

Parents of the 2006-2007 IGNITE Junior High

The Ignite staff strongly believe in family-based youth ministry. We recognize that parents are the most significant influence in a child's life. During this time students begin to rely more and more on their peers to determine right from wrong. Nonetheless, you still remain the most important spiritual, emotional developer in their lives. Understanding this, we desire our ministry to fully support you. We want to be an aid and encouragement to you as you seek to influence your children.

The students of this age group are growing into their own person. They are seeking to establish some sort of independence. This may be why many parents feel that their son (which is more typical) or daughter is becoming more "closed off" when they used to "tell you everything". Your student is or will begin to look more and more for outside sources in order to define him or herself. They are beginning to think critically more, and are simply accepting everything that they are told less. It is a transition when they tend to think that their friends know more than their teachers, parents, etc.

We are here to partner with you to fight for your child. In a youth culture of immorality, substance abuse and disrespect, we believe that going with the flow is not the right direction. We believe that Godless media and friends that do not know Christ should not write their definition of reality, morality and spirituality.

The following pages are a description of who we are and what we believe the most effective way to help develop students into followers of Jesus Christ that are committed to truth. We desire to embrace their passion, light-hearted and fun mentality, while channeling it away from the intrigue and ignorance of darkness to the true joy of living for Christ. These Junior Highers can change this world if God desires. Their youth, energy and strong friendships mixed with the power of God, can create a chemistry that this world cannot duplicate, defuse or defeat.

Please know as you observe some of our documents containing ministry philosophy, vision, events and ideas, which we do not want to put our trust in these things. We want our youth program centered on Jesus Christ. Our ministry must come from our knees and our hearts. Our knees that we might cry out to God, the only One able to change the students' lives, and our hearts that we might love them and know them as individuals that have been made so very unique and important. Before theory and programs, we believe in prayer and relationships. The rest of this must flow out of these two. Thank you for partnering with us and we look forward to seeking Him together this year.

In Christ,

Ben Willey
Ignite Junior High Director
Winnetka Bible Church