



FAQ for Mark 9 Parents

1. Who is the Mark 9 Staff?

- Katie Powers- Ministry Director
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- Chritine Mullins- Ministry Associate
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2. Can my child with special needs attend and how do I enroll my child in Mark 9?

We welcome any individual with special needs to be part of our ministry! We require all our families to register prior to attending for the first time. To begin the process please fill out the Family Profile Packet online at www.oakwoodnb.com/special-needs.

3. Is the Mark 9 program inclusive or self-contained?

We look at each child's individual needs. With the parent's help we figure out the best place for them to be able to learn about Christ's love for them. While full inclusion inside our church is ideal, that goal is secondary to making the gospel fully accessible. When considering the proper placement of any student of any ability, the first concern should always be placing that individual in the setting with the culture and teaching methods that best facilitate meaningful spiritual growth for them. We have two rooms designated specifically for our ministry, a self-contained classroom with a modified curriculum and a sensory room.

4. Who will take care of my child?

The volunteers that serve in Mark 9 are called Buddies. Our buddies participate in on-going training to continue to learn best practices for taking care of your child. Your child's buddy is responsible for helping your child participate to their full potential in ministry activities, supplement teaching times with personal discipleship when group participation is not possible or helpful, provide positive behavior management, ensure the safety of your child, follow



all church ministry guidelines, and maintain a positive relationship with your family.

5. How do I know if my child has a buddy?

Every month I will email out a monthly schedule with buddy assignments. We try to keep your child with the same buddy or with two buddies alternating weekends. Sometimes, your child's buddy will not be available so we will have a substitute fill in for the day. If you see a yellow blank spot on the schedule do not panic. That just lets me know that your child's buddy is absent, and I need to find a sub.

6. How will the Director communicate with the families of Mark 9?

- Email- will be used to send out scheduling information for the upcoming month, news about Mark 9, individual family communications, church, and community events, etc.
- Text- will be used on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening to get in contact with you when your child is in our care and for schedule changes (family not able to come to church). This is the best way to get a hold of me on a Wednesday or Sunday. Save my cell number listed above!
- Social Media- will be used to share stories and highlight what God is doing in Mark 9!
FB Public Page: Oakwood Church Special Needs Ministry- Mark 9
Instagram: Mark 9 Special Needs Ministry

7. How do I check-in my child?

- Check-in your child at an iPad station located in the front of the Children's Building (iPads located both upstairs and downstairs)
- **Check both boxes** -Select both their classroom and the Mark 9 ministry. This is important to help us know at any moment who is here and to easily keep attendance.
- Secure sticker on Child. Make sure you have your Guardian Receipt, and the number matches the one located on your child.
- Take your child to assigned classroom.



8. **What do I do if my child's Buddy is not in the classroom when we get there?**
Please wait with your child until your child's Buddy arrives. This ensures the safety and wellbeing of your child. Never leave your child without a Buddy present. If your Buddy isn't there 5 minutes after the start of service, please text your child's Buddy and Katie.
9. **What if my family is running late? Will there still be a Buddy for my child?**
After 15 minutes from the start of each service we will relieve Buddies from their duties if their child has not arrived. You are still more than welcome to come to church but please plan to stay with your child. There is a slight possibility of being able to find a Buddy. However, we do understand that life happens and running late is a possibility, so please text your child's Buddy to let them know you are running late and still plan on attending service and they will wait for y'all.
10. **How much notice should I give the Director if I know in advance we will be out of town or have other obligations on a certain Sunday?**
As soon as possible. Basically, when you know, let Katie know. This includes changes that occur on the same day of service. Katie also emails out a monthly email asking for any schedule conflicts for the following month, be sure to reply if needed so buddies can be scheduled appropriately.
11. **How will my child's Buddy or any staff member get in contact with me during service if needed?**
Our policy is to text or call you, so please have your phone accessible, on vibrate, and your number updated with our records.
12. **Who can I contact if I have questions about my child's Buddy or placement?**
Please contact Katie.
13. **What do I need to do if I want my child to attend VBS?**
All registration for VBS is done online through oakwoodnb.com/vbs.
Registration opens late May or early June.
14. **If my child wants to attend a church event/program who do I need to contact to see if Mark 9 can provide a Buddy?**
Please contact Katie
15. **Should I tell my child's buddy or a staff member if my child has had any recent medical, behavioral, or social changes, etc.?**
Yes! We will update any necessary info in your child's "All About Me" binder and make adjustments for your child if needed.



16. Should I share if my child has an awesome success story?

Yes! We are always ready to celebrate awesome stories to highlight our families, ministry, and volunteers. We want to share them with all of Oakwood! This is a great way to show how God is on the move and to grow closer as a community. Also, sharing these stories is an awesome way to help recruit Buddies!

17. Should I tell a staff member if my child is sick, having a medical procedure, or my family is going through life changes?

Yes! Oakwood would love to pray for you, support you, and have a Pastor available for your family.

18. Is there a program for adults with special needs?

We offer a Bible Study for our adults with special needs on Sunday mornings (11AM- Rm #106 of the Adult Education Building) called the Sonshine class.

19. How can I support my child's Buddy?

- Be in communication with them. Exchange numbers!
- Be open & honest with them about your child. Share not only the things they might struggle with but also the things they do well.
- Thank and encourage them
- Get to know them personally
- Remember they are volunteers
- **Pray for them**

20. How can I support Mark 9?

- Help recruit buddies for our ministry- best way is to tell personal stories of how Mark 9 has impacted your child and family.
- Spread the news about Mark 9 with other families who have children with special needs. How awesome to have the opportunity to disciple more families!
- Be fed spiritually. Continue growing in your walk with Christ
- Have good communication with the staff & Buddy
- Remember we are all brothers and sisters in Christ