

Bethesda Student Ministries
Parent Guide
Fall 2017

Bona Fide: Middle School (Grades 6th – 8th)



Kairos: High School
(Grades 9th – 12th)



Dear Parent,

Bethesda Student Ministries strives to be a place where students can be authentic and honest while discussing real life issues. We look at how God intersects with life and why it matters. All students, no matter their beliefs on life and God, are welcomed. It is a place to simply belong while being accepted and loved.

We are more defined by who we are becoming than what we do. We look to be real, honest, and growing. The information in the manual will let you know much of the programming and events that make up the activities of Student Ministries this fall. These are important because they are the vehicle which brings us closer to each other and to Christ.

Whether you are a student or adult, take some time to consider how you can become involved. We have a place for you. A place to see Jesus, to discover, to be accepted and valued.

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VISION

A place to help students
establish, develop and grow in a lifelong,
authentic relationship with Christ.

OBJECTIVES

- ☛ To enable students to graduate with a growing, lifelong faith of their own.
- ☛ To help students discover ways to develop and grow their own faith.
- ☛ To see students become involved in continued spiritual growth, through a college ministry or church, after high school graduation.
- ☛ A place to gain an understanding of who Christ is and how to apply Him to life in middle school, high school and beyond.
- ☛ A place to be unconditionally accepted and loved.
- ☛ A place where students can express doubt, ask questions and be heard.
- ☛ A place to gain the ability and opportunity to share Christ with others.



Bona Fide: Middle School (Grades 6th – 8th)

Weekly Programming (during the school year)



*Bona Fide is defined by:
Individuals and a group that is real and authentic*

Middle School Night

Weekly gatherings for 6th to 8th graders every Wednesday from 6:15–7:45 pm in the Student Ministries room. This is a high-energy night for all middle school students to talk about life and faith in God. All friends are welcome.

Middle School LIFEgroups

LIFEgroups are a great place for students to be themselves and talk about what is being presented in a smaller setting. LIFEgroups for middle school students meet during Middle School Night on Wednesday evenings. Groups are divided by age and gender.

Confirmation

At Bethesda, Confirmation and middle school programming are one in the same. Check the Confirmation page for more specific Confirmation details.

Retreats:

Middle School Mania Weekend 1 and 2 @ Inspiration Point (October 6-8th and October 13-15th, 2017). Registration happens directly with the camp (<http://ipoint.org>) and transportation is not provided.

Bona Fide's retreat for 2017-18 is Winter Meltdown at Camp Forest Springs, February 23rd – 25th, 2018. We will be attending this retreat together as a group.

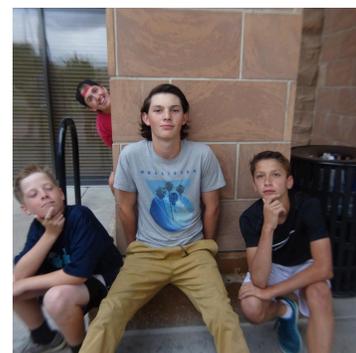
Confirmation Retreat @ Inspiration Point (March 9th-11th, 2018). Registration happens directly with the camp (<http://ipoint.org>) and transportation is provided.

Bona Fide Middle School	Grades 6 th – 8 th
6:15 – 6:40	Open Gym
6:40 – 7:00	Check in / Game time
7:00 – 7:10	Promos, Announcements
7:10 – 7:20	Topic open in large group: Led by Pastors and Eric
7:20 – 7:45	Life groups – Split by grade and gender. Led by leaders

Various events, service projects and trips are offered year-round. Check the Calendar pages for more details and join the various ways to stay up to date on upcoming events and trips (page 14).

Confirmation 2017/18

We are excited to announce a new and exciting format for Confirmation. We (Pastor Kirk, Pastor Brian, and Eric) have worked hard together to bring a plan that partners better with Student Ministries as a whole, while heightens the impact of Confirmation for our students. This is intended to give you a brief overview of the program changes.



- Confirmation will begin fall of 6th grade.
- Middle school large group, life groups and Confirmation will become one in the same. The Confirmation content is used as the content for middle school programming. In essence, we take the current content of Confirmation, expand and deepen it, and present it in the current format of the middle school program.
- All students are invited to participate in the middle school Wednesday night activities, whether they are a part of the Confirmation element of the program or not.
- Confirmation retreat, outside study, sermon notes, night of sharing, Action City night and Confirmation Sunday remain in place.
- During the 9th grade year, Confirmation students are required to attend regular high school programming.
- For transition purposes, current 9th graders finish out the current Confirmation content in their 9th grade life groups. They are required to attend ninth grade life groups and high school programming in 2017 through the fall of 2018.

