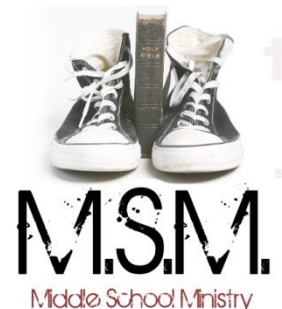


# St. John's Middle School Ministry 2022-23

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*Our purpose is:  
to help students OWN THEIR FAITH  
through a partnership between parents and church.*



## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Please complete the **St. John's family registration form** available online. It applies to all programs below and all Children, Youth & Family events. Only one registration per family needed.

Our Confirmation program at St. John's begins with a pre-Confirmation 2-year Bible Overview Class in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Formal Confirmation Classes with Pastor Brian begin in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, students put their faith into action with monthly gatherings, participation in High School Youth Group, and a Lutherdale Retreat, and then are Confirmed in May. We expect families to participate in worship on a regular basis.

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### **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Connect Class**

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders meet on Sunday evenings, every other week, from 4:30pm-6:00pm. In these two years, students are engaged in a Bible overview using the Connect Curriculum. This is a fun and engaging class! The first day of class is October 9.

**4:30-4:50pm** Light Meal (eaten outdoors when weather allows)  
**5:00-6:00pm** Connect Class

Students can come just for the class portion if you prefer.

### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class**

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders meet on Sunday evenings, every other week, from 4:30pm-6:00pm. In these two years, students are engaged in a Confirmation program led by Pastor Brian, Joanna Salinas and guest leaders. The first day of class is October 2.

**4:30-4:50pm** Light Meal (eaten outdoors when weather allows)  
**5:00-6:00pm** Confirmation Class

Students can come just for the class portion if you prefer.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class & Confirmation Day**

In fall, students begin to work toward their day of Confirmation in May.

There are 3 things in which students participate:

- Meet monthly with their class.
  - Attend an overnight retreat with their mentor
  - Attend High School youth group Sunday mornings.
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## Sunday Mornings

### **8:30am** Traditional Worship

This is our traditional indoor worship with the organ, choir, handbells, special music and liturgy.

### **9:30am** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders/Sunday Morning Youth Leadership Team

Back by popular demand! 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders can share their faith through volunteering as student leaders for Sunday School and within the larger congregation. They will serve a variety of roles. The first day of YLT is Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. **\*\*Adult leaders needed!**

5<sup>th</sup> graders will still participate in the Sunday School program.

### **10:30 am** Family Worship

This is a family-oriented worship experience with a Children's message, family blessing time, and shortened liturgy. This is our contemporary service with the band, with added interactive components designed to engage the entire family. We encourage our Middle Schoolers to serve as worship leaders if they are comfortable in either this service or the 8:30 traditional service. This includes reading the lesson, reading the prayers, serving communion, and ushering. These can all be done as a family as well. Ex) Parent/child read the lesson together.

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## **Monthly Social & Service Events**

Middle Schoolers will be invited to monthly scheduled events where they can build community with each other, St. John's, and the greater church through play, serving, and retreats. Not all events are for all grade levels.

September:	18 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Prepare & Serve Hope Center Meal (1:00-3:30pm)
October:	21 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Game Night (6:30-8:30pm)
November:	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Reformation Village Prep at Church
	6 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Reformation Village Event at Church
	20 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Moses Musical
December:	18 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Advent Party (TBD)

## Expectations for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Students

### Behavioral Expectations

1. Students will be respectful of each other and adult leaders.
2. Students will stay home if not feeling well.
3. Families will notify Joanna for contact tracing if they have a positive Covid test/symptoms within 3 days of attending an event.
4. Students can bring phones but cannot use them during programming.
5. Students will follow St. John's current Covid policy, which may change throughout the year. That policy can be found on St. John's website.

## Program Expectations

### 1) **Class Attendance**

### 2) **Worship Leadership Participation** (at least 5 times per year)

Students may serve as Acolytes, Ushers, Readers, Communion Assistants, A/V Assistant, or musician. Training for these roles will be provided.

### 3) **Youth Leadership Team** (at least 5 times per year)

### 4) **Confirmation Retreat** (At least 1 during 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Years)

5) **Monthly events** are not required but will help make you feel connected to your faith community and give you the opportunity to show your faith through service to others.

## Parent Expectations

Parents are the #1 influence in their student's faith development. Your leadership and your partnership are needed.

- Help your student meet the expectations outlined above and hold them accountable to taking ownership of their faith journey.
- Attend worship regularly with your student.
- Model a life of faith.
- Be open to conversations about your faith, your experiences, your questions.
- Be involved in the middle school ministry through volunteer service

## COSTS

There is no cost for Sunday School or Confirmation.

Middle School events, particularly the Lutherdale retreat may involve costs per student. Scholarships are available to those with financial need upon request (please contact the Pastor or Joanna if you have need for financial assistance).

Any questions?

Contact Joanna Salinas,  
Middle School Ministry Coordinator

[jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org](mailto:jsalinas@stjohnsbrookfield.org)

## **What is a Middle Schooler, Anyway?**

*[from justaphase.com Think Orange ministry]*

The next time you take in an all-star performance from a middle schooler—complete with tears, of course—consider this: behind those emotions is a brain hard at work analyzing, processing and planning the next move.

What we're talking about is a duality of sorts—the middle schooler you see and the middle schooler you don't see.

### **The Middle Schooler You See**

- He's growing like a weed and eating all of your groceries.
- She's happy one moment and crying the next.
- He's embarrassed easily and often by you.
- She knows everything.
- He lies and argues more than ever before.
- She wants to be with her friends. Always with her friends.

### **The Middle Schooler You Don't See**

- He loves to learn and be challenged.
- She wants to know if you care.
- He needs to talk about his feelings, even when his face says otherwise.
- She wrestles with decisions big and small.
- He's starting to view the world through the eyes of others.
- She longs for non-parental adult influence.

When it comes to helping these complex creatures understand who they are in Christ, you have to remember the middle schooler you don't see. The engineer inside needs to know that God can do anything. That He can overcome impossible odds to rebuild what is broken, bring stability, restore peace, resolve doubt, give hope, and redeem everyone—including themselves. "Whatever phase your child is in, remember there's something remarkable happening right now."