school has chosen to study the six great themes of the Bible - Creation, the Flood, the Exodus, The Babylonian Exile, The Life of Christ, and the Second Coming – during this time.

Every Monday the faculty families meet in the sanctuary for a presentation by Matt Kohls, our PBS coordinator, on the topic we are studying. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays we meet together in our family groups to study our topic for the week. Older students work with younger students reading the Bible, preparing skits, creating posters, etc. Every other Thursday the family groups meet together in the sanctuary to share what they have studied and what they have learned. The presentations can be as complex as a skit or video presentation, or as impromptu as a couple of student volunteers sharing what they gleaned from their studies during the time.

We have found PBS to be a positive experience for our school. It helps to build a sense of family at the school and is another opportunity for spiritual growth during the school day. There are some difficulties for the teacher, particularly coming up with ideas for the time with no textbook or helps and teaching applicable lessons to students ranging from Kindergarten to 10th grade. In spite of these difficulties, we have found the benefits of such a program to outweigh the difficulties.

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