
LOGOS PARENT HANDBOOK

Congregational Church of Batavia, UCC
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THE LOGOS SYSTEM

1. WHAT IS THE LOGOS SYSTEM OF MINISTRY?

The LOGOS System is a weekday design of nurturing ministry for youth, children, families and every member of the Congregational Church of Batavia. Biblically rooted in the characteristics which describe the early Christian community in Acts 2:42, LOGOS is the theology and practice of Christian relationships in a disciplined context.

The LOGOS System of Christian Nurture has been described as a well structured weekly “retreat” that provides all the dynamics of a good camp experience in the church! When properly applied, it guarantees the growth of intergenerational relationships that bond an entire congregation and enable it to grow towards fullness as an authentic community of faith. In weekly sessions, children and youth participate in:

- Bible Study
- Worship
- Activities
- Dinner

2. THE PURPOSE OF LOGOS

The purpose of LOGOS is to:

- deepen, strengthen, and build personal faith relationships with Jesus Christ as Lord of all life:
- develop intelligent, active and loyal membership and leadership in the church of Jesus Christ.
- give worthwhile study, wholesome recreation and opportunities for service all bound together in a true Christian context.
- develop the kind of Christians who are able and willing to communicate their faith, and to assume personal responsibility for assisting with the building of God’s Kingdom on earth.

3. THE STANDARDS OF THE LOGOS SYSTEM

There are several age levels included in the program; K-1, Grades 2-6, Grades 7-8, and Senior High School.

Every participant will be encouraged to participate in all four parts of the program every Wednesday, and in Sunday School and Worship every Sunday. The only exception to this is the confirmation option that allows confirmation students to only participate in the Bible Study and Worship portion of the program on Wednesdays and in Sunday Worship services.

Proclaiming the Gospel will be done through Bible study, worship, crafts and recreational activities, a dinner hour, and participation in Sunday Worship.

Participants are expected to treat each other as a child of God. In turn, they should expect that from all other participants – adults, youth and children.

The program will be supported primarily through tuition payments, donations and program fundraisers.

4. LOGOS SYSTEM OUTLINE

We include four areas of study and experience for each child and youth participant. These elements are follows:

A. Bible Study

The LOGOS System offers a program of Bible study which is the heart of the program. It is designed to train people to be intelligent, committed and concerned Christian men and women. The staff and qualified lay persons will teach these classes.

The 7th and 8th grade confirmation Bible study includes material on the United Church of Christ and prepares students for the service of Confirmation in May of the 8th grade year.

The curriculum used this year for the 2nd – 6th graders will be a combination of programs designed to teach Bible Basics and Basic Christian Beliefs and “Spiritual Champions”, a study designed to teach children how to be disciples of Jesus. For 7th-8th grade, the curriculum used this year will be a curriculum generated by our own staff and volunteers. High School students will be experiencing Bible study in small groups as they discuss how their faith applies to life.

B. Worship

The objective of Worship is to train young people and adults in worship and service to God. All children and youth in LOGOS participate in Worship on Wednesdays and Sundays as an important part of their spiritual formation. 2nd-6th grade students sing contemporary songs, play choir chimes and present a Spring drama, with music related to the bible study. LOGOS students in grades 7-12 will participate in various worship experiences including singing, drama and art. All students participate in an 8th Night Worship Service each trimester.

C. Activities

During activity time, there are supervised service projects, crafts and recreation activities covering a broad range of interests. Activity time creates an opportunity to have fun and fellowship at no one’s expense. High School students will be given even greater opportunities, which will include several field trips.

D. Confirmation Programs: 7th & 8th Grades

Confirmation is really the beginning of one’s walk with Christ. For this reason, we believe that young people will be most adequately prepared for adult lives of faith and adult membership in the Church, through a program which nurtures them in the faith. This is best accomplished by full participation in all four parts of the LOGOS design, from early grades through High School. However, for those who choose, participation in Bible Study and Worship from 6:30-8:00 pm, meets the church’s

Confirmation requirements. If you choose this option, please don't bring your child before 6:30 as supervision will not be available for him/her.

