

Parenting Tools:

Transitioning to High School



HOME
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Transitioning from children ministry to high school ministry

Transitioning from the 6th grade to the 7th grade can be a challenging. One reason is that 6th graders, previously in the children ministry, have grown accustomed to a certain style of ministry and its structure. They were the oldest, which brings confidence, familiarity, and a sense of seniority.

Transitioning into the high school however brings with it the unknown. To add to the unknown is the fact that they are the youngest in the group. Please know that our high school ministry is aware of these challenges and purposely addresses each as the upcoming 7th graders enter into the high school ministry. We hope for the smoothest transition as possible. We hope that some of the following thoughts are helpful.

Your child is changing physically and relationally

Near the time that your child enters into the 7th grade, typically your child will become more socially aware and independent. They are more conscious of their physical appearance and will be conscious about what others are thinking of them. Because of this, entering into a new setting with older students may be somewhat intimidating. They will wonder what the older students will think of them. They wonder what first impression will they be able to make. With this, there is also the tendency to want to express independence from parents. In previous years, your child may not have minded you dropping them off at the door or giving them a hug goodbye. But now, since they are more socially aware, they will notice that many of their peers are not doing these things. In a desire to fit in, they may rather want to walk in by themselves.

Know that our middle school ministry is geared towards friendships

Our high school ministry is designed to help your child build relationships. From Sunday's activities to Wednesday nights, we intentional plan our lessons and time to help students connect with each other. We know that with only one school in Rector students will know basically everyone. With this in mind, we focus a lot of our attention on the time that our students are together at church towards Christ centered friendship. We strive to accomplish this in a couple of ways. First, we have volunteer leaders who help your child connect. They themselves connect with students and they help foster Christ centered relationships between the students. Second, we purposefully plan fun activities when we meet. In these activities we strive for students to not only have fun, but to have fun together. They are most often group games where students can easily interact with each other. Third, we provide small group time and we ask relational questions. In each meeting time we have there is a small group dynamic. In these times, which are led by one of our volunteer leaders, we ask relational questions to help the students discuss about their relationships with God. Our aim is not to just develop friendships, but ultimately to develop friendships that are centered on their relationships to Christ. These small group times help foster the Christ centered relationships

With high school comes lot of new opportunities, choose your family's priorities

When your child enters into high school, there are lots of additional opportunities that present themselves. They will have the opportunity to commit themselves to many extracurricular activities. As a parent, you will want to encourage your child in the areas that they are gifted in and affirm them. At this point, we would encourage the parent not to over commit their child in too many extra-curricular activities to the point that it hinders their

church involvement. Please make their church involvement a priority.

Parent involvement

We have found that parent involvement in the church is the most impactful and lasting way for a student to get involved. As our legacy principle has said repeatedly, if parents will make church a priority for themselves, then their child will most likely follow suit. In addition for parents being involved, we have found that it is helpful to have a parents rally among each other to help students get here. For example, instead of coming to church in separate vehicles, consider carpooling with each other. Schedules are often busy and working together can ease the load. In addition it can provide some accountability and help your child relationally connect with another student to and from church.