

“Head 2 Heart”

Messiah Lutheran Church, 2023-24

Wednesday evenings 6:15-8:00, beginning Aug. 23, 2023

Upon emerging from the pandemic, we realigned
our children and student ministries.

The result of this was that 6th graders would now be in the H2H program,
taking it from a two-year to a three-year program.

This means that we have different expectations for the different years.

What This Looks Like

*“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes from the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4*

The Bible compares spiritual knowledge and understanding to food. There are the basic biblical knowledge and application that is compared to milk and as we grow wiser and build discernment then we can handle mature spiritual teaching and application described as solid meat (Hebrews 5:12-14 and 1 Peter 2:2). With this we have a year for your students to be spiritually fed, then a year to spiritually feed themselves and become more independent in their spiritual journey, and finally they spend a year spiritually feeding 6th grade students and invited friends to grow just like they did.

6th grade/1st year - This year is where students are fed by the pastors, teachers, faith guides, mentors, and 8th graders. Your responsibility (mom & dad) is to bring them every Wednesday. They will learn and soak up everything that others pour into them. Students have two responsibilities:

1. Complete sermon notes for the year (15).
2. Attendance: H2H, Sunday school, worship, and other fun events like Mafia, Bible camp, camping trips, fundraisers, etc.

7th grade/2nd year - This year is where the student becomes more independent. They still have their faith guides/other leaders to lean onto, but this is where they feed themselves on the word of God. Their responsibility is to wrestle with what they have learned in class and see how you can use that knowledge to teach others around them. Your responsibility (mom & dad) is to bring them every night and talk with them about what they are thinking and learning. Students have three responsibilities:

1. Sermon notes (25).
2. Service hours (20) total (10 inside church and 10 outside church).

3. Attendance: H2H, Sunday school, worship and other fun events like Mafia, Bible camp, camping trips, fundraisers, etc.

8th grade/3rd year - This is the year where students take everything they learned and invest it back into the 6th graders. Students really have one main responsibility: Show up! 90% of leadership is just showing up. 8th graders connect and pour into the 6th graders. They will be given a list of 6th graders that they will need to connect with every week. This means “going out of the way” to talk to them and make them feel welcomed in the youth ministry. Invite them to different events and make sure they integrate into our little family. This is the most important part of the program because it is where students put what they have learned into action, and spiritually feed others around them. None of this can happen without regular attendance at: H2H, Sunday school, worship, and other fun events like Mafia, Bible camp, camping trips, fundraisers, etc.

Sermon notes (25) and service hours (20) total (10 inside church and 10 outside church) are also expected in this final year. Your responsibility (mom & dad) is to bring them every night and talk with them about what they are thinking, learning and how they are encouraging others.

Goals and Habits

1) Sermon Notes: Each student will learn to listen to a sermon and receive God's grace through worship. This starts with sermon notes. The forms are self-explanatory and are located in the Narthex. The forms should be returned with a parent's signature each week to the wooden kiosk on the west side of the Narthex. (15 notes for 1st year, 25 notes for 2nd & 3rd year students.) **Sermon notes should be done in worship with family, not from reading a manuscript or watching a video online.**

Parent involvement: Families should plan on a longer commitment on Sunday mornings.

2) Sunday Morning Bible Studies: (Sunday school, weekly) SMBS adds to the overall learning experience and create the healthy habit of meeting with friends to study God's Word. This is where they can go deeper into the Bible in a relaxed setting.

Mentor involvement: Arrange transportation. Families should plan on a longer commitment on Sunday mornings.

3) Interviews:

1st Interview: This happens after their **2nd year.** (Starting spring 2024.) This is about a 15 min. interview where faith guides, pastor and leaders will talk to the students completing their 2nd year about the importance of being a mentor to the younger students, and how they can effectively do that during their last year.

Mentor involvement: Schedule interview dates.

2nd Interview: In the spring (April-May) of the **8th grade/3rd year** of instruction, each student will take a written "test" to affirm their catechism knowledge. The student and pastors will also discuss ways to stay involved in the church as they become adults in their faith. The "memory test" will be in April during Wednesday night class time.

