

So here's what I want you to do,
God helping you:
Take your everyday, ordinary life
—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life
—and place it before God as an offering.
Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture
that you fit into it without even thinking.
Instead, fix your attention on God.
You'll be changed from the inside out.
Readily recognize what he wants from you,
and quickly respond to it.
Unlike the culture around you,
always dragging you down to its level of immaturity,
God brings the best out of you,
develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12:1-2
The Message



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Handbook



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You may be reading this handbook from one of three perspectives:

1. NEXT: Your Student completed the Middle School Journey through COW.

We have a wonderful Middle School Ministry called C.O.W. which stands for “*Cloud of Witnesses*” in reference to the passage in the Bible in Hebrews, Chapter 12. Our High School Ministry seeks to pick-up where COW left off using the same language, intentionality, and philosophy of ministry.

2. HERE: Your Student found their way to our High School Community on their own.

We are thankful that so many of our students find their way to CCOB on their own or as they are invited by a friend. We want to insure you that we have a safe environment for your student to explore a relationship with Jesus Christ alongside friends and Adult Staff. We hope this Handbook will give you some first-hand information to understand what you have probably heard in bits and pieces from your student.

3. HOPE: You would love for your student to be connected to our High School Community.

In the heart of every parent is the desire for their student to be connected to a healthy group of friends where they can know that they are noticed, wanted, and safe. We never want to see students isolated and wrestling with a group — feeling that they do not fit in. After reading through this Handbook, please do not hesitate to give us a call so that we can do whatever is necessary to help your student find their way into our High School Community.



PARENT CONNECTION

Being a Parent of a High School Student is a tough job. As I type these words, I am just about ready to complete the journey through high school as a parent. My daughter Ashley graduated from Lyons Township High School the Spring of 2010. I have a new appreciation and understanding of what it takes to walk alongside, parent, shepherd, encourage, and care for a high school student — not only as a youthworker but now also as a parent.

As you seek to walk alongside your student through the adventure of the high school years, helping them keep Jesus Christ at the center of their life, here are five big things that I would recommend for you, as a parent, and spiritual care-taker of your student:

1. **SUBSCRIBE** to our Monthly CCOB High School Enews. On the first day of each month you will receive all you need to know about the upcoming month, adventure application deadlines, etc. In other words — all you need to know to help your student stay connected to our high school community. You can subscribe at <http://my.cc-ob.org/highschool>.
2. **PRIORITIZE** your family’s schedule so that the key times for your student to connect to our high school community are protected. High School life is crazy-full for most students. Between sports, extra-curricular activities, etc. it is easy to let things slip. Please work as a parent to build a fence around 7:00-9:00pm on Sunday nights for Koinonia and maybe even consider making our 2HC Worship service a part of your family’s weekly rhythm.
3. **PLAN** for your student to be a part of our summer mission project adventures. There is something about getting out of familiar territory where God can get our attention. Our Summer Mission Projects provide the best opportunity for your student to live into a lifestyle centered on a rhythm of worship, grow, and serve.
4. **CONNECT** with Dave (me) or Laurie if you need help. Laurie is the expert with dates and details. You can find Laurie by email llamm@cc-ob.org or at 630-321-3933, weekdays (except Thursday) from 8:30am-2pm. For any other need please give me a call or shoot me an email dmahar@cc-ob.org or at 630.321.3914. We love to hear from you!!!
5. **SERVE** with us. We have a High School Parent Team, Prayer Team, and many other volunteer opportunities where we would welcome your help! Please call and we can talk through the possibilities of where you might be able to serve with us.





COMING & GOING

We have two ministry programs specifically designed for our students entering our high school community as well as preparing to leave our community for the college years. For our incoming frosh students, we have our *Mentor-Based Confirmation Adventure* which runs from September through February. For our graduating seniors we have *Welcome to Your Life!* which is a college prep course from January to March.

Mentor-Based Confirmation Adventure. [coming]

This ministry provides an opportunity for our incoming frosh students to explore and confirm their faith in Jesus Christ. We find that students come into our ministry as either “inquirers” — exploring a relationship with Jesus Christ or as “journeymen” — looking to confirm their faith in Jesus Christ. Confirmation provides an environment for both inquirers and journeymen, alongside an Adult Mentor, in a Small Group, engaging together in the journey of discipleship.

- Registration happens June—August each year.
- All incoming 9th-12th grade students are welcome.
- Students complete a Small Group curriculum (Guidebook) focused on worship, grow, serve.
- Mentor Groups meet September-February in the Small Group time-slot at Koinonia.
- Students complete (walk-through) four doors of faith exploration.
- You can find further details at my.cc-ob.org/highschool.

