



Dear parents of Student Ministry,

Hello! Lately, I have been so humbled and thankful for all the growth we've seen in Student Ministry. Over the past spring and summer semesters, the Lord truly has done wonderful things in the lives of our 6th – 12th graders. In their connection with one another, the local church, their leaders, but most importantly to Jesus Christ. I hope you'll join me in rejoicing in the fruit that we've seen, and joyfully expecting the fruit to come soon... like this fall! Read on to see just the beginning of what we're planning in Student Ministry this fall, as well as some sizable changes I'd love to make you aware of.

As God is on the move in Student Ministry, we still never want to be done discerning and praying over the best ways to chase after our mission: **To Glorify God by making students disciples of Jesus Christ in Wayne and beyond.** We seek to do just this by moving students through our four-stage discipleship process, which invites every student 6th – 12th grade to **Come & See** the person of Jesus Christ, **Come & Grow** in love and adoration for Him, **Come & Serve** in Wayne and beyond in His name, and **Come & Lead** other students to Jesus. In Student Ministry, this very thing is happening for some students. However, many parents, volunteers, COS staff, students, and I believe that there are some changes we can make to better posture ourselves for this discipleship process. We want more students to see Jesus in our Christ-centered community, more students to grow in deep and lasting love for God, more students to move out in service, and more students to become servant hearted leaders themselves. I'd love to introduce some of changes we are hoping and praying and confident that will aid us in this mission through the following headings. **Read on!** Or see my *Too Long, Didn't Read* at the end!

- Hosting **Middle School Youth Group on Wednesday nights** and **High School Youth Group on Sunday nights**
- Following in step with the Community Group model for adults at COS by making groups sign-up only to foster deeper relationships among peers and leaders, and till the soil for real gospel transformation. We'll call them **C-Groups!**
- Taking **one week off from programming every month**, to make sure everyone involved in Student Ministry is sustained, rather than burnt out, this school year
- **Revamping our communication and marketing** to make it easy to stay up to date and get new parents and students up to speed
- Investing in our **StuCrew Program**, our student servant leadership development program. This is just like being an SLT, but for the school year!

Expanding our weekly Youth Group gatherings

We'd like to curate better spaces for our students throughout the week. I believe the best next step for us is for our Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers to have distinct Youth Group gatherings. After all, they are distinct age groups! Students can expect every Youth Group to have time for fellowship and hanging out, games, songs, celebration, and most importantly – hearing from God's Word and seeking to learn how it applies to our weekly Christian walks. You may have noticed that our normal community group gathering time was not mentioned in the above list, and that's by design. More on that in the next heading.

We are trusting that this change makes it even easier for brand new students to try Student Ministry for the first time, or allow a great re-entry point for longtime COS students who may not have attended as much recently!

Either way, you can plan on:

- High Schoolers attending Youth Group from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in F101 on Sundays starting September 14th
- Middle Schoolers attending Youth Group from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in F101 on Wednesdays starting September 17th

Introducing: C-Groups! - Student Small Groups

To best approach our ability to reach new students and go deep with students who are already walking with Christ, we are seeking to make our Youth Group times and Community Group times separate and distinct. And we'd like to call these new student Community Groups, **C-Groups!**

C-groups will be extremely familiar to long time students and families, as they will still be same gendered, approximately the same aged groups led by 2 – 3 adult leaders. The big change is that we want these groups to be intentionally committed to meet, and to have more flexibility and freedom to meet wherever and whenever is best! The default time to meet will still be immediately following the scheduled Youth Group time (8pm on Sundays for High Schoolers, 8pm on Wednesdays for Middle Schoolers) and on COS property. But, as groups develop their own personality and culture, they are **encouraged** to find unique and personal times and spaces to meet, as long as everyone can make it! This might mean going to get ice cream after Youth Group, meeting for breakfast at a restaurant before school (like I did in High School), or meeting for dinner at a different member's house each week. These can be excellent ways to share real life together and grow even deeper into Jesus-centered friendship.

So, if you're interested in joining **C-Groups**, you can plan on meeting **directly after Youth Group!** But know that groups are more than able and encouraged to meet whenever and wherever is most fruitful. In the end, it will be entirely up to the groups themselves to align and decide, with input from leaders, students, parents, and the Student Ministry Director.

