

FAITH CHURCH

PARENT HANDBOOK



YEAR

'25/'26

CROSSFIRE

PARTNERING TOGETHER TO DISCIPLE
THE NEXT GENERATION

@FAITHCROSSFIRE

Dear Parents,

I'm so glad your student is part of Crossfire this year! Our mission is simple but powerful: to cultivate a love for Jesus in 6th–12th graders through worship, prayer, and the teaching of Scripture, while building friendships that can last a lifetime.

We know that you are the most important spiritual influence in your student's life, and your involvement has a lasting impact on how they grow in faith and live it out.

At Crossfire, our role is to come alongside you and help reinforce the faith foundations you are building at home. As Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." We take that to heart, walking alongside your family so your student can grow deep roots in their faith and live it out with confidence.

At Crossfire, you can expect:

- **Clear communication** about events, themes, and opportunities
- **Safe & encouraging environments** where your student is known, valued, and cared for
- **A team approach**—because it truly takes a village to raise the next generation

We're excited to see how God works in your student's life this year, and we can't wait to do this journey together.



With joy in Christ,

Carrie Brazzale
Director of Student Ministries

OUR MISSION

& CULTURE CODE

MISSION

TO CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR JESUS IN 6TH-12TH GRADERS THROUGH WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE . WE INSPIRE STUDENTS TO SERVE OTHERS WITH COMPASSION AND PURPOSE, WHILE FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING WHERE THEY CAN DO LIFE TOGETHER.

CULTURE CODE

Honor the Moment:

When someone is teaching, sharing, or praying, we listen. No side conversations or distractions. Every voice matters, and we show respect by giving space to hear one another.

No Phones During Crossfire:

To stay focused and make space for real connection, phones need to be put away during all Crossfire activities. You can check it in, or you can keep it in your pocket, but please don't use it unless a leader gives the okay.

Leave It Better:

We all share this space, so we take care of it. If you move it, spill it, or drop it, please clean it up or put it back.

Keep It Safe:

No drugs, alcohol, vaping, tobacco, weapons, or anything that could harm others. That includes horseplay, wrestling, or hitting—anything that puts people at risk.

Respect Boundaries:

Crossfire is about building friendships and growing in faith, not about romantic relationships. We ask that students refrain from public displays of affection while here.

Stay Together:

We're responsible for each other. That means no wandering or leaving the building without permission. We want you to have fun, stay safe, and know that you matter to us.



MADISON NEUSER-MOORE

6th Grade Girls Leader/Dinner Coordinator

Fun Fact: I think you can make any food taste better if add either bacon or chocolate.

Favorite Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

Why I serve: I was unexpectedly called into a leadership role at the beginning of 2025 with Crossfire and the Lord has done a work on my heart! I love seeing the joy of the Lord in the kids who come to Crossfire, and I pray each of them knows and loves Jesus!



ALEXA MALLEY

6th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: I can hit a whistle note.

Favorite Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6-7

Why I serve: I serve because I want to share my love of Jesus with the kids! I want the next generations to be able to know and feel the love of our Lord and have a knowledge and passion about His Word.



PATRICK WALBY

6th Grade Boys Leader/Tech Assistant

Fun Fact: I've tried every possible flavor of Mountain Dew to date.

Favorite Bible Verse: 1 John 2:17

Why I serve: I would not be the person I am today in my faith if it weren't for youth group. I want to encourage students to own their faith and know Jesus as I do.



KAT HALLIGAN

7th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: I love puzzles, plants, and painting.

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 103:1

Why I serve: As a teen, I had a wonderful mentor and youth leader, and I wouldn't be who I am without that influence in my life. I serve because God has graciously allowed me the privilege to serve with our youth.



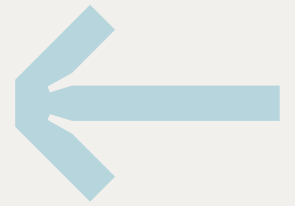
IZZY KRUMRICH

7th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: I can knit faster than your grandma.

Favorite Bible Verse: 2 Peter 3:9

Why I serve: Reading the Bible and learning about Jesus has changed my life. I want students to know that they can come to Jesus even in their brokenness, and be welcomed with His grace, and changed for the better.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

CROSSFIRE
LEADERS



RYAN LALLENSACK

7th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: I love fixing things around the house and taking things apart to learn how they work.

Favorite Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Why I serve: I serve because I want to help the next generation understand and grow in their faith with the Lord so they have a firm foundation in their life.



ANDY FORD

7th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: Clowns, moths, and public bathrooms gross me out

Favorite Bible Verse: 2 Kings 2:23-24

Why I serve: My own youth group experience was a huge blessing. It was the thing that kept me grounded, and I want to provide that for students now.



BREE BENFIELD

8th Grade Girls Leader/Worship Coordinator

Fun Fact: I've written about 20 worship songs that I hope to release one day!