Welcome to Your Life! [going]

This course is designed to help our graduating high school students prepare for life beyond high school. There are two main objectives with this course. The first (True U) is to provide a curriculum that helps each student work through and understand a Christian world view. The second (Life 101) is to help the student with his/her faith navigate life on the college campus.

- Register in December and early January
- Meets Tuesday evenings, mid-January (post finals) through mid-March (pre spring break).
- We meet 8-8:45pm for the True U World View Curriculum, 8:45-9:15pm for Life 101 Content
- *True U* Curriculum is produced by Tyndale Publishers
- *Life 101* Curriculum: *How do I find a youth-group on campus? What about my relationship with my folks during college? How do I live with my roommate? What about Greek life? How do I find a Christian Church that is not a cult? and more....*



WELCOME

The hope of this handbook is to tell the story of our high school ministry. It is intended to be a trail map to help the parents of our students as they walk alongside their son / daughter, keeping faith in Jesus Christ at the center of the four-year journey through high school.

In the Bible these words tell the story of having Jesus Christ at the center of our life:

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.
 – Romans 12:1-2, The Message

We are called to invite Jesus Christ into the center of our lives, into the center of our relationships with our self, God, others, and the world. This is the “today” definition of placing our life before God as a “living sacrifice”. As you read through this handbook you will find that each and every aspect of our high school ministry is intentionally designed to lead students to the point of surrendering their life to Jesus – whether they are currently far from God or desiring to give Him the center point of their life.

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WHO IS DAVE MAHAR?

A 20+ year high school ministry veteran, Dave has served as the High School Pastor at Christ Church of Oak Brook since 2000. Dave spent his first 30 years living in California — Dave now calls Western Springs home. He received his M.Div degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Church Alliance. Dave and his wife, Char, have been married since 1989 and have a daughter, Ashley (18), and son Stephen (14). In his spare time, he enjoys everything outdoors — running, backpacking, mountain biking. Dave can frequently be found at coffee shops throughout the Western Suburbs.



CCOB MISSION

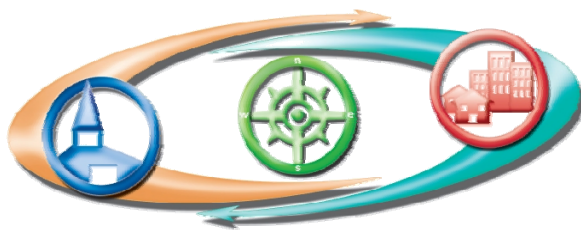
Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 TNIV

These words of Jesus tell the story of the mission of Christ Church of Oak Brook:

*Gathering in communities of disciples who **worship, grow, and serve.**
Going into all the world as witnesses of the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.*

Therefore, each aspect of the ministry of Christ Church needs to help us lean into a life of **worship**, help us **grow** as disciples of Jesus Christ, and **serve** God and His People. In our High School Ministry our hope is that each week students will:

- Worship:** in one of our worship services
- Grow:** in a same grade, same gender small group
- Serve:** at home, at school, or through our Mosaic Leadership Community



CCOB STUDENT MINISTRY MISSION

In our Middle and High School Ministries we understand that a life of worship, grow, and serve has a whole lot to do with inviting Jesus to live at the center of our lives. Having Christ at the center of our lives means that He is in the center of all our relationships. Our Student Ministry Curriculum (everything we teach throughout our ministry gatherings, trips, and mission projects) is designed to track the four relationships God created us to enjoy: God, Myself, Others, and the World. Everything we see, do, touch, feel, and believe affects these four relationships. As we invite God into the center of our life, He reveals himself and redeems our broken relationships.

God ■ me ■ others ■ world



SUMMER ADVENTURES (continued...)

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

*Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your **neighbor** as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." – Matthew 22:34-40*

*[Jesus speaking] "...You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem **[here]**, and in all Judea **[there]** and Samaria **[way over there]**, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:7-8*

Our three-year mission project cycle seeks to follow the words of *Matthew* and the outward movement described in *Acts*, providing our students with three unique mission project opportunities designed to love those who are *here, there, and way over there*:

- Urban.** *[here] Loving our neighbor who is down and out.*
We enter the world of the urban missionary seeking to understand what it means to love and serve those who find themselves homeless, stuck in addiction, and discarded by our society. We partner with *Youth With a Mission* in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco, California. We travel to San Francisco, rather than Chicago, so that students can serve in an setting which is completely new to most everyone.
- Baja.** *[there] Loving our neighbor who is trying to get shelter.*
We come alongside the poor, physically building homes to replace the "houses" often made of discarded garage doors and left over garbage from the States. We partner with *Homes Without Boundaries* to construct homes for the families associated with *Hogar de los Ninos* Orphanage in Baja, California.
- Santo Domingo.** *[way over there] Loving our neighbor who lives overseas.*
We engage with our friends at a CCOB sister church in a foreign culture, partnering in ministry, serving alongside one another, as we build relationships together. We serve with our friends at *Iglesia Comunitaria Christiana* in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic partnering in summer children's camps, construction projects, and teen leadership camps.



