

PARENT

HAND BOOK



**MONTCLAIR
COMMUNITY
— CHURCH —**



HEY THERE!

So you're the parent of a teenager, huh? Congratulations! You have one of the most important (and sometimes the most difficult) jobs on the planet.

We know your job isn't always easy, but we want you to know that we're here to help in any way we can. Sure, we're a "youth" ministry, but teenagers aren't the only people we care about. We care about you too.

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your kid and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your teenager. Your trust and partnership mean a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what God has in store this year!



OUR VISION

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning with teenagers. We often ask question like, is anything we're teaching actually sinking in? and Are teenagers really growing in their faith? That's why we decided to go ahead and define our vision for our ministry. It's the one thing that we, as a ministry, want to achieve. It's the end goal we want to always keep in mind. Montclair Community Church's student ministry visions is to be a...

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY OF YOUTH.

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

Being a Christian in high school and middle school can feel lonely. That's why we believe being a part of a Christ Centered Community is so important. It teaches us that we aren't alone and beyond that it also...

- Challenges us to be more like Jesus (Heb 10:24-25)
- Supports/encourages each other (Gal 6:2)
- Helps us learn about and use our gifts (Rom 12:4-8)
- Builds up our faith (Jam 5:13-16 &19-20)
- It is fun (Ps 133:1)
- Fosters love (Col 3:13-14)
- Helps us grow (1 Cor 14:26)
- And much more



WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7:00PM – 8:45PM

Every Wednesday, our middle and high school students (grades 6-12) meet for games, a lesson, life groups, and connection times.

ELEMENTS OF OUR MEETING

Each Wednesday night has four purpose-filled elements to it. Each is designed to strategically invite teenagers to deeper relationships with their peers, leaders, and Jesus. Each component is designed with every teenager in mind - the kid who's grown up in church and the first-time visitor too.

GAMES: While games may not seem like we are just having a good time messing around, it is much more than that. The purpose of these games is twofold. They are meant to build connections between students and tear down walls that students may have. Having fun together helps build trust and repour, which helps us share the Gospel. And games are fun!

LESSON: Each week, we will have a 10–15-minute lesson. Our lesson will be relevant, creative, and Bible-centered. We aim to meet each student where they are and share Biblical truths that transform lives.



Life Groups: Our life groups aim to be able to do life together. This isn't just a small group where we discuss the message and ask a few questions. Instead, we want these groups to encourage, pray, listen, point back to God, discuss complex topics, and whatever else life throws at us. Life groups move the focus from answering a question to building a Christ-centered community.

CONNECTION TIMES: Sometimes, the best conversations are had when you are just sitting on a couch, playing a game of Uno, playing a video game, or having a snack. Each week we build in connection time, "free time," where our students can play any of our games, hang on our couches, or play a card game. This allows our students to build relationships with each other. It also gives our leaders an excellent opportunity to make connections with our students and try to engage in meaningful conversation.

Sample Schedule

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Hangout

7:30 pm – 8:00 pm: Game

8:00 pm – 8:15 pm: Lesson

8:15 pm – 8:45 pm: Life Groups

8:45 pm: Pickup



THE GAME PLAN

TEACHING

Fusion

We have used many curriculums in the past, and we've found that they either excel at teaching the Bible or being relevant. Very few, if any at all, do both well. That is why this year, we are taking a new approach. We are creating a one-of-a-kind custom-made curriculum just for our unique group. We are doing this for two main reasons.

The first is to dig deep and be relevant. The Bible isn't just an old book. It's the living word of God. It has profound, timeless truths that are just as meaningful and needed in the twenty-first century as they were in 100 AD. We aim to help our students dig deep and find these Biblical truths that change their lives.

The second is that our group is one of a kind! No two student ministries are the same. Each group has its own unique needs, desires, and growth points. That's why creating a custom curriculum tailored to our group's specific needs is essential.



What's Covered in Fusion?

While we don't have a perfectly outlined 2-year scope and sequence of what we will be teaching, we have four core elements that all our lessons will revolve around. These core elements are...

- **THE BIBLE**
 - **Over two years, we aim to cover all the main Bible stories, events, and passages throughout the Bible.**
- **SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES**
 - **Our spiritual disciplines are how we grow in our faith in God. (i.e., prayer, study, worship, serving, etc.)**
- **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW**
 - **With an ever-changing world, we want our students to understand how they should view the things of this world through a Biblical worldview.**
 - **Mental Health**



OUR EVENTS

MONTHLY EVENTS

After every Series we teach, we will be taking on Wednesday to host a special event. This will be a time to invite friends, have fun together, fellowship, and introduce new students/visitors to the Gospel.

TRICK-OR-TREAT OUTREACH / 10/31/2023

This event aims to get involved in our community, connect with our neighbors, and share the joy of Jesus Christ. It has been a success for the past three years, and this year we will encourage our students to get involved.

CHRISTMAS PARTY / 12/20/2023

Our annual Christmas party with hot chocolate, a Christmas message, and a \$5-\$10 gift exchange.

Winterblast / TBD

Our student's favorite event all year is Winterblast. It is 40 hours to worship, learn, celebrate, and connect! The camp is two and a half hours away in Dallas, Pa. This is always an incredible speaker, energetic worship band, tons of activities, and a great way to deepen relationships with each other and Jesus.



THE FINE PRINT

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Your teenager's safety is a priority for our ministry, so we wanted to get you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Before any volunteer is permitted to serve with us, they undergo a rigorous application and interview process, including a criminal background check.

WE SET BOUNDARIES

We have set several guidelines for our youth ministry staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us ensure your child is well-cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- **No leader should initiate a one-on-one meeting with a teenager without the knowledge and consent of you, their parents.**
- **No leader should transport a teenager in a vehicle alone. If a teenager needs a ride, we must arrange for another adult or teenager to accompany them.**
- **All staff members and volunteers must always maintain appropriate physical boundaries with teenagers.**



WE REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

Every staff member and volunteer in our ministry is a mandated reporter, which means we are legally required to report any dangerous or potentially dangerous situations immediately, including...

- If a student is being harmed, neglected, or abused.
- If a student is harming or abusing someone else.
- If a student is harming or at risk of harming themselves.

WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

If you ever have a concern about your teenager's care or safety, please get in touch with us. We're just a phone call or email away!



CONTACT US

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

This year, we'd love to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we're hoping we can keep the lines of communication open . . .

EMAIL

We send an email just for parents every week. Specifically, this email will provide more information about our weekly lessons, upcoming events, and other helpful information this year.

PASTOR ERIC'S INFORMATION

Email: Eric@montclair.church

Cellphone: (862) 251-1257