



Fall Newsletter 08

FORMERLY *JOURNEY*



Student Ministry

Fall Newsletter August 08

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FORMERLY *180*

You Tube Links

The Vibe

Youtube.com/201vibe

The Yard

Youtube.com/theyard201

NEW NAMES: SAME VISION

TRANSITIONS:

Elementary to Middle School, Middle School to High School, High School to College...All of those transitions are happening right now and if you have a son or daughter going through one of those, you know how hard it is. Each transition represents a new chapter in kid's and parent's life with its own set of hopes and concerns. Here's a few pointers for helping your child through this season of transitions. Talk about the transition and what they think it might be like before and during the transition. Ask them how they feel about it, what they might be concerned about and what they hope it will be like. Talk about scenarios that are likely to come up...walking into a classroom without knowing anyone, going to lunch the first week, what to say to people when you first meet them, how to interact with a new teacher, how to spot people who might be good friends. Talk with them about how much you love them and how you will always love them no matter what they are going through. And most importantly, talk with them about how God is right beside them all the time. Encourage and expect your child to change. Transitions are built in times of re-invention. Which is good, even though it's sometimes hard on parents. Expect your son or daughter to try out different fashions, hobbies, friends and intellectual pursuits. Even expect and encourage your child to ask good questions about God and faith. Developmentally, transitions are times when kids "own" belief systems and the only way to own faith is to ask your own questions and find the answers out for yourself. Give more freedom and expect more responsibility. It's natural for a kid to want more freedom as they get older and it's natural and necessary to give it to them. Later curfews, more choices about clothing and entertainment, a more adult palette of tastes are all part of a kid growing up. When we offer more freedom to teenagers it's necessary to expect more responsibility from them. Every teenager needs to use their own alarm clock to wake up; every teenager needs to learn to use a planner or calendar to schedule tests, assignments and activities; every teenager needs to learn to come home on time and to be where he or she said she was going to be. And every teenager needs to learn that choices have consequences, Make church a priority for your child. Often parents allow church to become one of the many leisure activities in which a child participates. Church should be one of the stable places in a child's life but they need your help to make the jump from Kidzone to the Junior High Ministry and from the Junior High Ministry to the High School Ministry. This is the time to ensure that your son or daughter starts the year by coming to church. Transitions: Helping your child learn to navigate transitions well is one of the best gifts that you could give. We hope that your kid's involvement at Chase Oaks is part of their path to growing up in Christ.

Jason ganze

Hey Parents!! Here at Chase Oaks one of our "mottos" is celebrating *momentum*. It's a term used to celebrate small steps toward God. I think as parents sometimes we find this difficult when it comes to our kids. What I mean is we "think" they should be strides ahead of where they are, so when they come to us and share instead of celebrating that "momentum" we find the places we feel they fell short. It's not because we're negative, or not happy about the good choices they're making, I think it's more out of fear. That fear of if I don't say something and they blow it then it's my fault so I'm going to throw all the options out there, instead of trusting God. I know as a teenager, I grew and learned the most during those times of failing, the times I stepped backwards, and had to depend on God. It's okay for us to share where we want them to be going, but when they have *momentum* celebrate it, no matter how small, and when they take two steps backwards, we listen and encourage, because soon there will be momentum, somewhere, and we as parents want to be the ones they come to, to celebrate. tracy

