

## **How Much Does School Cost?**

Sadly, summer is almost over and school is about to start! That might be bad news for students but it might be good news for parents! While some parents might be excited about their kids going back to school they might change their minds as they start that process. Why? Because even sending your kids to public school is costly! The average amount Americans spend on school supplies and other things is \$1,239. By the way this doesn't include fees for sports participation and all the other costs that parents get dinged for each and every year. AND, this average is just for one kid. Overall Americans will spend over \$25 billion dollars getting ready for school to start!

We might complain about the cost of school supplies but we spend that amount each and every year without question and mostly without complaint. Why? Because we love our kids and want the best for them. We view the money we spend getting our kids ready for school an investment into their futures. We do this so regularly and systematically that we don't even think about it. We just do it because education is that important.

If educating children in reading, writing and arithmetic is so important isn't educating our children in the ways of God even more important? Of course it is! So how much does that cost? We never ask the question about cost for training children here we just do it! We realize the importance of children being introduced to Christian principles. The American Bible Society has found that 83% of all Christians make their commitment to Christ between the ages of 4 and 14. So, whatever the cost we pay to give spiritual direction and education we gladly pay it.

As we take up today's offering I want you to realize this is how we fund our children's ministry. Your gift today is an investment into the lives of these kids. Today your gift makes an investment into their lives. So, let's give and give freely!