E. Dinner Hour

The Dinner Hour is held in Paxton Hall for 2nd grade through High School. Nutritious meals are provided and formal place settings are used.

Experiencing a common meal together is an essential part of LOGOS. Sharing a meal together has a unifying effect. One of the most common expressions we encounter in the book of Acts, "the breaking of the bread together", has both sacramental and fellowship meal implications.

Dinner Hour is an opportunity for the cultivation of a unique sense of being together as the family of God. Participants grow in practicing unselfishness and respect for others as they share together in clearing the tables, serving one another, etc. It is also a place where courteous table manners and "children of God" living are expected. LOGOS participants will eat at a table filled with other students of various ages and with table parents. Two table parents are assigned to the same group of students for the year. They focus on developing relationships with each student.

5. TUITION AND FEES

The LOGOS year consists of three 8-week terms. The registration fees are charged each trimester per child. This fee covers the cost of dinner, Bible Study materials and books, worship materials and supplies for decorations, most activities and administration costs. (There may be a small additional charge for some activities). If a family has three or more children in the program, there is a prorated family fee.

Dinner for Guests (students/adults) or Kids' Club Participants: Please put \$2.00 in the manila envelope hanging on the kitchen door

NOTE: No child will be kept out of the LOGOS Program due to his or her parents' inability to pay the registration fee. Please speak to Marcia Schneider, (DCEYM), Laura Bernabei (DCM), or a member of the LOGOS Administration Team if you are in need of any financial assistance.

The total for each term is due at registration time or by the week before the start of each term.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

BATAVIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LOGOS PROGRAM

Reason for Charging Tuition

Charging tuition for participants in the program rather than having all costs borne by the church budget is an important ingredient in the design of ministry. Programs which have not charged tuition have had a much lower success rate than those that did. Many programs, including ours, that charge tuition are more successful than those that do not.

6. PARENT PARTICIPATION IN LOGOS

The LOGOS Ministry enables parents to fulfill a portion of the vows required of them when they presented their child for baptism. Parents are to assist their child with assignments, encourage their faith and regular participation, and further their growth in the Christian life. When parents participate, it shows their children where their hearts lie.

Active participation by at least one parent is required for at least one 45-minute part of one 8-week session for each child in the program. More time is always appreciated. Since the staff is voluntary, part-time service by a large number of people is essential to keep the many activities going. At least as important, however, is the “morale boosting” effect of the parents’ physical presence and visible participation in the successful operation of LOGOS. For those unable to attend Wednesday evenings, other options are available.

Parents can sign up for participation in one or more of the following areas of service:

- A. 2nd-6th Grade Bible Study Teachers
Commitment for a full LOGOS year, 45 minute of class each week, plus preparation time.
- B. 2nd-6th Grade Worship
Worship leaders and parent helpers are needed each trimester to engage the students in singing, drama, hand bells and other types of worship.
- C. 2nd-6th Grade Activities
Leaders and helpers will work with the children each trimester in fun activities, games or crafts, or sharing of one’s personal interests and talents. New ideas are always welcome.
- D. K-1 Hour of Power Program
Bible study, music and games are provided for Kindergarten through 1st Grade students, 5:15-6:00 PM. This is a year-long teaching commitment. Helpers are provided as needed. Cherub Choir meets from 4:45 to 5:15 each Wednesday, we encourage the Hour of Power children to participate in the choir as well.
- E. Junior and Senior High Team
Members of the Junior High and Senior High Teams commit to a full calendar year or more of ministry to students during LOGOS and at other times. If you are interested in working with this age group, please contact Marcia Schneider at (630) 879-1999.
- F. Dinner
Trimester Commitments:
 - The Dinner Coordinator plans the menus, works with the Decorator, the Shopper and the Meal Preparation Team.
 - The Decorator establishes a theme with the Dinner Coordinator and decorates the dining room.
 - The Shopper receives a shopping list from the Dinner Coordinator and delivers the food to the new kitchen off of Paxton Hall.
 - Meal Preparers work to prepare the meals.

