



Parents of incoming 6th graders:

What an exciting time to be a parent! Just when you thought you had mastered the skill of parenting, your student is about to enter a new season of life. Take heart, the middle school years are crammed with fun times, new experiences, and inspiring moments. And if you're like most middle school parents, you'll also experience some challenges and unexpected realities along the way.

The longer I serve in middle school, the more I realize how important it is for our middle school team to partner with parents as they nurture their students through these years of transition—social, emotional, spiritual, and physical. While our middle school leaders don't intend to parent students, we do aim to be a voice in your student's life that points them to honoring God and maturing in Christ.

With this in mind, I want to outline a few of the plans that Lois Hales, Director of Children's Ministry, Patsy Webb, Associate Director of Children's Ministry and I have come up with relative to transitioning your students into the middle school ministry.

**RIOT PREVIEW NIGHT** - This night is planned specifically for incoming 6th grade students and their parents. On Wednesday, June 15 (7-8:30 p.m.), you and your students are invited for a preview of our Wednesday night ministry program. We'll give your kids a sample of what we do and I'll spend a good amount of time talking with you about how we can best partner together over the next three years.

**WEEKEND COMMUNITY MOVE-UP DAY** - Since the Middle School Communities will be a new environment for your students, our transition team will make several appearances during the month of August to your student's 5th grade Community. Our purpose is to help your student get to know our team and prepare them to transition to Middle School Communities on September 10 and 11.

**SUMMER TRANSITION EVENTS** - During the summer, we offer occasional events to begin building relationships with your students. These events will also include upcoming 7th and 8th graders. I've enclosed information that gives details on each event. Parents are welcome to join us for any or every event.

**WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER** - I send out an email newsletter every Monday around 4 p.m. It gives the latest details on events and lesson topics, as well as need-to-know info. It's constructed in a quick view format so you can find the info you want within 20 seconds and follow links if you need additional info. Please register by emailing Susan D'Apice, [sdapice@valleycommunity.cc](mailto:sdapice@valleycommunity.cc), our administrative assistant.



If you are not able to make it to the Riot Preview Night or if you have questions, please contact me by phone, email, or set up an appointment. I look forward to partnering with you over the next three years.

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