



www.flipd.org

Community Based | Personally Engaged | Outreach Oriented | Worldly Aware

Dear Parents...

I'm very excited to share with you about a two month adventure we're getting to embark upon in Flipd on Sunday mornings. From January 31-March 21 our goal is to pair up every student in Flipd with an adult that regularly attends First Friends to read through a book together. One of the things I've noticed over the past 9 years I've been working with middle schoolers is that the church tends to section them (and most other age groups) off, so that while in church they are mostly just with their peers. This isn't necessarily a critique of that...there's definitely a time and place for peer-specific ministry (after all, I am a middle school pastor :). But I also strongly believe that inter-generationally, we have a lot to offer each other. "Church Connected" (C2 for short) as we're calling it, is one attempt we're making to break down some of these barriers between the various parts of the church and to help all of us learn more how to follow Christ. I believe that students and adults alike will learn and grow as we partner together.

Included with this letter you'll find a list of books that students can choose from to read during this two month journey. In the next few Sundays leading up to the 31st, we'll be taking student requests and suggestions for the adults that they would like to be paired up with as well as finding out which book they want to read. Then on January 31st we'll begin our 8 week expedition. Every Sunday we'll meet at 9:30 like usual and have some hang-out time, announcements, and worship or activity time. Then at 10:00 we'll meet up with our partners and have until 10:35 to talk about the reading that we've done in the past week and to pray together. Everyone will meet back in the Middle School room and be ready to leave by 10:45.

As a parent, we need your help. Please encourage your student to participate and help to make sure that they're there every Sunday between January 31 and March 21. If they miss many Sundays, it will make this time much less beneficial. Also, we still need adults that would be willing to connect with students, so it'd be really helpful if you would consider participating. We'll match you up with a student and get you a copy of the book they choose to read for free.

If you have any questions about this program, please don't hesitate to contact me at the office (330.966.2800) or via email (jharris@firstfriends.org). Thanks for your support and prayers as we partner together to raise young adults who turn the world upside down for Christ!

Joel Daniel Harris
Middle School Pastor & Instigator of Justice

The Middle School Ministry of First Friends Church
5455 Market Avenue North - Canton, Ohio 44714 | 330.966.2800 | firstfriends.org