

WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



August 2018

Dear Middle School Parent,

Have those words hit you yet? In just a few days you will officially be the parent of a middle schooler! As this reality sets in, allow me a few minutes of your time to introduce you to our middle school ministry, the EDGE, and explain what the moving up plan looks like.

First off, if this time in your child's life could be summed up with one word, it would be CHANGE. Over the next 3 years, your son/daughter will go through some exciting, interesting, amazing and at times frustrating changes. These changes include:

- Social Changes** - Peer pressure increases as friendships become a bigger influence than in the past.
- Physical Changes** - Puberty, growth spurts and many other changes taking place in their bodies.
- Intellectual Changes** - They will begin to think abstractly, push boundaries by questioning authority and yes, you'll even see some maturing along the way as well.
- Spiritual Changes** - Questioning their faith and what they have been taught can be a scary time for parents but this is a necessary part of them owning their faith and making Christ their own.

From here on out their lives will be shaped by the choices that they will make for themselves. That is why our goal is to introduce your pre-teen to a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ and to give them the tools they need to grow in that relationship, in partnership with you as their parents. We seek to do this through our weekly meeting on Wednesday nights and through the various events and retreats that we do throughout the year.

The moving up date into youth group will be on **Wednesday, September 12th**- when we kickoff a new year at the EDGE. We start at 7PM and will have a special movie night with free popcorn as we welcome the 6th graders and begin a new year together. This is purely your choice as to whether or not your child is ready to take this step. Please feel free to stop in with your pre-teen to check out what EDGE service looks like. If you feel they are not yet ready, the next time they will be able to move up into the EDGE will be in January 2019, and after that, the summer of 2019 will be their next opportunity. Please keep me in the loop with whatever you decide and feel free to ask as many questions as you need to during this process.

Also- a few days later, your middle schooler is invited to attend their first **FUSION** service, on **Friday, September 14th at 7:30 pm**. Fusion is a monthly service where our middle school and high school students come together for a night of worship, a challenge from God's word- and some special surprises... this month- FREE CHICK-FIL-A!

My heart is to come alongside you during these years, as together we seek to provide a safe environment for your child to connect socially and to be challenged spiritually. Thank you for allowing Island Christian Church, and myself, to play a small part in God's plan for your child. I look forward to getting to know you and your family this coming year... and remember we are in this together!

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Seth

If you are receiving this letter it is because our records show that you have a child moving up into the 6th grade. If this is not the case, please disregard this letter and take a moment to inform us of the error in our records by emailing anny@ichristianc.org. Thanks for your help!