3rd Interview: (August-September) At the end of the **3rd year** of instruction, each student will have a 20-minute interview with the pastors and a faith guide. The student will discuss his or her faith and discuss the challenges and successes they have had over the last year being a mentor. The parents will receive a remind contact with the interview dates and will be responsible for arranging interview appointments.

4) Parent Classes: To help parents be a part of their student's confirmation years, we will be having some parent classes. This will be a time of fellowship and instruction for the parents. We will review student class content and address passing on the faith to teenagers. The classes will be listed in the syllabus. It is our prayer that these meetings

will also help you see you are not alone in this journey, and we will become a closer church family.

Parent involvement: *Both parents attend parent classes.*

5) Summer Student Ministry: (Youth Group students are expected to stay plugged in year-round.) Being a part of church and God's family is not a seasonal sport. Your student's relationship with God is directly impacted by how often they and you gather with God's people. Plan to worship together as a family in the summer and find places/ways to worship while on vacation. Attend regularly during the summer.

Mentor involvement: *Encourage students to invite friends. Do they have a ride?*

6) Wednesday Attendance is Essential: Every student is expected to listen respectfully during the teaching times or discussion times led by the small-group leaders. If, after two warnings, a student continues to be disruptive, the teacher will call the parents and ask them to pick that student up. The next week the parents will have to sit with that student in class. Every student is expected to be friendly and welcoming to all other students. Bring your Bible & Catechism to each class – Mark it up!

Mentor involvement: *Get your student to class early (or at least on time, by 6:15).*

7) Participation: Students seeking to make their confirmation are encouraged to participate in monthly activities and shall attend at least one of the following faith building camps/retreats:

- Two-day overnight faith retreat like the IGNITE Conference.
- Winter Blast, Dec. 28-31. This is for the students to get away and build their relationships with each other, the leaders and Christ.
- Summer Bible Camp @ CLBC (parent vacation op?) for a week in June or July.

More information and dates for events will be forthcoming. Events will be posted on the Youth information boards, kiosk, the weekly bulletin, Facebook and mlcjoliet.org. Please help us with our planning and sign-up. You can always email to get on the list. We have two special youth kiosks with information, forms, and a youth payment envelope. This will be where you turn in all payments and forms, so you don't have to track down a pastor or leader.

Mentor involvement: *Encourage students to attend events, bring friends and drive students to church events.*

8) Claiming my Faith: (Confirmation/Mentor Sunday, fall of 6th & 9th grades.) Emphasizing the beginning of the faith journey we will bless 6th grade students and their mentors during this service. Service takes place on Reformation Sunday, during the 11 am

service. Friends invited over the years are able to confirm their faith as well as those who have been on this three-year journey. Use the summer and fall going into 9th grade to have those conversations with friends and their parents.

Parent involvement: *Discern best mentor for your student.*

There are many ways that your child and their friends will confirm their faith. **Being a part of the Sunday Confirmation Ceremony is not mandatory and should be done as an act of faith.** Participation in the confirmation process is one of the best ways to help your child walk with the LORD. But it is no guarantee. The best thing we can do is encourage our kids to explore their faith in a safe, nurturing environment and establish lifelong habits of worship and fellowship with other Christians, young and old.

With this in mind, we welcome all students to participate in the Messiah Student Ministry (youth group) regardless of their desire to complete the process known as Confirmation.

If a student has any learning difficulties, medical conditions, or emotional challenges, please let the pastoral staff know so that we can help meet their needs.

The cost for “Head 2 Heart” materials is \$40.00 per year. Checks can be written to Messiah Lutheran. Please specify in the memo that it is for Confirmation. PLEASE DO NOT LET THE COST OF AN EVENT KEEP YOUR STUDENT FROM ATTENDING. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ARRANGE A SCHOLARSHIP OR FUNDRAISING EVENT TO COVER SOME OR ALL OF THE EXPENSE.

All forms are online! <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/student-ministries>

**2 Remind groups: H2H= (@H2H2018 to 81010)
Student Ministry 6-12th = (@messiahst to 81010)**

Updated 9/07/2023