

Hello parents and students!

As you have likely heard, David Wilson has announced that he will be transitioning out of his position as JH Director at Hope Church.

I once heard that the average JH Director working at a church lasted 18 months before they “gave up” or “moved on.” David stayed for an entire generation of students. Within that generation, David has brought a relational commitment to our students and ministry that has impacted students’ understanding of Jesus, of the gospel, of living life with Jesus and the world around us. There are students who are walking with Christ because God used David’s talents to share the gospel in ways that students could understand. I am thankful for him and for his time here as the JH Director.

When someone like David transitions, it can bring a sense of loss or change. This switch might cause a range of emotions and questions from sadness to confusion to “why does he have to leave?” These are normal and good. Listening to your student and allowing them to voice these is healthy. Helping them to take steps to trust that God has David and Jenny and that He is leading them into this change is healthy as well. You might even share where times in your life where you have noticed this pattern of God calling us to someone new and asking us to trust him.

Another thing we can do to help students is to appreciate David and Jenny as they end this season here at Hope. We want to provide some ways for students and parents to say goodbye and thank you for his time in our ministry. Listed below is how we are going to go about this:

- **Honor David and Jenny in writing.**
  - We would love to give Jenny and David a book with pictures, favorite memories, and notes of encouragement to show them the fruit their investment in our ministry has produced. If you’d like to contribute to this book, **please either email a favorite memory, note of encouragement, and/or picture of you with David or Jenny to Lindsey Oliva at [loliva@hopemason.org](mailto:loliva@hopemason.org) or give to Lindsey in person by Sunday, May 12.**
- **We are buying David and Jenny a gift! This is a secret, so keep this quiet!**
  - David and Jenny have both faithfully invested their time, energy, and hearts into the lives of students and families at Hope for several years. We would love to show our appreciation of their investment by giving a gift that will invest in them and their marriage. **We are collecting money to purchase a gift card for Family Life’s Weekend to Remember Marriage Conference.** This way David and Jenny can choose the weekend and location they would like to attend. **If you’d like to contribute, please give cash or check to Lindsey Oliva by Sunday, May 12.** Checks should be made out to Hope Church.
- **Come celebrate David and Jenny on Sunday, May 19 from 5:30 PM to 8 PM at the Shuler home.**
  - Students in grades 6-12 and their families are invited.
  - 5:30 – 7:00 PM – We’ll eat, play games, and connect.
  - 7:00 – 8:00 PM – We’ll honor David and Jenny with their gifts, time to share stories, and prayer.
  - More details and a sign up to bring food will be sent out closer to the date.

Jim Tinsley