



August 2018

Dear Parent,

Over the last 20 years of working with high school students I've found that one of the most difficult hurdles for teens to overcome is the transition from middle school to high school. For many students, they never get to experience all that our high school ministry offers **because they didn't get involved during the first few months of that transition period**. I want you to know that I'm very excited about getting your child involved in our ministry and want to help connect with them in whatever way I can.

When I talk to incoming 9th grade students about their transition into high school YG I use these **5 key words...**

FEAR: I tell them that the transition from being the "big shot" in the middle school group to being the youngest in the high school group is scary. Those feelings are natural and real. It is scary being new and walking into a room of students who are older. At FUEL, we strive to create a safe environment for our teens to learn and grow, and the fear quickly dissipates.

FUN: Many students use the word "boring" when they describe church. We want students to have a good time in our ministry. While fun and laughter is of high value to us, our goal is not to entertain your teen, but to live out authentic Christian lives before them and to present a relationship with Jesus as life's greatest prize and adventure. Serving Jesus is far from boring!

FAITH: Our primary goal is to help your child mature in their faith. Whether it's through a retreat, a missions outreach, the preaching of God's Word each Friday at the FUEL service or in a small group where they can experience deeper community and accountability, our goal and prayer is to see our students "own" their faith and take their relationship with God seriously. We will do all we can to assist students in this journey of spiritual development. I want to emphasize the word "assist" because their spiritual growth isn't solely dependent on our student ministry. We want to partner with you as parents because we recognize that God has given you the responsibility and privilege to disciple and teach your kids to be followers of Jesus. During the next 4 years I hope to provide you with resources, seminars and prayer support to help you accomplish this. You are not alone!

FINISH: I want to see students finish their high school years strong in their faith. Our adult leadership team is affirmed when graduating seniors have strong convictions about their faith and a lifestyle that reflects their convictions. Because the next four years are pivotal for your child, we want to help them make the most of their time in Youth Group so they can have the tools to continue developing a strong faith even after they have graduated from our ministry.

FRIENDS: "Students become like the people they hang out with". Even though students don't like to hear these words, I've seen that truth played out thousands of times over the years. Almost everything in high school revolves around friends! To finish strong, good friends **are** vital! My prayer is that life-long, godly friendships will be made and cultivated during their time at FUEL.

We want to help make the transition from middle school into high school not only memorable for your child, but as easy as possible on you also. On Friday, September 14th at 7:30 pm is this year's Youth Group kick off! It is a special service we call FUSION. Fusion is a monthly gathering when the middle school and high school students come together for a night of worship, challenge from God's word and some fun surprises... this month's surprise is FREE CHICK-FIL-A! I hope that your 9th grader can join us for this awesome night!

I am here to assist you and your family through this transition in any way I can. Thank you for allowing me to minister to your teen, and to you as parents. I count it as a privilege. Let the fun and adventure begin!

Pastor Seth
Youth Pastor