We want Youth Group to be our premiere **Come & See** event every week, being as open and inviting to new students as possible. I believe that forcing new students or students who'd rather not participate into small groups can obviously still yield great conversations and prayer. But, we'd rather volunteers, parents, staff, and other students come along side students who have yet to join and encourage them to join C-Groups themselves. That way, everyone attending C-Groups will be fully committed to going deep in community, fellowship, prayer, and devotion to Christ. A rotating cast of students and commitment levels, both to attend and fully participate in group discussion, almost always minimizes time spent together. Consistency, intentionality, commitment and joyful expectation so often amplify small group gatherings. This won't be our only change for students to meet in small groups (like during our retreats and even Sunday school) but this will certainly be the most focused and intentional opportunity they'll have.

This means that any student can come to Youth Group, but we want C-Groups to be a committed, consistent space of the same students. And with that commitment to C-Groups, we want every student just as committed to Youth Group! To contribute to making Youth Group the stickiest, most inclusive, most energized, most worship-filled landing space a non-believer, skeptic, first-time believer, or long-time believer can find.

To accomplish this, we have a sign-up for students to complete to indicate their interest in committing to C-Groups and Youth Group. The basic time for your student's commitment will be **6:30pm – 8:00pm** for each scheduled Youth Group, and another 30 minutes for Small Group immediately after Youth Group which will end at **8:30pm** at the earliest. Wednesday for Middle School, Sunday for High School. But as groups grow on their own, they are welcome to explore options to meet at different places, at different times, and for longer periods of time!

C-Groups are available for 7th – 12th graders. For our 6th graders, we'd invite them to spend this fall getting used to middle school, Student Ministry, and everything in between. Then before you know it, you'll be able to sign up for C-Groups too!

You'll find the **C-Group Sign-up** here: [Microsoft Forms](#)

Sustainable Scheduling and Revamped Communication

To help accomplish these big changes, we're planning to take a week off from scheduled programming every month. The best way to stay up to date with that will be our Weekly Scrolldown or Instagram, or by checking the fall calendar attached to this email. All of which will be getting refreshed!

We'll also be updating the Student Ministry portion of our website! We want that to be the official landing page if you're ever trying to get new families and students connected. Stay tuned!

To receive all of our weekly communication starting in September, please sign-up here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/FMZlVx8/COSLandingPage>

StuCrew: The New SLT Program

There's hardly a better way to get our students serving and trained in leading than through a dedicated student servant leadership training program that we're calling **StuCrew**. This is for 10th – 12th grade followers of Christ who are looking to grow as Christian leaders through the lens of pouring back into their own ministry, but training their Biblical worldview in such a way that it can be used in any opportunity to lead.

In this program, I'll get to pour directly into students as we fellowship together on Sunday nights at High School Youth Group, serve together on Wednesday nights at Middle School Youth Group, and study, learn and grow together in monthly StuCrew meetings. Along the way, expect some fun, food, and merch as well! StuCrew leaders may also have the opportunity to be leaders on select middle school retreats, overnight trips and more as well as potential opportunities to meet or retreat with the adult leaders in the ministry as we plan and pray for the ministry as a whole.

If your student is at all curious, has questions, or is ready to serve, they are more than welcome to come straight to me! In the meantime, they can read our program overview attached to this email.

Either way, I'll ask them to fill out the application found here: [Microsoft Forms](#)

TL,DR

1. Middle School Youth Group is on Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in F101, and High School Youth Group is on Sundays from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in F101. Community Groups are no longer a mandatory part of Youth Group
2. C-Groups are the new small group gathering for students, and are sign-up only. You can sign your student up here: [Microsoft Forms](#)
3. We'll take a week off of programming every month to make sure everyone in Student Ministry has healthy rest amidst these changes. See our calendar, Instagram, or Weekly Scrolldown to always know when Youth Group and C-Group is!
4. Sign-up for our new Weekly Scrolldown here:
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/FMZIVx8/COSLandingPage>
5. High schooler interested in growing as a Christian leader? Have them apply for StuCrew! Found here: [Microsoft Forms](#)

Wrap up

In all of this, please be praying for this ministry. For me, for our many volunteer leaders, for our open Student Ministry Associate position, for the rest of the Next Generation team, for our parents, for our planning, energy, love for the kids, love for Christ, and everything in between in this new season of ministry.

Most importantly, pray that whether in this framework or not, our students see their need for salvation, and have salvation found in the finished work of Jesus Christ. The only reason we do this is so that more image-bearers of our Father are praising and glorifying God alongside of us. As we trust in His providence and love for us, we trust that the Word of God will continue to spread and flourish in the lives of our students.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20 – 21

To Him be the glory,

Cam Jones