



Dear Middle School Families,

Greetings! I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving and are greatly anticipating the Christmas season that is almost upon us. I am writing to inform you of some changes that are about to take place with regards to the Middle School Sunday School ministry

For some time now, our Middle School Ministry Action Team has discussed moving the Middle School Sunday School ministry to the South Campus. This move has proved necessary for three main reasons. First, the move would free up four rooms of additional Sunday School space on the North Campus for new adult classes. At the time of this writing, at least six of our adult Sunday School classes are in a position to birth new classes. Second, this move would bring the entire student ministry into one location on our campus. Being in one place for all of our events and activities will give us the ability to tailor our facilities toward students much like the children's ministry has done with the C building. And third, moving to the South Campus would be a significant step in creating the overall sense of identity that our youth ministry is working hard to create. For example, all of our communication, registration, and attention would now be centered at the South Campus. And even though we still have unique and separate ministries for Middle School and High School students, having all of the students in one building creates a sense of community and belonging that we would like to greatly improve upon. Our team is very excited about the benefits of a South Campus move.

On the other hand, our team has also identified two concerns with moving the Sunday School to the South Campus. The first concern is safety—how can we ensure the safety of our students as they cross Wekiva Springs road before and after Sunday School? The second concern is facilities—does the South Campus currently have the resources that our teachers and students require for effective Sunday School?

I am thrilled to report that both of these concerns have been addressed to our satisfaction in the past few weeks. About safety, a representative from our church's Safety Team will be posted at the crosswalk from 8:45 am to 9:00 am to ensure that all students cross Wekiva Springs Road safely. We would further encourage parents to drop their children off at the South Campus as they arrive at church and then proceed to park on the North Campus. At the end of the Sunday School hour, each Middle School Sunday School class will be escorted back across Wekiva Springs Road by the teacher of the class. Students will not be considered released until their teacher has brought them across the road. As for our concern about facilities, the South Campus youth wing will now have everything our students and teachers currently require in their North Campus location with the exception of dry erase boards. Dry erase boards will be added at the first of 2009.

With all of the benefits considered and our major concerns addressed, we are going to go ahead with the move of the Middle School ministry Sunday School to the South Campus on **Sunday, December 14, 2008**. I am aware that this is short notice and I ask that you please make this transition as smooth as possible. We had wanted to make the move the first week of January 2009 but an immediate space need in the adult building prompted us to act sooner. Thank you for your support in this matter. The transition is a little sooner than we all expected but we can make this work. Have a great Christmas Season.

By His Grace and For His Glory,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nathan T. Hardeman'.

Nathan T. Hardeman