Favorite Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Why I serve: I want to teach these students that God is worthy of their complete attention and adoration, no matter what stage of life they are in. God cares deeply for them and sees their heart, and I want to be a leader that reflects God's love for them.



ALLY SCHERMETZLER

8th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: In the summer months, I run an ice cream shop when I'm not teaching.

Favorite Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10

Why I serve: I serve because I love working with kids. I think middle/high school aged kids are such a fun age to work with and I love helping them grow in their faith. I find I have so much to learn and grow from what they teach me as well.



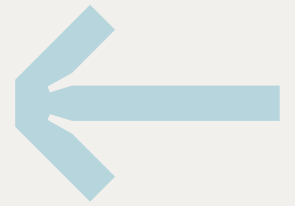
ED FOSTER

8th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: I enjoy winter sports like skiing and ice-fishing.

Favorite Bible Verse: Mark 12:28-31

Why I serve: I serve with this group because I enjoy learning and growing with the young people in their spiritual journey.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

CROSSTIRE
LEADERS



ANDREW WELCH

8th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: I'm obsessed with anything related to sailing.

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 139:7-10

Why I serve: I think it's important for kids who are growing up in the faith to have people who can guide them, answer their questions, and hopefully be a good example for them as they grow.



JULIE O'TOOLE

9th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: I'm being promoted to grandma!

Favorite Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6-7

Why I serve: I want every student to know Jesus loves them no matter what happens or what choices they make in life. He loves them unconditionally and wants a personal relationship with each one of them. I want them to experience the peace in life that only God can provide.



RAE PERRY

9th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: I can do a headstand on a paddleboard.

Favorite Bible Verse: Matthew 5:9

Why I serve: "Even the Son of Man didn't come to be served but to serve..." and really how true is that! It's what we are called to do and how neat to be a part of furthering the kingdom of God through serving the kiddos of this generation. Like, yeah, sign me up!!



BILL NEIDERMEYER

9th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: Traveled to Ethiopia on mission trips 17 times over a 10 year period.

Favorite Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5

Why I serve: Jesus has transformed my life and my thinking. I love connecting young men with His story.



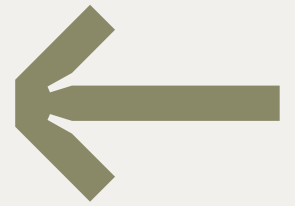
HOLLY FORD

10th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: My family calls me the crazy plant lady. I have 39 indoor plants.

Favorite Bible Verse: Matthew 10:39

Why I serve: I serve to give young people the same hope and direction that Jesus gave me when I was young to help them grow up with faith and a sense of purpose, just as I did. Plus, I just love my girls. They are my kids :)



HIGH SCHOOL

CROSSTIRE
LEADERS



KIARA JANKOVSKY

10th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: I love horses.

Favorite Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

Why I serve: I serve because I want to point the next generation toward God's promises and show them His love. It brings me joy to encourage others in their faith and remind them that God has a plan for each of their lives.



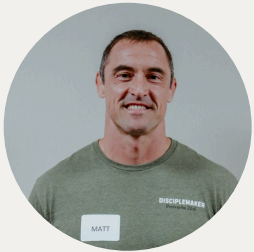
CASSANDRA CUTLER

10th Grade Girls Leader

Fun Fact: I love baking and cooking.

Favorite Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

Why I serve: This is a crucial time in life and I want God to use me for His good, and be a positive light.



MATT DIMARCO

10th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: I served on a nuclear submarine and really love burpees.

Favorite Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

Why I serve: I want to give some kids opportunities that I did not have. I believe our world needs more positive role models for young boys. My goal is to provide those resources for the boys that I have the privilege of leading.



JOSH NEUSER

11th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: I love to learn new things.

Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 41:13

Why I serve: I love hearing what the boys have to say about the teaching from the night and their perspective. I also serve to let the kids know that you don't have to have it all together to come to Jesus.



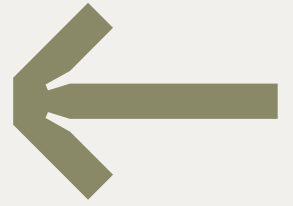
AL RISSE

11th Grade Boys Leader

Fun Fact: I went on a safari in Africa.

Favorite Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 16:13

Why I serve: I'm serving to help be a voice of truth to young men trying to figure out life.



HIGH SCHOOL

CROSSTIRE
LEADERS



CARRIE BRAZZALE

Director of Student Ministries/High School Mix Leader

Fun Fact: I love sports, can hold my own in ping pong, and I'm a mom to four amazing kids who keep life loud, fun, and never boring.

Favorite Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

Why I serve: I serve because I want students to know the joy and freedom of walking with Jesus and to feel seen, known, and loved in this ministry. It is my prayer that Crossfire is a place where faith takes root and lives are forever changed.



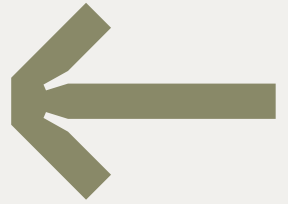
MELISSA BENFIELD

Student Care Leader

Fun Fact: I have raised 7 kids into adulthood and I'm enjoying my first grandchild!

Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 59:17

Why I serve: I serve because I like to share God's love with others.



HIGH SCHOOL

IT IS OF
THE UTMOST
IMPORTANCE
TO US
THAT YOUR
STUDENT
IS CARED
FOR.

WE ARE SO THANKFUL
FOR OUR GOD-FEARING
LEADERS!



CROSSFIRE

CALENDAR

SEP 10	CROSSFIRE KICKOFF	JAN 9-11	DISTRICTS YOUTH CONFERENCE
OCT 8	FUN NIGHT @ STRAND ADVENTURES	FEB 25	SMALL GROUP NIGHT
NOV 05	SMALL GROUP NIGHT	MAR 25	FUN NIGHT BOWLING @ MEADOW LANES N
NOV 26	NO CROSSFIRE	APR 1	NO CROSSFIRE
DEC 17	CHRISTMAS PARTY	MAY 13	LAST CROSSFIRE NIGHT
DEC 24	NO CROSSFIRE	JUN 14-22	PANAMA MISSION TRIP
DEC 31	NO CROSSFIRE	JUL 12-17	MISSION MANITOWOC

STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE MOST RECENT
UPDATES ON CROSSFIRE EVENTS!

@FAITHCROSSFIRE

PARENTS

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US TO IMPACT YOUR STUDENTS

WE BELIEVE CROSSFIRE WORKS BEST WHEN THE CARING ADULTS IN A STUDENT'S LIFE – PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, GUARDIANS – PARTNER WITH LEADERS AND STUDENTS TO GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER. IF YOU FEEL LED TO GET INVOLVED, HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN BLESS AND SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS:

Welcome Team:

Greet students as they arrive on Wednesday nights, making them feel at home and setting a warm, friendly tone for the evening.

Dinner Team:

Help prepare and serve our Wednesday night meal so students are well-fed and ready to engage.

Sweet Treat Team:

Whether you bake from scratch or pick up something delicious from the store, bless our students with a dessert to enjoy after dinner.

Special Event Help:

Jump in for seasonal parties, retreats, or themed nights by helping with setup, decorating, activities, or cleanup.

Prayer Team:

Receive monthly prayer requests for our students, leaders, and upcoming events, and join us in lifting Crossfire before the Lord.

Transportation Help:

Drive students to retreats, service projects, or special events when extra seats are needed.

Small Group Leadership:

If you feel called to invest in students more deeply, consider leading a small group on Wednesday nights (September–May). We provide the training and support, you bring your heart for Jesus and for students.

Host a Small Group:

Open your home for a casual gathering, game night, or meal with your student's small group.

If you'd like to get involved in any of these ways, email carrieb@faithchurchmanitowoc.us.
We'd love to serve alongside you!

CARING FOR STUDENTS

AT CROSSFIRE WE CARE ABOUT THE WHOLE STUDENT – THEIR FAITH, THEIR FRIENDSHIPS, AND THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE. LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS EASY, AND WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW THEY CAN TALK ABOUT BOTH THE GOOD AND THE HARD THINGS HERE.



We encourage students to:

- Share openly with their small group
- Talk with their leader about struggles or questions
- Be honest with their parents about how they're feeling

If your student ever feels uncomfortable about something, please encourage them to speak up, either to you, their leader, or to Carrie directly. We are always available to listen, pray, and walk alongside them (and you) in any way we can.

COMMUNICATION

WE WORK HARD TO KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP! HERE'S HOW:

- **Monthly Parent Email** – Overview of teaching topics, events, and need to knows.
- **Updates & Reminders** – Sent by text from 920-717-1305 → *please save this number as "Crossfire" so the messages don't get lost in spam.
- **Printed Flyers** – Given to students at Crossfire.

Safety Note: If your student needs to leave Crossfire early for any reason, please let me know in advance. Our team is responsible for every student while they're here, and knowing when someone leaves ensures they are safe and always accounted for.

PARENT RESOURCES

WE WANT TO EQUIP YOU WITH TOOLS TO HELP YOU DISCIPLE YOUR STUDENT AT HOME.
HERE ARE A FEW RECOMMENDATIONS:

Books:

- *Centering our Home on Jesus* - Brian Schley
- *The 3 BIG QUESTIONS for a Frantic Family* - Patrick Lencioni
- *Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World* - Kristen Welch

Podcasts:

- *Focus on the Family Parenting Podcast*
- *Parenting Today's Teens* - Mark Gregston

Discussion Starter:

Ask your student: "What's one thing from Crossfire this week that made you think differently about God?"

Thank you for trusting us with your student. We're honored to walk alongside your family and see what God will do this year.

**" I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN TO
HEAR THAT MY CHILDREN ARE
WALKING IN THE TRUTH."**

~ 3 JOHN 1:4

Faith Church – Crossfire
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