



colonial
student ministry
teaching, community, outreach

Hello! My name is Pastor Paul Funchess and I would like to welcome you to Colonial Student Ministries. Our staff is looking forward to joining with you in the discipleship of your student. This handout is designed to familiarize you with Student Ministries. Here you will find all the basic information you need to know to get a good grasp on what we do in middle school. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Contact Information for Pastors and Staff

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Website:

colonialstudents.org

It is helpful to keep an eye on the website. This will serve as the place where we have calendar information, activity descriptions, and registrations for events.

Contacting Procedures:

I want you all to know that you can contact me anytime of the day or night. My personal cell phone is 919-621-9706. I am here to serve you and be a resource for you. Please use that resource! You can also call me at the office at 919-390-1117 or email me at the above address.

Vision and Philosophy or "Why Does Student Ministries Exist?"

I believe our vision has been given to us by our Lord in Matthew 28

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The question is: "How does this happen for middle school age people?"

"Colonial Student Ministries is a Gospel-Centered ministry that exists to support **parents** in the discipleship of their students through **Teaching, Community, and Outreach.**"

Therefore, our relationship with you is our number one priority. We want to support you, not contradict you. These are your children, not ours. The responsibility to disciple your child is very much your responsibility and we exist to help you in any way that we can. We focus on three specific areas: Teaching, Community, and Outreach.

Weekly Schedule:

Our week in middle school revolves around three meetings:

Sunday School: We provide a true Sunday school hour on Sunday mornings at 9:30. I teach during this time to the entire group. After about 25 to 30 minutes of teaching we break up into small groups by age and gender and discuss the lesson. These discussions are led by our volunteer Sunday school leaders. It would be a great idea for you to find an opportunity to meet them as they will be central to your student's experience on Sunday mornings.

Sunday Night: Sunday night is a time for our core group of students to get together. We have a structured time which begins at 6pm and goes until 7:15pm. We usually have some type of "game time" followed by a lesson. My attempt in these times is to focus on giving a theological framework to the students.

Wednesday Night Bible Study: Our Wednesday nights run from 6:30 to 8pm. We will start these in September and run through April. Every semester will be devoted to a book of the bible and will focus on how to read and study the bible for all its worth!!

Yearly Schedule:

We have two major events through the year that we revolve around:

CAMP: Currently we take our students to Blue Ridge Assembly over near Asheville towards the end of July. This year the dates are July 24th – 28th. I think a well-run camp can be a tremendous asset to the spiritual growth of a student. It is a time for students to get away from the noise and distraction of life and focus entirely upon God’s Word. We do attempt to separate the middle school from high school as much as is possible while at Camp. Sessions, though, are combined.

HD: This stands for “His Design” and is our annual winter conference. This takes place over one weekend in the first part of February. We do not leave Cary but instead stay at the homes of leaders for two nights. Sessions take place on the Colonial campus. This is a time that students look forward to every year and is also a wonderful opportunity for parents to be involved.

Other Events of which to be Aware:

Detour: This happens once a month on a Friday night. It is a time for student to come and build friendships and have fun. It usually consists of an open gym time or other group activity. We also provide snacks and “governed” free time. We always set aside a time to share the gospel. For this reason our Detours have proven to be a good time for students to bring lost friends. Detours are from 7pm to 9pm. **Our Fall Event** fits under this heading as it follows the same format. However, even more emphasis is placed on bringing visitors and it will have a theme.

BIG summer: These are events similar to Detours but take place over the summer months and they are BIGger. This year we will have three BIG summers. The first of these will be on June 11th. They go from 6pm to 8pm. Themes for these nights will be sent out as we get closer.

Summer Bible Studies: Summer Bible studies take place starting on June 10th this year. These are combined by gender with High school. The goal is to focus on a book of the Bible as opposed to a “book” study. They usually follow a BSF type model. Students are divided into small groups by age for facilitating discussion on the given passage.

