

August, 2026

Dear Middle School Parents,

For many students, middle school is a time of searching and discovering more about themselves. As parents, we want to do all we can to help them find their identity in Christ. An opportunity is being provided for all middle school students (grades 6-8) to participate in a one-evening retreat focusing on building student relationships and developing spiritual awareness. This retreat is sponsored by parents, not by the school; however, the teachers and administration are aware and supportive. This is not required, but we hope all students will take advantage of this great opportunity. It will be held at **Open Door Christian Church on Friday, September 11, from 2:15pm to 9:30pm**. Students will be dismissed from school at 1:45pm and go directly to retreat on school buses. All food and activities will be provided at this location.

Our evening will consist of large and small group activities - some activities will focus on fun, some on competition, and some on team building. There will be a worship portion of the evening led by **Brian Punt**, and we are blessed to have **Todd Henker** as our speaker. Todd is the Youth Director at Bethany Church in Clara City.

We ask that each parent complete the [Middle School Retreat Registration Form](#) by **Friday, September 4** and submit a \$20.00 payment to help cover the costs of the retreat. This form can also be found on the school website under Central Resources. Payment can be submitted through Venmo: @Brittany-TerWisscha-Grussing (6837) or if you prefer to submit a check, it can be made out to Unity CRC and brought to the Elementary/Middle School office. The rest of the expenses are being covered by donors. If you would like to donate towards our other expenses, feel free to include that amount with your payment.

To donate food items for the retreat, please sign up [here](#) or through the Middle School Retreat Registration Form above. If there are any special instructions related to your child, such as medication, allergies, etc., please make note of that on the registration form.

For the privacy of all the participating students and to prevent phones from being lost or stolen, there will be a **no cell phone/technology policy for the retreat**. Students will be asked to leave their cell phones in their backpacks for the evening. You can contact any of the leaders during the retreat if there is an emergency or if important information needs to be passed on to your student. If phones are found during the retreat, they will be held by a leader and returned when the student gets picked up.

Parent chaperones strive to be engaged and watchful throughout the evening. We ask that students let us know right away if something happens that needs to be addressed. We trust that any concerns made known after leaving the retreat will be handled appropriately by the parents.

Students need to be **picked up when the retreat finishes at 9:30pm** at Open Door Christian Church (12720 51st St NE, Spicer, MN 56288). Parents are responsible for getting their middle schooler home - no bus transportation will be provided back to school on Friday night.

Packing List:

Bible

Towel

Black/Dark T-shirt for swimming

Black/Dark Shorts for swimming

Sweatshirt/Sweatpants/Spare Outfit

NO SWIMSUIT

NO PHONE

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the parents on the planning team listed below:

Tanya Ulferts	320-894-9386
Malorie Antony	320-220-4873
Brittany TerWisscha-Grussing	651-785-6837
Mollie Anderson	612-968-0827
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