



Step Up For Students August 2006 Student Spotlight:



Bradley Malone
Escambia Christian School, Pensacola

Bradley Malone, 6, is beginning his second year as a Step Up For Students scholarship student at Escambia Christian School in Pensacola. Prior to enrolling him in Escambia Christian School, Bradley's parents struggled to find the right academic setting for him.

Before he received a Step Up For Students scholarship from Children First Florida, Bradley was struggling in school due to behavior issues. His teachers constantly sent him to the principal's office and his mother, Harmony Malone, was called almost daily to come pick him up. Bradley's teachers were unable to provide him the attention and help he needed, mainly because there were so many other children in his class. Harmony and her husband, Rodney, felt that their son had the potential to excel if he were only placed in the right environment and given the attention he needed.

When Harmony heard about Escambia Christian School's family-like atmosphere from parents of Bradley's T-Ball teammates, she knew he would flourish in that setting, much as he had as a student. Upon receiving notice Bradley was approved for a scholarship, Harmony and Rodney immediately enrolled him in Escambia Christian.

Always a good student academically, Bradley's behavior has improved dramatically since enrolling at his chosen school, where the staff has taken a special interest in helping him become a good citizen. Bradley is especially fond of his principal, Mr. Frank Thomann, who acts as both a role model and a friend. With his confidence on the rise, Bradley has become an A student and is happy to go to school. Bradley appreciates his teachers now and he knows they are there to help them.

Harmony and Rodney Malone are very pleased with the positive impact Escambia Christian School has had on Bradley. In fact, Bradley's younger brother, Logan, was just accepted on the scholarship program and will be entering kindergarten at Escambia Christian this fall. The family is very grateful that Step Up For Students' corporate donors have given Bradley, and now Logan, the opportunity to reach their full potential.



About Escambia Christian School

Escambia Christian School was established in 1964. The original site was located on Jordan Street, but was soon moved to the current campus on Moreno Street, which is over seven acres of wooded land that provides beautiful scenery for the students. Escambia Christian School's primary objective is to assist each student with developing totally as an individual to the maximum of his or her ability. The school is traditional and innovative in its approach to education. Traditional with its emphasis on character development and time-honored values, reading comprehension, communication, and mathematics; innovative in its delivery of the material.

All incoming students at Escambia Christian must take the Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT) to determine their grade placement. Additionally, in the spring of each year, the school administers the Stanford Ten Achievement Test to all students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Facilities include the Ralph Ellis Administration building; the Maude Simon Pre-School building, a quadriplex that also includes the library; the Paul Simon Elementary Building; the Middle School and Extended Care building; and an air conditioned gymnasium complex that also includes the school cafeteria. A regulation softball field and three other playground areas provide for physical and athletic competition.

Last school year, 170 students attended Escambia Christian School – 32 of which received Step Up For Students Scholarships from Children First Florida, the scholarship funding organization serving the North and East Central regions of Florida. The annual tuition costs for the school are \$2,450 for Pre-kindergarten; \$2,550 for Kindergarten through fifth grade; and \$2,650 for middle school (sixth through eighth grade). For more information, visit the school's website at <http://www.escambiachristian.org/>.

About the Step Up For Students Scholarship Recipients

The typical Step Up For Students scholarship family has an average income of \$22,074 for a family of four, and more than half of the scholarship families are single-parent homes. The typical scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a struggling single parent/caregiver in a high crime community. They are either below grade level, failing at their previous school or both when they receive a scholarship. Parents, who find their children in these circumstances and care about their future, look for viable options. Parents apply for Step Up For Students Scholarships so their children can attend the school best suited for their special needs, beliefs, and abilities, and to address negative trends in their child's learning skills and/or environment.

Step Up For Students Scholarships are funded by corporations that redirect up to 75 percent of their corporate state income tax liability to a qualified Scholarship Funding Organization in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. For more information or to learn how your corporation can participate in the program, visit www.StepUpForStudents.com, or call 1-877-677-KIDS for more information.