

***HIGH
SCHOOL***

GRADES 9-12



youth
at the crossing

***MIDDLE
SCHOOL***

GRADES 5-8



AS A YOUTH MINISTRY...

...we are committed to evaluating everything we do through the lens of the following core competencies, as we seek to partner with families and prepare youth for a lifelong journey of faith in Jesus...

LIVE CONNECTED // Youth who experience and prioritize healthy circles of relationships in their families, small groups, and the larger church.

DEVOTED TO THE WORD // Youth who have a firm grasp on the story of the Bible and the tools to engage God's Word in relevant, life-defining ways.

DEVOTED TO HOLINESS // Youth who respond to the inner work of the Holy Spirit by living holy lives.

EMPOWERED TO SERVE // Youth who know and use their spiritual gifts to engage the church, the community, and the world.

youth



MIDDLE SCHOOL

• *5th Grade*

• *7th Grade*

• *6th Grade*

• *8th Grade*

WHAT MIDDLE SCHOOLERS NEED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IS FOR PARENTS AND THE CHURCH TO AFFIRM THEIR PERSONAL JOURNEY IN A SEASON OF RAPID CHANGE.

For middle schoolers, having people to belong to matters. A LOT. *Fun* matters. We know that as a parent, you are trying hard to help your middle schooler begin to discover his or her identity as one made uniquely by God for a purpose (*You may also be trying hard to get him or her to just shower on a regular basis. We get it.*)

Sometimes, your youth will hear the truth you are trying to instill in them when that truth is echoed by another adult that they love and trust. That's where what we do every week comes in to help you lead your middle schooler on their journey of faith.

SUNDAYS

EVERY SUNDAY (starting August 6, 2017) AT 9:30 A.M., MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETS IN THE YOUTH CENTER.

We worship together, have some fun, and engage God's Word in a way that is relevant for the middle school phase of life. From there, we break into small groups (*aka the most important part of Youth at the Crossing*), where your youth gets to process and share life with adults who are committed to walking with them. Our 5th and 6th graders will head to the gym from 10:15-10:45 a.m. to play some epic games, while the 7th and 8th graders have a little extra time to hang in the Youth Center.

EVERY SUNDAY AT 11 A.M., YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER HAS TWO AWESOME OPTIONS:

1) Go to big church (aka corporate worship). They can sit with their friends in the front row, or with your family. One thing we know for sure is that youth who have felt a part of the larger church—not just the youth group—are less likely to walk away from faith after they graduate. So, making worship a priority is a BIG deal.

2) Be a Kids! Influencer! No matter how old we are, we need people who are older than us pouring into us (like small group leaders), people our age to journey with us (like friends in small group), and people younger than us who we are investing in. When your youth signs up to serve twice a month with Kids!, they grow as they get to put their faith into action and kids benefit from their loving example. Everyone wins!

MIDWEEK

EVERY WEDNESDAY, MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETS AT THE CHURCH FOR A TIME OF LARGE GROUP GAMES AND GRADE SPECIFIC BREAKOUTS.

Because we believe that every phase of life is incredibly important, we want middle schoolers to have time to think more about the phase of life that they're in, which looks a little different for each grade. Because of that, Middle School Midweek gives space to ask questions and be with others who may have those same questions.

In the fall, midweek kicks off September 14, 2017 and will run through November 16.

We take a break, and then resume January 17, 2018 through April 25.

MAJOR EVENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL LAUNCH // AUGUST 4-5, 2017

We'll kick off the school year by spending Friday night through Saturday evening together and welcoming in the new group of fifth graders! Expect games, time to connect with small groups and small group leaders, and a healthy dose of shenanigans.

RACE DAYS // AUGUST 20, DECEMBER 17, JANUARY 27-28 (2018), MAY 20

This beloved tradition takes a new twist this fall! We will have Race Days spread throughout the school year to give opportunities for middle school and high school to come together, have fun, and—most importantly—provide an environment that is an easy first invite for friends. During these Race Days, there will be some elements that feel like The Race, and lots of exciting, brand new aspects. Ultimately, our hope is that our youth will not just invite friends to events, but will grow to invite their friends to belong in community and begin a relationship with Jesus.

5TH AND 6TH GRADE ONLY

Pumpkin Bash // **October 6, 2017**

Nerf Night // **February 23, 2018**

7TH AND 8TH GRADE ONLY

Jr. High Work Camp // **July 16-22, 2017**

365 Youth Convention // **October 20-22, 2017**

Dessert Theater // **March 16-17, 2018**

Jr. High Believe // **April 6-7, 2018**

MILESTONES

MILESTONES ARE ONE-TIME EVENTS THAT HELP SOLIDIFY THE IDENTITY OF OUR YOUTH IN THE CHURCH AND THE CHURCH IN OUR YOUTH.

In the effort to help families mark significant spiritual moments along the way, we will be celebrating the following milestone moments with our middle schoolers in the months ahead:

5th Grade Milestone

Middle School Launch // August 4-5, 2017

6th Grade Milestone

Bible Presentation // September 24, 2017

7th Grade Milestone

First Work Camp // July 16-22, 2017

8th Grade Milestone

Eighth Grade Cookout // May 5, 2018

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HIGH SCHOOL

- *9th Grade*
- *10th Grade*
- *11th Grade*
- *12th Grade*

AS THEY BEGIN TO DISCOVER THEIR OWN WAY IN THE WORLD, HIGH SCHOOLERS NEED PARENTS AND THE CHURCH TO MOBILIZE THEIR POTENTIAL BY INVITING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT.

