



September 4, 2009

Dear Parents,

After a brief trip to the ER, I quickly found I was allergic to wasps. I was stung five times while playing paintball with some students from Grace Chapel earlier this summer at Camp Berea. Despite breaking out into hives and having to gulp down Benadryl, I would still jump at the opportunity to hang with your kids in the outdoors again! I love being with middle school students.

This is my 18th day on the job and I feel humbled to have such a wonderful opportunity to minister to the middle school families of this church. I am thankful for the experienced leadership team in place and am looking forward to working with an awesome volunteer staff. I firmly believe that God has called me to this new position and has uniquely prepared me for it. I am expectant to see God increase and I decrease as he transforms the hearts of the students in this ministry.

The Middle School Ministry exists to create space for God himself to speak into the lives of our students. We strongly believe that one way God does this is through relationships that are cultivated between our adult volunteer leaders and your kids. I am looking forward to partnering with you in the spiritual formation of your children. I have posted some important dates of events as you start to think about your fall calendars below. We are really looking forward to a great year with your kids!

### **Parents Sunday, September 13th, 10:00am**

We start the year off inviting you as parents to join us *with your middle schooler* (and other family members if desired) to experience what we do each week in the gym on Sundays. Our worship team will start us off, I'll give a message that will include various details about the year and then we'll break out in to small groups so that you can meet the leaders and get to know us. We hope you are able to join us!

### **Sunday Mornings**

On September 20th we'll kickoff our weekly Sunday Morning meetings. We meet from 10:00am – 11:10am in the gym. Our fall teaching series will start in Genesis, looking at what it means to be made in the image of God. As identity development continues into middle school, we see this to be a relevant topic for your kids. The small group time consists of teambuilding activities, discussion questions about the large group teaching and prayer. It is important to us that each student be part of a group (divided by grade and gender) that allows them to connect with other Christians their age and also be in relationship with a volunteer. Our volunteers are ready and excited to meet your kids!

### **Wednesday Nights**

Our Wednesday nights will kick off on Sept. 23rd. We meet from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in the gym. The evening starts out with games or activities designed to create space for relationships to cultivate between students and leaders. Then we have a snack followed by worship and a short message. Our focus on Wednesday Nights is to deepen existing friendships in the group and to always make new students feel welcome. We hope you'll help your child arrange their schedule so they can be there regularly and bring their friends along as well.

## **Chucksters**

On Saturday, October 3rd, we will be heading up to Concord, NH to Chucksters! My Uncle Chuck owns the place and built it for groups just like ours. Chucksters is an outdoor recreation complex that boasts mini-golf, batting cages, go-karts, a climbing wall and trampolines. You can find more information at [chucksters.com](http://chucksters.com). We will be leaving the Church at 12:30 p.m. and will return at 5:30 p.m. The cost for this event will be \$30.00. This includes transportation, a round of mini-golf, 4 tokens for batting cages, one climbing session, one bouncing session and one ride on the go karts. Students are welcome to bring more money if they want to do anything twice or if they'd like to purchase food/ice cream. This is a great chance for students and leaders to connect with one another. Hope to see you signed up!

## **Operation Lex**

This year for a variety of reasons, we chose not to have a fall retreat. Instead, we are planning a one day event on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Included in this event will be opportunities for us to serve our local community, worship together and learn more about God. Two messages will be given and there will be plenty of space for our leaders to build relationships with students. The cost for this event will be \$20.00.

## **Militia Madness**

This popular, returning event will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Look forward to a crazy night of fun games, pizza and ice cream. The cost for this event will be \$10.00.

## **Deep Freeze**

Our winter retreat with year will be to Camp Berea for Deep Freeze January 15-17<sup>th</sup>. Our group will join 200 other New England students for a weekend of fun, fellowship and diving into God's word. Berea will be flying in an awesome speaker, Sam Bhatt, who actually went to my high school in Delaware, really cool! The Mark White Band will be leading our kids in worship for the weekend. Get ready for a snow-filled weekend. This is a great event for your kids to invite their friends to. Spots are limited for the weekend, so be sure to sign up soon. The initial cost for the weekend will be \$135.00 and prices will incrementally increase by \$5.00 as time draws closer to the event.

## **Website**

We will be keeping our website up to date with the latest information. The website will also have all the necessary forms for you to download from home.

[www.grace.org/middleschool](http://www.grace.org/middleschool)

## **Connect with Our Team**

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Looking forward to connecting with you this year!!!

Andrew Breton  
Director of Middle School Ministry