

Hello Junior High Parents –

We have enjoyed having the extended time of gathering with the Junior High students outside on Wednesday nights, but are excited to **resume our Student Ministry service on Sunday mornings and to update you on an exciting change for our Junior High Ministry.** As always, pandemic or not, our hope is to provide spaces where your student can remember God's great character, learn to take steps in their faith, and be encouraged to live out their faith in the world. This year, we want to make sure we provide those things while also being wise in regards to our students gathering and believe this change will foster those things even more for Junior High students. Read below for the precautions we are taking so we can gather wisely and to find out what the exciting change is:

- **Student Ministry Service resumes Sunday, October 4.**
 - We will meet from **11:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Fuel Room.**
 - You will **need to pre-register your student** each week to give us time to prepare and to limit the number of students and leaders in the Fuel room to 54 people.
 - We will send out more information about registration next week, but you will do it through the same link you use to register for church on Sunday mornings.
 - **The Junior High and High School students will be together** for hang out, a connection time, and worship and for the first month will be together for teaching as we navigate figuring out rooms with all the ministries happening on Sunday mornings.
 - **Families and students will still need to check in at the tents** to get their temperature taken and sign in.
 - From there students can walk down to the Fuel Room on their own.
 - **They may enter the room beginning at 10:45 AM.**
 - We will also **take attendance in the Fuel Room** so that we are able to do contact tracing in case any student or leader gets Covid.
 - We will set up the room and activities to **do our best to keep social distance among the students and leaders but cannot guarantee that they will always be social distanced.**
 - **All students, volunteers, and staff are required to wear masks when we are inside.**
 - To start the year, there will be **no snacks allowed** since that could lead to students not wearing their masks for long periods of times. We will reassess after a month to see if we think students can safely eat and keep their distance.
 - **Drinks are allowed,** as it is easier to quickly take a drink and put your mask back up.
 - We will have **hand sanitizer available at multiple places throughout the room** along with **individual bags of art supplies** so that multiple students are not sharing the same art supplies. We will encourage students to use hand sanitizer before and after using something other students have also touched.

- **Junior High Small Group are moving to Wednesday Nights beginning October 7.**
 - We will meet from **6:30-8:30 PM in the Fuel room** for the large group time.
 - When we split into **small groups we will utilize more large and open spaces** to allow for more distancing during small groups.

- There are **three main reasons** we believe this move will be best for our Junior High Students:
 - As we have been talking with parents, we have seen a shared desire for stronger community among our Junior High students. In order to facilitate this, we are moving to Wednesday nights so they get to meet on two separate days rather than twice on the same day.
 - As part of building community, students desired a space of their own. This move allows the Junior High Students to get to be in the Fuel room for the hang out and large group times.
 - Lastly, this allows for Jim, Ethan, and Lindsey to get to be with both Junior High and High School.
- **Students will not need to pre-register.** Since it is only Junior High students at this time, the Fuel room is large enough to provide a physically distant environment.
- We will **take attendance** so that we are able to do contact tracing in case any student or leader gets Covid.
- We will **take every student and leader's temperature** as they enter the building.
 - If their temperature is over 100; we will ask that they go home.
 - If students are experiencing standard Covid symptoms such as a fever, shortness of breath, loss of smell, or loss of taste, we ask that they not attend.
 - If students have been quarantined by their school, we ask they not attend while they are quarantined.
- We will set up the room and activities to **do our best to keep social distance among the students and leaders but cannot guarantee that they will always be social distanced.**
- **All students, volunteers, and staff are required to wear masks when we are inside.**
 - We know snacks are always a big part of establishing a welcoming climate during Sunday nights, specifically small groups. This year, we are going to start by saying **students can have individualized pre-packaged snacks and drinks during small group time** if they choose. We will evaluate this as time moves forward and if wisdom dictates a change, we'll let you know.
- We will have **hand sanitizer available at multiple places throughout the room** along with **individual bags of art supplies** so that multiple students are not sharing the same art supplies. We will encourage students to use hand sanitizer before and after using something other students have also touched.

So that is our plan as we know it now. We will continue to reassess things as time goes on and keep an open line of communication with you. We know some families will still not feel comfortable sending their students and we completely understand that. **We hope to offer something virtual for students beginning in November.** We are praying for each of your families as you navigate this unprecedented time and all the difficult decisions that come with it. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding Covid or the move to Wednesday nights or ways we can support you better.

Student Ministry Team – Jim, Ethan, & Lindsey