Set-Up Crew sets the tables from 4:45-5:45 PM.

Clean-Up Crew works from 6:00-7:30 PM. Duties include taking down tables, vacuuming the floor and washing dishes.

Year-Long Commitments:

The Dinner Dean emcees the meal by praying, providing a table game and keeping in touch with the Table Parents.

Two Table Parents are responsible for the supervision of the youth at their table each week during dinner. Their main goal is to build strong relationships with the children at their table. Table Parents should be in the dining room approximately 10 minutes prior to the dinner hour (5:35-6:30 PM).

G. Kids Club

Kids Club is a free childcare service provided to children 1st Grade and under whose parents are working elsewhere in the program. There will be a primary childcare provider, who will work with a helper;

Kids Club Helper:

Volunteers commit to a trimester to assist in the Kids Club room.

H. LOGOS Board

The LOGOS Program is run by a board consisting of five members who meet monthly. Positions include: Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry, the Director of Children's Ministry, Facilitator, Secretary, Treasurer and Members at Large.

7. COURTESY AT LOGOS

The only rule of the LOGOS program is "Everyone is to treat everyone else as a child of God." General demeanor at LOGOS should reflect Christian thought and concern for others. Courtesy is expected at all times, whether the student is engaged in study, play, worship or dinner.

Participants will covenant with the staff, volunteers and each other to maintain courtesy, kindness and "child of God" living.

8. DINNER HOUR AT LOGOS

LOGOS members are assigned tables for the dinner hour. These assignments are generally not subject to change without the specific consent of the Dinner Dean and the Table Parents. Every effort will be made to make sure each youth has a friend at his/her table. All High School youth sit at the High School table. Good manners and table etiquette will be emphasized by each Table Parent. Table serving and clean-up duties will be assigned on a rotating basis from week to week.

Students are to remain in the dining room until dismissal, unless specifically and personally excused by the Dinner Dean.

LOGOS DINNER HOUR RULES

- A) The meal begins after Grace is given.
- B) Treat your table family royally – we are all children of God.
 - Cooperate
 - Be courteous
 - Have good manners
 - Follow your Table Parents' instructions
 - Please stay seated unless excused
 - Please eat what you take
 - Please do not criticize what you may not care for
- C) The signal for silence is a RAISED HAND: please listen to the Dinner Dean.
- D) Ask your Table Parent if you need to leave the table

9. ATTENDANCE AT LOGOS AND GUEST POLICIES

- A) If a student will be absent for ANY part of LOGOS, please call the church office at 879-1999 by 4:00 p.m. that day. Leave a message with the church secretary or on the answering machine.
- B) If your child must leave early, please contact the LOGOS Facilitator or adult in charge before you leave the building.
- C) Parents will be notified if a child is not present during all four parts of the evening and the church did not receive a call, unless an attendance waiver is signed. The attendance waiver is for Junior and Senior High students only.
- D) If a student will be bringing a guest, please call the church office by Monday of that week. The cost of each guest is \$2.00 per visit. Guest fees should be put in the manila envelope on the kitchen door.
- E) A guest may attend LOGOS three times per year. At the first visit, a student will be given a packet of information about LOGOS as well as a registration form. The LOGOS board will also make a contact with the family of the visitor to explain LOGOS and to answer any questions. After visiting up to three times, students will be asked to enroll. This practice is intended to encourage their attendance and to present an opportunity for a parent to serve as a volunteer.