SUMMER ADVENTURES

We have two main summer adventures. The first is *Roca Y Agua* (Rock ‘n Water), an entry level trip designed for students to explore faith in Jesus Christ. The second is our mission project designed for students ready to deeply engage with their journey as a follower of Jesus Christ. REGISTRATION & APPLICATION FORMS are available for each of these adventures at *Summer In January*, held each year around the third Sunday of January.

ROCA Y AGUA

This trip is a camp which floats around Bull Shoals Lake for a week of playing together on the water, exploring what it means for each of us to invite Jesus into the center of our life. Each student lives on a houseboat for the week, alongside same gender students and adult staff guides. We partner with Expeditions Unlimited for all of the “adventure” aspects of this trip:

- Roca Y Agua happens in mid-June each year
- Open to all students entering the 9th—12th grades the following fall school year
- Lake activities include wake-boarding, water-skiing, cliff jumping, etc.
- *Expeditions Unlimited* can be found at: <http://www.expeditionsunlimited.com>
- Perfect Trip for a student seeking to connect with our High School Community

MISSION PROJECT

There is a big difference between a “trip” and a “project”. For a *trip*, you register, show-up, and go. A *project* requires a much higher level of commitment. — students apply, interview, and engage in an intensive training program building a team of personal financial and prayer supporters. Our mission projects are open to students:

- With a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Who are actively engaged at Koinonia in a Small Group
- Entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades the following fall school year
- Desiring to grow in their faith while serving on an Urban, National, or International Project

Our High School Mission Projects are unique because our three-year rotation insures that every student experiences the project for the very first time alongside their fellow students and adult leaders. We have three projects that have developed into partnerships with local organizations and churches in an urban, national, and international context.



FOUR RELATIONSHIPS ▀ OUR SCOPE & SEQUENCE



GOD: “We Are Loved By God and We Love Him Back!”

We have a God who is wild about each of us and desires to be in relationship with us. However, God does not force himself on us. His perfect love would not allow that type of manipulation. We are called by the quiet voice of God to be in relationship with Him — to invite Him into the very regular moments of our life and into the center of our story.

TOPICS: Attributes of God, Christology, Life & Teachings of Jesus, Holy Spirit



MYSELF: “We See Ourselves the Way God Does!”

How do we live in such a way that Jesus is at the center of our story, empowering us to live an obedient life as we deal with our failures, successes, trials, and drama in this life? This is the central question as we seek to relinquish control over our lives and place our life in God’s Hands. This can be understood as inviting God to drive the car of our life while we ride shotgun. To the extent that we let go of our lives we will find life as we invite God into the very regular moments of our life—continually asking Him what rough edges of our character, personality, habits, etc. He needs to smooth out — forming us into his disciples.

TOPICS: Created in the Image of God, Temptation and Sin, Salvation, Purity, Fruit of the Spirit, Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Bible Study, Journaling, Worship)



OTHERS: “We Love Everybody - Even When It’s Difficult!”

The way of Jesus cannot be lived alone. We don’t want students to simply “go to church,” we want them to “be the church.” We believe that we were created to live deeply with one another, carrying each other’s burdens, to pray for and confess our sins to each other, to suffer and celebrate together. It’s in these honest, loving relationships that God transforms us and truth becomes a reality.

TOPICS: Love, Forgiveness, Sharing your faith, Developing and Maintaining Healthy Relationships (Family, Authority, Friends, Dating), Peer Pressure



WORLD: “We Do Stuff That Makes the World a Better Place!”

What does it truly mean to get our eyes off of ourselves and onto the needs of the world around us? As Jesus Followers, we are called to reflect the light and hope of the message of Jesus to the world around us — we are to be partners with our God in making the world right again — for in the end, the love of our God wins and evil is defeated. God loves our world and wants to work through each of us to make it right. We were created to live for something larger than ourselves.

