

EVERYONE

EVERYWHERE

SM FAMILY GUIDE

MSM

AND

HSM

WELCOME

We are so excited about the opportunity to serve alongside your family in the year to come. Our vision at OCC is to see EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE experience and be transformed by the love of God, and we believe there is no better place to live out that vision than in Student Ministries! The adolescent years are some of the most crucial and influential in a person's life. We can't wait to see what God has in store for your student. It's going to be the best!

WHO WE ARE

OUR STAFF



JODIE BLEMKER

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Student Ministry Pastor
Vision, Alignment, Leaders



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Families, Serving, Systems

OUR PURPOSE

To see EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE- experience and be transformed by the love of God

OUR PROCESS

Creating a safe place where every student would be LOVED, KNOWN, HEARD, SUPPORTED, and CHALLENGED by a caring adult.

RELATIONAL MINISTRY

The Apostle John wrote, “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14 MSG). This is the foundation of our ministry, that we would go out of our way to lean into the world of students and show them the hope and love of Jesus. Chances are a student won’t remember our creative Bible studies, crazy events, or a carefully crafted camp talk. What they remember are the connections they make with their group and leaders! They won’t forget the people who LOVED GOD and LIKED THEM. Our hope is to be the physical and incarnational means in which our students will experience God’s love.

Our ministry strives to create a place where EVERY student is LOVED, KNOWN, HEARD, SUPPORTED and CHALLENGED by a caring adult.

MSM & HSM STRUCTURE

Sundays are THE BEST DAY OF THE WEEK.

TIMES

During the school year...

MSM meets from 10:00-11:30

HSM meets from 4-5:30

During the summer...

MSM and HSM meet together from 10:00-11:30, except on Family Service Sundays

PROGRAM

The first 45ish minutes of our time together consists of a welcome, game, worship, and a message. The message helps students connect their faith and the teachings of scripture to what is happening in their day-to-day world. Our desire is that what happens on stage sets leaders and students up to have a meaningful and authentic time in small group. While teaching and fun helps students engage and grow, we believe processing together with their group is the most significant thing that will help them grow.

SMALL GROUPS

Connection through pastoral and peer care is the most important thing that we do in SM to help students grow in their faith. Students are placed in small groups by school grade and gender. We ask leaders to commit to being fully engaged with their small group for the school year, with the hope that they are able to continue leading the same group for many years. Leaders are screened and interviewed. We provide leaders with training and resources so they can build community, facilitate discussions, and care well for their students.

Most small groups have at least 2 adult leaders. Research shows that the likelihood of a student remaining connected to the Church upon graduation and living out a vibrant faith increases significantly when they have 5 adults in their life (outside of family) invested in their spiritual development. It's not the sermon at camp that made them cry or the fancy lights during worship that keep them connected, it's adults walking alongside them in their student years showing them that they are LOVED and they BELONG to God and to the local church.

ROLE OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER

What exactly is a small group leader? A friend? A parent? A coach? A teacher? Here's what we define as a small group leader: **A small group leader is anyone who chooses to invest in the lives of a few to encourage authentic faith.**

Every small group leader should do five things:

1. **Be Present:** Connect their faith to a community by showing up predictably, mentally, and randomly.
2. **Create a Safe Place:** Clarify their faith as they grow by leading the group, respecting the process, and guarding the heart.
3. **Partner with Parents:** Nurture an everyday faith by cueing the parent, honoring the parent, and reinforcing the family.
4. **Make it Personal:** Inspire their faith by your example by living in community, setting priorities, and being real.

Move Them Out: Engage their faith in a bigger story by moving them to someone else, moving them to be the church, and moving them to what's next.

SMALL GROUP GOALS

During Small Group time, we focus on creating community, growing together, and following up. Every group is in a unique spot as they are experiencing and being transformed by Jesus. Transformation and growth look very different for sixth grade boys compared to eleventh grade girls, so leaders adapt their group time to fit the developmental needs of their group.

CREATE COMMUNITY - LOVED

We work hard to create a community where every student feels safe to be themselves and is socially accepted, challenged, and encouraged. One of the first ways for a student to experience God's LOVE is through the context of relationships. It's often the beginning of spiritual decisions they make. We

ask leaders to show up faithfully and consistently. We encourage students to also show up consistently and to authentically share about their lives. We ask groups to love like Jesus and pray for each other.

GROW TOGETHER - KNOWN AND HEARD

The best way for a student to be KNOWN and HEARD is for someone to be present with them. We ask leaders and students to show a genuine interest in knowing each other and be fully present during group time. We ask everyone to keep their cell phones stashed and to engage in the conversation in authentic and kind ways. We listen to the different perspectives students bring and to the questions they have, they have the best questions! While it is easy for conversations to get off topic, we ask that leaders help bring the conversations back to the scripture and topic that was shared during large group time. We believe community and personal connection happen best when we prioritize Jesus and his teachings.

FOLLOW UP - SUPPORTED AND CHALLENGED

We celebrate students and point out their potential. Every student needs a personal cheerleader supporting them. We want students to be CHALLENGED, so we ask leaders to help students see how their strengths and abilities can be used to show God's love to everyone, everywhere. We encourage students to take the next step in their faith journey and follow up.

When something significant is shared in group, we ask leaders to check in with a student after group time or during the week. If students share something that is bigger than what a leader knows how to answer or navigate, they will loop in someone on staff or a small group coach. If something is shared that causes concern for a student's well-being, leaders and/or staff will reach out to the student's family as well.

LEADER GUIDELINES

We want students and families to know that we care for them inside and outside of Overlake and want them to be safe. We encourage you to get to know your student's leader too, they really are the best people!

These are a few guidelines we have for leaders:

- Be consistent
- Connect with students in their world by showing up to events and/or engaging with them on social media
- Never to be alone with a student - any time together needs to be in a public setting or with additional people
- Live as an example to students and model integrity
- Pray for students

SERVICE AND CAMPS

We love having students serve! We believe that living out your faith grows your faith, and it helps create relationships where you can be loved, known, heard, seen, and challenged. There are many opportunities for students to serve in SM and Overlake, locally, and globally.

SM AND OVERLAKE MINISTRY TEAMS

- SM Welcome and Experience
- SM Breakfast
- SM Worship
- SM Tech
- Kid Town
- Overlake Cafe

SERVICE LEARNING

Throughout the year, we have opportunities for students to care for the local and global community. These can include volunteering with local organizations and schools, advocating for human rights, and traveling to work with Overlake ministry partners in the US and beyond.

SUMMER CAMP

During the summer, we partner with Christ in Youth (CIY) for camp.

2023 Camps TBD

CONNECT WITH US

WEBSITE

<https://www.occ.org/sm>

INSTAGRAM

@overlakesm

FACEBOOK

Overlake Student Ministry