- Current 8th and 9th graders will be confirmed fall of their 10th grade year.
- High school programming in the fall will begin with several large groups to build community before beginning life groups.

Confirmation Transition Details by Grade

Past years (old format)

Confirmation covers two years of content over 8th and 9th grade with Confirmation Sunday in spring.

Transition years

Current 7th graders:

- One year of content during both 7th and 8th grades delivered during middle school Wednesday night programming
- Six weeks of high school content fall of 9th grade
- Confirmation Sunday fall of 2019

Current 8th graders:

- One year of content during both 8th and 9th grade years
- 8th grade year content delivered during middle school Wednesday night programming
- 9th grade year content delivered during high school Wednesday night Life Groups
- Six weeks of high school content fall of 10th grade
- Confirmation Sunday fall of 2019 (10th grade)

Current 9th graders:

- One year of confirmation content is already complete
- Second year of content given in Wednesday night high school 9th grade Life Groups
- Six weeks of high school fall programming during 10th grade
- Confirmation Sunday fall of 2018 (10th grade)

Current 6th graders

Confirmation covers 3 years of content over 6th – 8th grade with Confirmation Sunday in fall of 9th grade after students attend 6 weeks of Bethesda's High School Ministry.

Kairos: High School (Grades 9th – 12th)

Weekly Programming (during the school year)



*Kairos is a Greek word used to measure time:
A moment of decision that leads to action.*

High School LIFEgroups:

LIFEgroups are a great place for students to be able to share and discuss life and faith. LIFEgroups for high school students meet 3 out of 4 Wednesday evenings. Groups are divided by age and gender.

High School Night:

On the 4th Wednesday, all Kairos LIFEgroups come together for a night of music, laughter, and discussing life in the real world. Check the calendar section for specific Wednesdays for large group nights.

In the fall, Kairos will begin with several High School Nights to build community before beginning LIFEgroups.



Student Leadership teams

Female and male leadership teams meet various Sunday mornings. They focus on learning to be leaders within Student Ministries, in their school and community. Students are chosen based on:

- Demonstrated the desire for inclusiveness of all students.
- Demonstrated honesty and openness.
- Have participated in LIFEgroup discussions in a way that shows leadership.
- Preference given to students attending a variety of different high schools.

Retreats:

Kairos fall retreat is Friday – Sunday, Oct 27th – 29th We host our own weekend at Arrowhead Bible Camp (<http://www.abcamp.org>) in New Auburn, WI. The 50-minute drive provides flexibility for students who have conflicting schedules.



Sr. High Weekend 1 and 2 @ Inspiration Point (Feb 9-11th and Feb 16-18th, 2018). Registration happens directly with the camp (<http://ipoint.org>) and transportation is not provided.

Events, summer trips and missions:

Various events, service projects and trips are offered year-round. Check the Calendar pages for more details and join the various ways to stay up to date on upcoming events and trips (page 14).

Kairos High school	Grades 9 th -12 th
6:15 – 6:40	Open Gym
Week 1 6:30-7:45	Life Groups
Week 2 6:30-7:45	Life Groups
Week 3 6:30-7:45	Life Groups
Week 4 (on a four week cycle)	All life groups together for a large group experience

Background Checks:

All leaders working directly with students must have a background check their first year and every other year after.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our students here at Bethesda and in the community need caring adults to walk along side them in an extremely key time of life and development. Adults of all ages and stages are needed in this key ministry.

Are you good at listening and guiding discussion? We need you as a co-LIFEgroup leader on Wednesday nights.

Do you enjoy lots of enthusiasm and energy? We need you on Wednesday nights working with our middle school students in a larger group setting.

Do you like seeing students learn how God intersects with real life? We need you on Wednesday nights to help guide our high school students in a large group setting. Many roles exist.

Do you like to be behind the scenes administratively, but want to see how each role makes a difference? Consider serving this way with flexible times to serve.

Are you passionate about prayer? Bethesda Student Ministries is looking to build a foundation on prayer and to seek God in all we do. Would you be willing to commit to pray specifically for the ministry and our students? There are two ways you can participate:

If you would like to receive--no more than two per month--specific and real time prayer requests via text, text your name and the word "Prayer" to 715-523-1222.

If you would like to receive a monthly prayer list specific to student ministries and students, email your name and the word "Prayer" to eric@bethesdalutheran.org

How to stay informed:

1. Email Eric @ eric@bethesdalutheran.org to be added to the Bona Fide or Kairos parent email lists.
2. Text Eric @ 715-523-1222 to be added to the all-students or all-parents text list.
3. Sign up for REMIND reminders (used for more urgent texts):

<https://www.remind.com/join/bethesdal>