TOPICS: Beatitudes, Service, Spiritual Gifts, Suffering, Injustice, Compassion, Creation



WEEKLY CONNECTIONS

A weekly rhythm is important for high school students to keep Jesus in the center of their lives. Our three weekly connection points are designed to help our students, wherever they are at with their faith, to live a life where they worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus Christ.

2HC WORSHIP [Sundays @ 10:00-11:00 am ■ year round]

This worship service has become a place where many of our students effectively connect to God and His People. We meet in a casual environment in Student Center One. Our hope is that our students will enter into a weekly rhythm of corporate worship — at 2HC or at one of our other worship services.

KOINONIA [Sundays @ 7:00-8:45 pm ■ September — May]

Our weekly large group gathering is divided into two chapters:

1. **Large Group** [7-8pm] is where we gather for worship, an interactive message, and fellowship. We work through our yearly curriculum focusing on placing Jesus at the center of our relationship with God, our self, others, and our world.
2. **Small Groups** [8-8:45pm] is where we process what we have experienced in *Large Group*. With Bibles and a *Talksheet*, alongside same grade / same gender small group members, under the guidance of an adult leader, we seek to make a large group feel small as we develop and deepen our relationship with God and one another. Our small groups provide each student with a groups of friends who can encourage, challenge, and keep them accountable on the journey of discipleship.

MOSAIC LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY [Wednesdays @ 7:00-8:30pm ■ Mid August—May]

Mosaic provides and opportunity for our committed students to develop and grow as student leaders. Mosaic is a leadership community of broken tiles (adult leaders and students) who desire to serve out of how they are wired. Whether students feel most alive connecting to God and His people with their hands, heart, soul, or mind, Mosaic has a “leadership tile” for them.

Our weekly Mosaic Gatherings are divided into two chapters:

1. **Mosaic Community** [7:00-7:45pm] gathers for a spiritual exercise, leadership training, and collaboration in the designing, developing and ownership of our ministry together.
2. **Tile Time** [7:45-8:30pm] is where our students collaborate, within the specific tasks connected to their tile to design, develop, and own the various aspects of our complete high school ministry. Each tile has an Adult Leader who is wired just like the students in his/her tile, creating a multi-generational approach to leadership development.

Students apply to join our Mosaic Community. We have an August Retreat / January Stay-Treat.



SEASONAL EVENTS

We have three seasonal opportunities that complement and support our weekly rhythm of life in our high school ministry .

FALL SABBATH [Weekend in late October]

Our fall ministry season kicks off at Koinonia, the Sunday after Labor Day Weekend. Everything that happens at Koinonia in September and October is about moving our community of high school students and adult leaders toward our Fall Sabbath which happens around the third weekend of October at Timber-Lee Camp in Troy, Wisconsin. There is something about this weekend getaway that really seems to move our students further down the path of inviting Jesus into the center of their lives.

We depart on a Friday in the early evening and travel by coach bus. We return mid-afternoon on Sunday. Registration for the Fall Sabbath opens the first week of September.

GRADUATION BANQUET [Sunday Evening in late May]

This year we are launching our first ever Graduation Banquet for our graduating senior students and their wonderful parents. This event happens on the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend in our Student Center in the same timeslot where Koinonia usually happens. Invitations are mailed to the families of our graduating seniors in April. These invitations are unique since they provide some “homework” for the student’s parents. Parents are asked to collaborate in writing a letter of blessing for their son / daughter that is shared at our Graduation Banquet. This is an amazing evening of celebration for our high school ministry, our grads, and their parents.

SUMMER HOUSE GROUPS [Summer Wednesdays @ 7:00-9:30 pm]

Koinonia begins the Sunday after Labor Day and wraps up the Sunday after Mother’s Day each school year. So what happens then? Koinonia takes on a different look during the summer. We move off-site and outdoors enjoying some recreation and fellowship time together.

1. **Ultimate Frisbee** [7:00-8:15pm] happens at a local field both for those who wish to play, and also for those who would rather sit, connect with friends, and watch the game. These casual evenings provide a place for our students and adult staff to gather in the summer.
2. **House Groups** [8:15-9:30pm] happen at different homes of our students following the time together on the field. Students are responsible for transporting themselves to and from the field and to the House Groups. Each House Group is held at the home of one of our families — a bonfire, s'mores, bags, etc. are all a part of these gatherings.

Summer House Groups happen from the second week of June through the first week in August. Our High School Ministry takes a sabbath break for the rest of August, resting and preparing for the re-launch of our ministry in September at Koinonia. House Group Schedules / Maps are found on our High School Website.