



Ignite Student Ministry

November 16, 2020

Dear Parents & Students,

This Fall at Ignite we have had some fun adventures outdoors, and it has been a joy to see the students together again and to be with them each week. We've built snowmen and hung out in hammocks, played ultimate frisbee with glowsticks and thrown snowballs at each other, lost many golf balls in the woods and hidden ourselves behind trees, praised God around the campfire together and run for cover from a surprise thunderstorm. As colder weather has settled in and the days have grown shorter, some of what we've hoped to accomplish on Wednesday nights been hampered. We knew it was coming but now that it is here, we feel the need to move indoors so that we can more effectively disciple students. After our meeting last week our team now has a clear strategy for what it will look like.

Starting this week, Ignite Student Ministries will be moving indoors for most of our times together. When the weather allows, we'll have some activities outside and may run outside for an activity or two on any given night. Here's what we plan for a normal Wednesday night at Ignite to look like:

- ◇ Before 6:30pm, the doors at church will be locked. I know this may be inconvenient to some, but our leaders are not available before that time.
- ◇ Doors will open at 6:30pm and students will be required to check-in and complete the mandatory health screening as they arrive.
- ◇ Public indoor spaces still require face coverings in Minnesota, so our leaders and students will be required to wear one when we are inside. We will have masks available if needed, but we'd ask that you all bring your own if you have them. If you have a medical condition or mental health reason that exempts you from this, please let Pastor Josh know so we can accommodate you.
- ◇ After check-in students will meet in the Sanctuary where a few leaders will greet them and lead them in a number of activities (stage games, music, funny videos, or just hang out).
- ◇ At 6:45pm we will have a time of worship, a lesson, and/or an activity all together in the Sanctuary.
- ◇ After that the group will split into smaller groups and find a spot in the church for some breakout discussion.
- ◇ Then at 8:00pm we will gather in either the Sanctuary or Great Room for a socially-distanced version of some of our most beloved youth group games. The night officially ends at 8:30pm, but parents are always welcome to pick up their student whenever they need to.

We also discussed some contingency plans in case things in our community shift rapidly but will keep you informed of any changes as they are needed. An example would be if the size of our group grows to the point where social distancing is too much of a challenge, we could split the junior high from the senior high for lesson and game time.

I also want to remind everyone that if you are sick or having two or more of the following symptoms, please stay home: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. If you were unable to attend school that same day for health reasons or because of exposures, please stay home. We will continue to encourage social distancing and our leaders will communicate, model, and enforce this.

We want you to be aware of these changes so you can make informed decisions about your family's involvement. We will continue to keep an eye on the guidelines and local trends to make adjustments as needed. If you have any questions about the decisions we've presented in this letter, we welcome your feedback. If you do not receive the weekly text updates from Remind, please sign up by texting **@igniteccc** to the number **81010**. We communicate through this method most frequently.

Sincerely,

The Youth Ministry Team of Community Covenant Church

Josh Hodgson, Susie Ripplinger, Tim Peterson, Michael Pangrac, Arlene Warga, and Audrey Thomas

**Ignite will normally end by 8:30pm. Parents are always welcome to pickup their teens earlier if needed, and students may stay after Ignite ends to fellowship until the leaders need to leave.*