

Dear fifth grade parents,

We are excited to invite your family into a life-changing journey with us. We desire for students to know Jesus, be shaped into the likeness of Jesus, and then as a result, go and do as Jesus did. Confirmation, then, is not a finish line but rather a starting block for your student's faith development. With this in mind, we have redesigned the confirmation process, spreading the process over three years, to allow students more time to develop a genuine faith walk.

Traditionally, the purpose of confirmation is to "make firm" a student's faith. The three-year confirmation process will allow students more time to explore the basics of our faith, build relationships in the church with friends and mentors, and wrestle with doubts and questions as they develop and mature throughout middle school.

We hope that the spread-out process is both more manageable for families, and that it builds a stronger faith foundation for your student. We believe a genuine relationship with God is a daily conversation and a sustainable life rhythm, not a one-year sprint. The change also shifts confirmation away from primarily a program focusing on information to become a more significant rite of passage that shapes students' hearts and identities.

In this new format, sixth grade students will meet weekly for confirmation on Sunday mornings during the fall semester, covering a foundation of our faith. We will offer complementary curriculum on Sunday evenings during life groups. After winter break, students will transition from the formal confirmation class to our normal, middle school, student ministry experience. During this season families are encouraged to engage in the church as much as possible, in order to find a sustainable rhythm, deepen faith, and find a richer community. We are launching a middle school specific Sunday school class. In addition, we offer life groups on Sunday evenings, connect nights, service days, Wednesday morning bible studies, and summer camps.

During your student's seventh grade year we invite you to a handful of confirmation experiences, aimed at giving students a full experience of the life of faith in Chapelwood. We are designing a rite-of-passage retreat for the spring of seventh grade that focuses on shaping our identity, which we hope will soon become a core element in confirmation as well as our church.

In the spring of eighth grade, after winter break, formal confirmation class will resume on Sunday mornings with a focus on wrestling with and taking ownership of faith for themselves. We will end the process with a one-night retreat. Then, students will make their proclamations of faith in the confirmation service.

We are so excited to get to partner with your family through these next stages of life.

Sincerely,

Chapelwood Student Ministry
Joseph, Allison, Ethan, Taylor, and Jackie