

Welcome & Fall Kickoff

Valley Church middle school ministry small group leaders! This is the start of the new school year. So to our 7th and 8th grade leaders, welcome back! And to our 6th grade leaders, we're so glad that you're joining this ministry. This is your volunteer announcements for September 9th. This week is our fall kickoff, and we're so excited. We've got a lot of momentum coming from last year and are super excited for this year. So, we'll go over the schedule, and then also some new things to middle school ministry, and then your leader tip, which we'll do weekly.

Schedule & Night Flow

So, for the schedule this week, we will have game time in the gym. We'll have rotation: dodgeball as one rotation, and then on the other side of the gym will be volleyball and a 9-square setup. And then we have a fun drink backpack, the one you guys got to demo this last week at our volunteer kickoff. That'll be a rotation in the hallway and cafe where students will get to get a fun drink, and then that's also when we will take attendance.

For 7th and 8th grade leaders, you'll just use Church Center as normal. For new 6th grade leaders, we'll have a sheet for you to write down students' names on so we can get them plugged into small groups. As a reminder, students have the ability to fill out the small group form where they can request what friends they would like to be in a small group with. We cannot guarantee they'll be with all their friends, but we'll try to get a couple of them in their small group.

Then we will go through the rest of the night as we kind of normally would: we'll have expectations and announcements, we'll have a talk (Joe will be speaking this week), and then we're going to jump right into worship. We're going to do three worship songs as normal.

New Ministry Updates

Some new exciting things in middle school ministry this year:

- **Merch Site:** We have launched a brand new merch site, which you guys would have seen at our volunteer kickoff, but it will be going live for students Wednesday night. That's where you can get things like this—you see the logo behind me. Everything is as cheap as we can make it. Super excited to give students a tool to tell their friends about the ministry, and the more the merrier!
- **Fall Retreat:** October 2nd through 4th. All leaders are invited, and we will pay for you to go. As someone who's gone on like eight fall retreats at this point, it's worth it. Absolutely sign up!

Leader Tip of the Week

In addition to that, your leader tip for this week: It's the start of the school year, it's busy, and all sorts of schedules are starting. (I know I'm now an adult and adjusting to that!) So, ask questions. If you're a 7th grade leader or 8th grade leader who still feels like there's something they don't know, ask the question. If you're a 6th grade leader, you shouldn't know the answers—we don't

expect you to! So ask a 7th or 8th grade leader, or ask Joe, Rachel, or I, or another experienced small group leader.

We are so excited to be in ministry this year, and we can't wait to see you this Wednesday night.
Peace!