

July 13, 2021

Parkside High School

Dear Parents of Rising Freshmen,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the start of summer! Your child soon has the opportunity to join Parkside's High School Ministry, and I'm sending along this letter to introduce myself and to let you know all the ways your family can get involved. My name is Danny Schillero and I am the pastor that oversees our high school ministry at Parkside. I have served on the pastoral team and led our student ministry for the past 8 years, and I want you to know that the beginning of the school year and the excitement of launching into student ministry in the Fall is one of the things I look forward to most every year. I am eager to meet the new students who are making the transition from middle school into high school, and our student ministry team wants to do everything we can to make new students feel welcome and get connected as soon and as smoothly as possible.

Another member of our team you should get to know is Casey Poe, our student ministry coordinator. Casey does a lot in serving our student ministry team, but one of the biggest responsibilities she has is in her role of leading and discipling our female students and leaders. If you have a daughter coming into our youth group, I highly recommend you get to know Casey as soon as possible.

On Thursday, August 5th, your student is invited to join us for our Freshman Welcome Night at **High School Student Impact**. Student Impact (SI) meets regularly on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm at The Warehouse (31200 Solon Road, Solon, OH). This weekly gathering is built around studying the Bible, developing discipleship relationships with fellow students and leaders, worshipping through praise and worship, and simply having fun playing games and enjoying one another's company. To help facilitate and cultivate these relationships, your student will immediately get plugged into a small group led by several adult volunteer leaders along with students who are in the same grade and gender. This is a great first step in making the transition to high school, as your student will have the opportunity to begin the process of getting connected with the larger group.

Another great opportunity to get your upcoming freshman plugged into high school is the **Freshmen Rafting Trip** on August 2-3. During the course of the trip, there will be plenty of opportunities for your student to meet and start building relationships with the adult and student leaders in the ministry. Information is available at www.parksidechurch.com/rafting.

Lastly, starting in September, we will be offering a 12-week long class for high schoolers called **Church 101** on Sundays during the 9am service. This class is designed to teach our high schoolers why being involved in the life of the church is important and gives them practical opportunities to serve and connect in different areas of the wider church. After the class is completed, rather than providing a regular Sunday morning gathering specific to high schoolers, we encourage those students to get connected in other areas of the church. Our goal for students after they finish Church 101 is that they would regularly attend corporate worship, regularly find a place to serve, and regularly find a place to connect with others in a smaller group setting (Sunday Morning Group, Student Impact, etc...) Our desire is that students will come to benefit from and appreciate all that the wider church has to offer in a way that will prepare them to get connected in a local church in the future when they leave high school and move on to college, careers, and adulthood.

Just like in middle school, **the goal of the High School ministry at Parkside is to come alongside parents to see unbelieving students become committed followers of Jesus Christ.** Your student will be challenged by the Bible, develop meaningful friendships, and hopefully have some fun as well. As this new class of freshmen enters the ministry, please pray that God will continue to make Himself known to each and every one of them. We are genuinely looking forward to working with you towards this end, and as such, want to encourage you to contact us if ever you should have a question or concern. I look forward to getting to know your student and getting them connected to what we have going on in Parkside's High School ministry!

Your partner in the Gospel,



Dan Schillero

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