You are probably watching your high schooler begin to notice their own strengths and weakness, as they also question their place in the world as they set their sights toward the future. As a parent, you may be frustrated at times with their quest for independence. That's why we want to connect you with small group leaders who are committed to journeying with your high schooler, and may get a little different glimpse into your high schooler's world.

Together, we can better love, support, influence and prepare to launch your youth toward a lifelong journey with Jesus. Here's what we do every week with that goal in mind...

SUNDAYS

EVERY SUNDAY (starting August 6, 2017) AT 11 A.M., HIGH SCHOOL MEETS IN THE YOUTH CENTER.

Because small groups are so important to faith development in this phase of life, we will spend the majority of our time together every week creating space for high schoolers to ask questions, grow deeper, explore their faith, and connect relationally in the context of a small group. We will also have time to worship, have fun, and discover biblical truth in a large group setting.

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M., YOUR HIGH SCHOOLER HAS TWO AWESOME OPTIONS:

1) Go to big church (aka corporate worship). They can sit with their friends in the front row, or with your family. One thing we know for sure is that youth who have felt a part of the larger church—not just the youth group—are less likely to walk away from faith after they graduate. So, making worship a priority is a BIG deal.

2) Be a Kids! Influencer! No matter how old we are, we need people who are older than us pouring into us (like small group leaders), people our age to journey with us (like friends in small group), and people younger than us who we are investing in. When your youth signs up to serve twice a month with Kids!, they grow as they get to put their faith into action and kids benefit from their loving example. Everyone wins!

MIDWEEK

BECAUSE WE WANT EVERY HIGH SCHOOLER TO BE EMPOWERED TO SERVE FROM THEIR PASSIONS AND GIFTS ON A REGULAR BASIS, WE ARE NOW ENCOURAGING OUR HIGH SCHOOLERS TO JOIN A SERVE GROUP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

Each group will receive a calendar of dates when they sign up in August, and will commit to serve for (at least) one semester. Some groups will serve weekly, others about twice a month. Serve Groups have the powerful impact of Work Camps all throughout the year. High Schoolers can sign up with friends, with their small group, or on their own based on their passions.

9th Grade // During the Fall 2017 semester, our 9th graders will meet with their small groups on Wednesday nights for the Centered Experience. Centered is a formative discipleship experience, and will help our 9th graders examine the foundations of faith, discover their gifts and prepare for future service (If you are a parent of a 9th grader, we encourage you to consider joining an adult Centered group this fall as a way to journey with your youth).

10th-12th Grade // Our Serve Group opportunities for 10th-12th graders will be ready for youth to sign up starting in August. Some likely examples include serving with Shepherd Community Center, Nora Elementary, and Pure Religion. On campus, there will be opportunities to serve with Kids, worship, and even help lead a middle school small group on Wednesday nights (11th & 12th grade only).

MAJOR EVENTS

SR. HIGH WORK CAMP // JULY 2-8, 2017

**RACE DAYS // AUGUST 20, DECEMBER 17,
JANUARY 27-28 (2018), MAY 20**

This beloved tradition takes a new twist this fall! We will have Race Days spread throughout the school year to give opportunities for middle school and high school to come together, have fun, and—most importantly—provide an environment that is an easy first invite for friends. During these Race Days, there will be some elements that feel like The Race, and lots of exciting, brand new aspects. Ultimately, our hope is that our youth will not just invite friends to events, but will grow to invite their friends to belong in community and begin a relationship with Jesus.

365 YOUTH CONVENTION // OCTOBER 20-22, 2017

DESSERT THEATER // MARCH 16-17, 2018

Dessert Theater is our only annual fundraiser to offset the cost of summer work camps. It is also an awesome time of community building as our 7th-12th graders prepare a hilarious show together. Rehearsals will begin on February 5, 2018.

MILESTONES

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In the effort to help families mark significant spiritual moments along the way, we will be celebrating the following milestone moments with our high schoolers in the months ahead:

9th Grade Milestone

Centered Celebration & Journal Presentation

// November 19, 2017

10th Grade Milestone

Building an Altar Experience // November 11, 2017

11th Grade Milestone

Jr./Sr. Camping Trip // July 28-29, 2017

12th Grade Milestone

Senior Sunday // July 30, 2017

YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

2017

July 2-8 // Sr. High Work Camp
July 16-22 // Jr. High Work Camp
July 28-29 // Junior/Senior Camping Trip
July 30 // Senior Sunday
August 4-5 // Middle School Launch
August 6 // Promotion Sunday
August 20 // Race Day
September 6 // Midweek Launch
October 6 // Pumpkin Bash
October 20-22 // 365 Youth Convention
November 15 // End of Midweek
December 17 // Race Day

2018

January 17 // Midweek Launch*
January 27-28 // Race Day: Escape Night*
February 4 // Kick-Off to Dessert Theater Rehearsals*
February 23 // EPIC Nerf Night*
March 16-17 // Dessert Theater*
April 6-7 // Jr. High Believe*
April 20-22 // High School Spiritual Life Retreat*
April 25 // End of Midweek*
May 20 // Race Day*

**2018 dates are tentative*



youth
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