Combined Sundays: From time to time we combine middle and high school into one Sunday school meeting. This is a time for our entire Student Ministries group to meet together and hear from one of our pastors or a guest speaker.

Parent Meetings: We have two parent meetings a year. They will usually fall on a 5th Sunday. These are extremely important for you to attend. They will inform you of changes being made and be a time for helpful biblical instruction. We also always give away a free resource to help you in the leading of your family.

Yearly Flow:

Student Ministries follows a fairly predictable pattern. We have two "regular" semesters. Our fall semester starts in September and runs through November. We take December off and then begin our Spring semester in January. Our semester ends in April and we then rest for the month of May. June and July are our summer months and follow a special schedule. August then is a rest month as we get ready for our fall semester.

Missions:

I am committed to emphasizing missions a big part of our middle school ministry. Here are three ways your family can be involved in missions:

First, there will be a service project offered every semester for our students and their families to be involved in. One of our parent volunteers will run this project. If you would be interested in running one of these or have any great ideas for a project please come see me.

Second, we have a monthly bible club we do in a local neighborhood. This is a time to share the gospel with kids and parents in our community.

Third, we will do a family missions trip every summer. This trip will be designed for entire families or individual students to be involved in regional missions.

Further Expectations:

Entrance Meetings: I would like to schedule a personal meeting with each and every new 6th grader and their families. This will involve about a half-hour commitment. I would like for it to happen sometime in the next few months as we begin our middle school calendar. It will be for two basic reasons: First, to get to know you and your family personally. Second, I want to hear from you concerning your expectations of Student Ministries for the next three years. In other words, what are you expecting your student to get out of these three years? What would you like to see happen? I want to give you an open avenue to communicate. The goal is to track our progress from 6th grade to 8th grade. I cannot require you to do this but I would love to see it happen!

Involvement: I would love for you to be involved in some way, shape, or form with Student Ministries. This could be in any area from leading a small group to providing transportation for an event to being crowd control. All I am asking is that you choose at least one way to be involved during the course of the year. I have given you a list of possible places to serve at the end of this sheet.

Communication: Please communicate with me! I am a very straight forward type of guy. I do not get my feelings hurt easily. If you have a concern or critique I want to know. Help me be effective! Please, please, communicate your thoughts and feelings. Do not let things fester! I also want to hear any ideas you might have.

In addition to this type of communication, I want to know what is going on in your family so I can pray for you more accurately. Again feel free to use any form of communication you would like. You are not going to bother me.

I also will send out a weekly reminder just about every week. These will include important information for every week and for events coming up. Please read these when they come out. You do not want to miss anything!

Places to Serve:

- Grade Leader – need 4 to 5 per grade. Sunday mornings would be your main contact with students. You would need to feel comfortable facilitating discussion on a lesson. This is the role that requires the biggest responsibility. However, the responsibility is shared by the group and allows each to use his/her specific gifts.
- Small group leader – This is for Wednesday night discussions. I would like at least 3 for each grade and gender. Must feel comfortable leading discussion.
- Crowd Control – This job is perfect for those who do not feel comfortable leading groups. You need to feel comfortable keeping control.
- Game Leader – I hate games! We need someone who feels comfortable running games on Sunday and/or Wednesday night. Prior experience recommended.
- Welcome Team – This requires time on Sunday mornings before Sunday school. You would help student sign-in and guide students downstairs to the upper room. You could then be involved in your own ABF.
- CAMP Counselor – This is perfect for those who want to be involved but cannot commit weekly. If you are interested in learning more about this please contact me.
- Hosting Events – We have need for hosts during our HD Conference every year. If you would be willing to host a group of 8 to 12 students in your home for three days this might be a place to serve.
- Cooking – We have a couple times every year when we need meals prepared for students. This might be your area of service.
- Set-up – This is a perfect job for those who cannot commit weekly but would like to serve. It would include everything from event set-up to possible luggage duty to clean-up after an event.
- Transportation – We could use a few parents who would be interested in helping with transportation for certain events. This requires time and energy as well as a good driving record!

