

Hello middle school volunteers!

These are the announcements for the week of Wednesday, January 29. Thank you for checking in.

I want to give a shout out to recognize all the volunteers who invested this past weekend to spend it with us at the Winter Blast Retreat. There were so many good things that happened, so many things to celebrate, and of course it would not have worked without all the awesome volunteers who were there with us. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I hope you can rest and recover over the next few days.

The theme this Wednesday night is Black Light Night. So you don't have to, but I encourage you to wear a white t-shirt or something light colored because that is what looks the most fun under a black light. So we'll have time at the beginning of the night where girls will have some small group social time to just catch up and talk while the guys are in the gym doing black light activities. And then after about 15 minutes, we'll switch. So the boys will have small group social out in the cafe while the girls go into the gym and have some fun with the black lights. So we will have separate small group social time and small group spiritual time this Wednesday.

Chris Krusemark is teaching. Thank you, Chris, for stepping up to do that. This is our third week in our series about wisdom.

And then starting next Wednesday with the first Wednesday night in February, we will begin our series on love, sex, dating, and relationships. It's called Heart to Heart, and it's one of the most interesting months of the school year. It's a topic that really captivates middle schoolers' attention, but it also can make them uncomfortable and a little scared. but we're not afraid to go there because God cares about all those things and we want students to know what God thinks about those things. We want students to think biblically about love, sex, dating, and relationships. So I wanted to give you that heads up.

Our next middle school special event is we're going to encourage students to help out with the Night to Shine event. Night to Shine is a prom night experience for adults and teenagers who are age 14 plus. It's hosted by Valley Church and the Valley Community Center, and it's on Friday, February 7. And there's lots of ways that people can volunteer. If you want to volunteer, there's so many opportunities throughout the night.

We're going to encourage middle schoolers to be dance buddies during the event, which means from 7 to 9 p.m they'll get dressed up in formal wear whatever they have at home and come to the valley community center and just be a part of the dance they help bring some energy and excitement and just populate the dance floor to make it feel more full and more fun for the guests that night so middle schoolers can sign up for that on the middle school events page the theme for next Wednesday night will be VeggieTales night, so I wanted to give you a preview on that.

And finally, I want to remind you for some leader encouragement, I want to remind you of the mission of Valley Church. We are all about mobilizing middle schoolers' God-given potential to deeply love Christ and their neighbors, and that is a grand vision. I think you can know that you have helped live out that mission on a specific Wednesday night by doing three things.

Number one, you're able to greet the students in your small group by name. Do you know the first name of all the students in your small group?

Number two, have you had at least one meaningful interaction on a Wednesday night? And I think a meaningful interaction is something positive that you can remember at the end of the night. It doesn't necessarily have to be a deep conversation. It doesn't necessarily have to be something spiritual. It could be a time where you just had a lot of fun with a student or you laughed with them and you had some fun together.

So can you remember students' names? Greet them by name.

Number two, have you had at least one meaningful interaction on a Wednesday night?

And number three, have you been able to share at least one thing with a middle schooler or with your small group of middle schoolers about following Jesus?

If you can do those three things, greet students by name, have one meaningful interaction, and share at least one thing with students about following Jesus, you will help in our mission of mobilizing students' God-given potential to deeply love Christ and their neighbors.

Thanks for checking in. We'll see you this Wednesday night!