One of the craziest times in my life was when I made the leap from elementary school to junior high. We had just moved from Plano to Humble (north of Houston) and I had virtually no friends at all. I remember walking through the doors of Humble Middle School for the first time and thinking one thing and one thing only... "I'M GOING TO DIE!!!" You will be relieved to know, that I didn't die (I knew you were in suspense) but it was a pretty painful process. It was one of the hardest transitions of my life. If I had only had a support system of friends available that transition would have been a lot easier. We are working really hard this year to make sure that your incoming fifth grader will not fall victim to a bad transition. We can't promise absolute perfection in this area but we can promise that we are doing our part to give your students opportunities to connect. I have been hanging out at Kidzone for the past month or so trying to make connections with students so that they aren't geeked out by me talking to them the first night at Journey. We are having a parent meeting on August 24th to help answer questions about Journey and what your student can expect. Our Journey team is putting together a meeting on August 27th where the main focus is welcoming your incoming 6th grader and letting them know we are happy they are there. On Wednesday nights we will have what we are calling "Connection Groups" where your student can meet an adult leader and have someone to connect them to a group of 6th graders and pray for them if they need it. On Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm we have discipleship groups (D-groups) to help connect your student to a group of junior highers and to God. We hope that this year your student won't fall victim to a bad transition. Thanks for making Journey that place where your student will transition well.

Matt Snellings

What up Chase Oaks!!!

Rocky here!!! How are you? Well I must say that I am so excited about being a part of the Chase Oaks family. It has been an incredible adventure so far and your hearts and open arms have blown me away during my first few months. In the next few weeks we will be starting a couple of new things that I am really excited about. The first is Connection Groups. This will be a group that meets during our large group program on Sunday nights. The groups will be broken up by the school you attend and area that you live in. This will not serve as a small group type meeting, but rather this group will serve to create an atmosphere of connection. We want to give students the opportunity to meet other students that they see in the hallways of their school and live in their neighborhood. We will discuss the music we sang or an aspect of the message to get conversation rolling simply to connect students to each other. We want this to serve as growth for two relationships, the relationship with God and with each other. The second group is our Discipleship groups. This will be a voluntary group that meets on Wednesday nights in volunteer's homes. We will meet consistently for a 10-week period starting September 7th. Discipleship groups will be an in depth study that will meet co-ed and then split into gender specific groups at some point during the night. Imagine this as a mini Life Group for high school students. This will be more of a personal atmosphere compared to the Connection group that will focus on living life together. All that to say, I am so excited about what God is going to do during the next few months here at Chase Oaks but more importantly at The Yard. We have seen God increase the amount of students attending significantly on Sunday nights and can't wait to see what is to come. Thank you for your support thus far in my time serving here at Chase Oaks and please let me know how I can be of any assistance to you in any way. **Rocky Garza**

201

As school approaches, I wanted to share some highlights of 201 this summer:

Seeing students from our community play volleyball during all hours of the day and night and having some initial contacts with them

Being able to form new friendships and solidify our partnership with YoungLife

Hosting CityHouse and several Plano schools at 201 so they can cast their vision about making Plano a healthier place for students and families alike

Fall Opportunities

We will resume after school drop in hours for students once school starts (info will be posted in the lobby space in Sept)

YoungLife at 201 resumes on Monday nights in September

Photography workshops will be offered to students after school (no experience necessary)

Recruiting tutors for various subjects at 201 to serve after school

One of the statements I kept on hearing whenever people would use 201 is 'that's amazing a church would open its door to the community'. We want to continue to have 201 available for ministry whether it's people at Chase Oaks or in the community. If you would like to hear about how you can get involved in some of the things we're doing out of 201, drop me a line.

God's best, Ray Tang

Special Events

The Yard

9/10 D Groups 6:00-7:30 p.m.(host homes)

9/20th Back to School Bash 5:00-10:00 p.m. @ 201

10/24 8:00pm-8:00 a.m. Lock Out

11/12 D Groups End

11/15 12:30 p.m. Flag Football Tournament

12/27-12/31 High School Ski Trip

Dates to Remember

Chihuahua Mission Trip The Yard- July 11-July 18th

Mexico Mission Trip with Vibe July 12-July 18th

Vibe

9/7 D Groups 6:00-7:30 p.m. (host homes)

9/13 Dia Del Agua @ 201 3:00 p.m.

10/24-10/26 Vibe Pinecove Fall Retreat 5:30 p.m.

D Groups End 11/9th