



6th Grade Transition Frequently Asked Questions

When does my 6th grader enter student ministry officially?

Promotion Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th.

Why does the church believe it is best to transition 6th grade to student ministry?

We believe that transitioning 6th grade into Student Ministry is the right move for two main reasons. First, it is a move for the missions' sake. Our vision here at Bay Area is to saturate the 4B area with Gospel of Jesus Christ by restoring people, families and churches. We find that in order for us to effectively accomplish this mission in the 4B area we must align with the grading structure of the majority of schools in the 4B area. In our area, by and large, 6th grade is junior high.

The second reason we believe this transition is the right move is a developmental one. Sixth graders are at a tough but crucial age. They aren't quite teenagers but they aren't quite kids either. However, in the current culture we find ourselves in today we know that 6th graders are facing issues that just a few years ago did not affect them. We want to do all that we can to partner with families as they navigate these important days.

Will 6th graders be in the same room as high school students?

In light of COVID-19 we will not be doing any large group gatherings in the student center on Sunday mornings. Students will transition from worship straight to their LifeGroup meeting space. Thus, 6th grade students will not be in the same environment as high school students. Student LifeGroups are divided by gender and grade. That means that 6th graders will only experience gathering with other 6th graders of the same gender as well as their LifeGroup leaders on Sunday mornings.

On Wednesday nights, students historically have gathered in one space in order to provide younger students natural environments to see other, older students worship, hear from God's word, and respond appropriately. These are invaluable, organic moments that are of great benefit to the life and faith of these students. However, in light of COVID-19 we are simply unable to gather such a large group in the Student Center. For the time being, we will be meeting (socially distant, with masks) in the main worship center on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday nights of the month. The first Wednesday of each month, we encourage students to attend Prayer Nights with the church body.

There will be special events such as Fall Serve Weekend (Fall semester local serve effort), Collide (Spring semester DNow) and Camp (Summer) that our students will be together. However, it should be noted that for Collide and Camp students are divided by gender and grade for small groups. They are only together rec and worship times and these have proven to be fun and great experiences.

Will there be an introductory event for 6th graders BEFORE September 13?

Yes, we will host event we call "Launch" on Saturday, September 12. At this event we will introduce students and families to their student's LifeGroup leaders as well as hear from the Student Ministry staff regarding the vision of and what to expect from the Student Ministry. More information can be found at www.bayarea.church/events.

How will Student Ministry handle sensitive issues such as sexuality, mental health, self-harm, etc.?

Unfortunately, all of these issues are ones that students face from a young age. In light of this, we feel it is our responsibility as shepherds of students to address such topics by pointing students to the Scriptures. While these topics are not all that we will talk about, we will not avoid such topics. We want to frame these issues in an appropriate and biblical manner, helping to create a biblical worldview for our students. We will, however, do all that we can to clearly communicate with you ahead of time so that you will know what is being discussed and can have any conversations you feel are necessary for your student.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact Kade Pierce, Student Pastor, at kade.pierce@bayarea.church.