

Audio file

[Leader Announcements November 6.mp3](#)

Transcript

Hello Middle school volunteers. These are the volunteer announcements for the week of Wednesday, November 6th, 2024.

The theme this Wednesday night is Color Night and everyone is encouraged but not required to dress according to the following guidelines.

8th graders, students and leaders, you are encouraged to wear the color blue.

7th graders, Green

6th graders Red

again, 8th graders, blue 7th graders, Green and 6th graders Red

We thought it would be fun to have some class unity and we figure somebody everybody's got something of one of those colors that you can wear--not required.

We're going to do something new this Wednesday night. We're going to experiment with it and see how it goes. At the very beginning of the night, we're going to do just a small group check in because we want you to know what students from your small group are here on Wednesday night. And so right at 6:30, just for like 5 minutes, we're going to have you meet with your small group. And the main thing is to gather your students to say hi and to take attendance on your phone. And we're really not going to allow any structured conversation to happen other than just that quick check in. So just 5 minutes with your small group at the beginning of the night, and then we will move into game time.

And what we're going to do instead is towards the end of the night after the lesson, you're going to have a more extended small group time. So instead of like 15 or 20 minutes in small group after the talk, you'll have 25 to 30 minutes and for that small group time at the end of the night. For the extended time we want to encourage you to spend the 1st 5 to 7 minutes in social time just checking in, seeing how everyone's doing and have some fun get to know you conversation.

And then about 20 minutes of that can be spent in spiritual conversation debriefing the lesson for the night and then the final five to seven minutes, you can do prayer and for that prayer time you can have students share prayer requests and then have other students in the group volunteer to pray out loud for those prayer requests.

So we're just going to experiment with this extended small group discussion time towards the end of the night and we'll see how it goes. We'll break down the small group discussion guide with these different elements so you'll be able to follow along clearly.

Chris Krusemark, one of our 6th grade boys leaders, is going to teach this Wednesday night and he's kicking off a three-week series from the book of Philippians and this Wednesday we're going to talk about Philippians 2:3 through 4, where followers of Jesus are encouraged to not just look at their own interests. But to look at other people's interests and to put other people first. So it's about not being self-centered and putting others first.

For the leader tip for some encouragement, I want to say thank you to everybody who served at the Blitz all nighter. It is such a fun event. Kids love it. There's so many great memories that happen. I mean, lifelong memories. I still hear students from 10 years ago talk about their memories from Blitz. So many great connection opportunities. I'm trusting that multiple multiple students made first time decisions to follow Jesus at Blitz. So whether you stayed up all night or you helped just on Friday night or just on Saturday morning or you came halfway through the night or you woke up at 3:00 AM to help us finish out the event in any way that you contributed to blitz...Thank you!

And and I think now it's time for a little bit of rest. We've had a lot going on in middle school Ministry this fall. We've had kick off. We've had fall retreat, great Pumpkin party, blitz, all packed within a couple of months and those things are all good. And of course we're going to continue with our Wednesday nights every week, but we're going to have just a little bit of a pause from special events here and I want to encourage you whether or not you participated in blitz to make sure that you are blocking out ample time just to rest and to be still and recognize the fact that we are finite creatures with a limited supply of energy. I think one reason God designed us to need rest is a reminder that we are not God. We are not in control and the world keeps on turning even when we stop moving ourselves. So may you find time to rest and slow down and pause in the midst of your life here in the next week and in the weeks to follow.

Thanks for everything you do. We'll see you on Wednesday night!