10. LOGOS FOR GRADES 2-8

- A) Bring your child to the entrance of Paxton Hall at 5:00 each Wednesday. Please do not arrive any earlier than 4:55 or any later than 5:05, without notifying the LOGOS Administrator. Children who arrive too late may disrupt the ongoing classes or activities upon their arrival. Parents of program workers are requested to keep their youngsters with them if they arrive early to work in the program.
- B) Please be sure your child enters the church. Each child is to participate in the entire four-part program. (Attendance will be taken at all four parts of LOGOS).
- C) We ask for regular attendance to insure full benefit of the program. Please call the church office as soon as possible if your child will not be able to attend. We are assuring your child's safety by verifying each child's absence and you will receive a call from us when your child is absent if we do not hear from you. (Unless we have an attendance waiver form.)

- D) At the end of LOGOS, please come to the church to meet your child. Darkness and congested parking means that we all must be very careful and patient when picking up the children. Dismissal for all grades will be 8:00 p.m. 2nd through 6th graders must be picked up in Paxton Hall by an adult. (Don't forget our car pooling availability!)
- E) Please honor your Parent Commitment to serve at LOGOS. Arrange for your own substitute, call the LOGOS Facilitator or call the coordinator with whom you work the most directly, if you have any problems finding a substitute. Our leaders are not paid, but are working for our Lord in committing this time for the development of our young people. These leaders count on YOU! You, by giving of your time, can render a vital service to our Lord, our children and youth, and to our church.
- F) Please assist your child in preparation of any weekly Bible assignment. Participate in and encourage daily Bible reading and prayer at home.

11. LOGOS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

- A) The High School section of LOGOS represents the fullest expression of this design of nurturing ministry. Special trips and exciting activities are a unique feature of the High School program. Wednesday programming for High School is located in the Youth Lounge of the Education Wing and includes the same four basic elements of Bible Study, Dinner, Worship and Fellowship activities.
- B) While the High School program is run a bit differently to reflect and respect the maturity of the participants, the basic structure which gives the program its success remains intact. Our policy of taking attendance and items C, E & F from Section 10 (above) still apply.
- C) High School students are asked to enter the education wing of the building and go immediately to the Youth Lounge. The Lounge will be available for study or fellowship from 4:00-5:00, prior to the start of the program for those youth who wish to utilize this option. The program will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. On evenings when field trips will be taken, program participants will be notified of time changes, if any, and additional fees, if any. Parents are asked to give their consent on the request form covering all out of building activities for the year.

12. TRANSPORTATION

If transportation is needed to or from the LOGOS Program for your children, please make this notation on your registration form. Every effort will be made toward car pooling and transportation aide to those in need.

13. CHILDCARE FOR LOGOS WORKERS

Those parents or adults working in the LOGOS Program on Wednesday evenings may take advantage of our childcare called Kids Club which will be available weekly from 4:55-8:00 p.m. There will be no charge for this service. However, children who will be attending the program between 6:00-6:45 p.m. are asked to bring \$2.00 per person or a sack lunch as the group will eat dinner together at that time.

Please note this need on the registration form prior to the start of LOGOS. We will need the child's age, time of attendance, and how often your child will be attending.

14. LOGOS MINISTRY TEAM

Member Name	Area
Marcia Schneider	Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry
Laura Bernabei	Director of Children's Ministry
Nancy Hampton	Secretary
Pat Vidlak	Member at Large
Elaine Mainzinger	Member at Large
Cari Neville	Member at Large
Laura Bernabei	Dinner Dean
Julie Crane	Hour of Power
David Foxgrover	Pastor/8 th Grade Confirmation
Amy Apperson Amy Thompson	Confirmation Coordinators

Jr. High Ministry Team: Ann Alexander, Amy Apperson, Amy Thompson, Amanda Srail, Heather Hamilton, Betsey Lewis, Terry Lewis, Ed Plamondon, Tyler Brauhn

Sr. High Ministry Team: Owen Beckley, Diane Felt, Steve Felt, Cindy Neader, Marcia Schneider