

HILLCREST YOUTH MINISTRIES



Dear Middle School Parents,

The middle school years can be some of the greatest and most difficult moments of a person's life. I've always felt that these years are one of the most overlooked transitional times for students. High school and college years are notorious for being the age where you "discover" yourself, but middle school is where the foundations of a person's life really start to get tested. This is the time when most students will first have their faith challenged and when they'll first start to wrestle with the questions, "Who am I?" and more importantly, "Who do I want to become?" Not light stuff.

Confirmation at Hillcrest was developed in an effort to help our middle school students wrestle with those questions, so they understand how God sees them with hope that through doing so, they will take ownership of their faith! They probably don't see themselves the same way, yet it's so incredibly important for them to know that God is making them into something special.

With that being the "big idea" of confirmation I want to give you a quick snapshot of what we will be doing in confirmation to help our 7th graders chase after that goal. My hope is that after reading the information below you will sign up your son/daughter up for confirmation and begin to pray for God to work in amazing and eternal ways in their life!

There are three words that I want to use to describe the confirmation experience: **Big, Small and One.**

"Big" represents the monthly large group gathering of all the confirmands. The purpose of this time will be to learn about the area of focus for the month. Typically, the teaching will involve more hands-on learning experiences (i.e. Going as a group to Freedom Fire to learn about serving others.).

"Small" is all about confirmands growing in their relationship with God by surrounding themselves with a small group of peers their age (this group will meet at the monthly "big" event) for spiritual encouragement and accountability.

"One" is focused on setting up our confirmation students to grow closer to God on a one-on-one basis using risk, scripture, church and prayer. More specifically confirmands will be given monthly assignments (we will email these assignments to you when you register) that will help them to grow in those areas. Knowing the busy schedules of 7th graders we have set up these assignments each month with a lot of flexibility built in. We only ask that assignments are not rushed through, they are completed in the month they are assigned and you as a parent sign the bottom of the page after reviewing the assignment with your kid. Here is a little more detail into what the assignment will look like:

- **Serving Other** – Each month spend at least 2 hours serving others (at church, community, school, etc.).
- **Moment Maker Family Event** – Each month (as a family) you will create a "Moment Maker" event to do together (more info on this event at parents meeting).

- **Scripture Memory** - Each month scripture passages will be memorized and applied to their life.
- **Service Notes** – Each month take notes on any two church services during the month.

I would encourage those who might be interested in being a part of confirmation to sign up! All sign up is done on our middle school website. The cost of confirmation is \$50. Cost includes a new Bible, journal, and other materials. Anyone is welcome to be a part of confirmation...whether someone is connected here at Hillcrest or not! Here is a link to the registration page.

Lastly, we will be having our first confirmation gathering on Sunday, October 21 at 9:00am in the upper level of the Student Center. Parents we are asking for you to attend this important gathering with your kid. During our time together, we will talk through important details for the upcoming year (including key dates), hand out the confirmation Bibles and have a time for you and to dream together about the great things God is going to do this upcoming year!

Thanks again for being amazing parents to work with and we are really excited to see how God uses confirmation both in your kids' life and your family's life!

Nate Severson and Clarissa Figueiredo