



Pioneers Friday Church 2009-2010

Hello Teachers, Counselors, Staff, Friends, and Inquirers of Pioneers,

Welcome to Pioneers 09/10! We are so excited to have you with us. God is providing for Pioneers in new and interesting ways. We are so excited for this year!

Many things are the same as when we left three months ago; some things have changed. It is not unlike the lives of each of us. We left for summer, and now we're back. What happened? Some of us were in school, and some went home; still more travelled near and far. We can't ignore the change our summer has made in us, yet life feels "normal" again. So it is with Pioneers. It will feel familiar with the changes of summer molding decisions and improving and growing due to the influence of Christ.

We have created this packet as a resource to you. We hope it helps you! It starts with the basics for those of you unfamiliar with the program and will highlight all the new changes for this year, which will be helpful, even if you have been here longer than we have!

Welcome back, get excited! We are excited to see what the Lord has for us this year. Be praying for the kids. Pray for each other. Pray for us. We love you, co-laborers in the ministry.

Making His name famous,

Mark Zobeck and Holli Davila

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The Skeleton of Pioneers: What does Pioneers look like on a given Friday night?

Evening Outline:

Time	Boys	Girls	Scooters/1-2 Grade
6:00 – 6:30	Classroom	Big Time	Classroom
6:30 – 7:00	Classroom	Dinner	Classroom
7:00 – 7:30	Big Time	Classroom	Dinner
7:30 – 8:00	Dinner	Classroom	Big Time

- Classroom – grade specific, teach Bible lesson, play games, do crafts
- Big Time – all girls, boys, or scooters/1-2 grade together, teach lesson and have worship
- Dinner – Food. None of it's for you.

Class Divisions:

Boys/Girls
Scooters (b/g together)
1-2 grade b/g
3-4 grade b/g
5-6 grade b/g
Youth (7-12 grade) b/g

Teachers:

Scooters: Erin Talley
 1/2 Boys: Darrell Dixon
 1/2 Girls: Megan Voiles
 3/4 Boys: James van Dyke
 3/4 Girls: Jen McCatharn, Jennifer Pitts
 5/6 Boys: Drew Gustafson
 5/6 Girls: Rachel Thompson, Hillary Ballein
 Youth Boys: Richard McBride, Daniel Bogdanoff
 Youth Girls: Rachel Cook, Celeste Cox

What you need to know:

- We bus kids in from 5 different routes around Bryan
- As kids arrive at the church, we play outside until it's time to start
- Throughout the evening, stick with the class you've been assigned
- Report discipline problems to the class' teacher or a scary person with a clipboard
- When it is time to go, we need you as the counselor to maintain order and get the kids to the buses. Your job as counselor is not over till *EVERY* kid is gone for the night.
- Remember, *YOU* are the responsible adult here and have authority over the kids.

Discipline: How Does it Work? What Do I do? What has Changed?

This year we are going to streamline discipline, and get rid of some of the cracks in the discipline of the past. So, if you are a returner, please note the changes. There are several.

-3 Rules:

1. *Respect God*
2. *Obey Teachers*
3. *Love Others*

Yes, only three rules. It is easy to remember, easy to enforce.

“Be careful what you’re rules are, because you’ll have to enforce them.”

Notes on the rules:

- ❖ These rules are inherently subjective, representing the values of Pioneers. Keeping these in mind will give you a good idea how to discipline.
- ❖ Specific examples of rule infractions: talking during prayer (rule 1), talking while teacher is talking (2) and not doing what teacher says (2), fighting and arguing (3), running on stage/in sanctuary (1 and 2), disrupting lessons (1, 2, and 3!)
 - Reference the rule while disciplining. This makes the rule the standard and not our prerogative. (To a child who pushed to get to be in the front of the line) “We do not push at Pioneers. Is pushing a way to love others? No. Know that you have a warning because we need to learn to love others.”
- ❖ You, as a counselor have the right and responsibility to discipline an unruly child. Do not let their attitudes intimidate you. We want the kids in the classroom, but we want them to be safe and willing to learn. Enforcing the rules will ensure that they will be there for the right reasons and that all the kids in the classroom are benefitting. We trust you and will support you in your discipline. Use the wisdom and discernment you have as a believer, an adult, and a counselor.

A friend of mine once told me that she disciplines for one reason. She does not discipline them so she has good kids- that’s a bonus. She doesn’t discipline to make her kids quiet or easier to manage. Her motivation for disciplining is so that when Christ asks her children to make a decision to follow Him, their hearts already understand obedience, and their obedient hearts are ready to follow Christ for eternity.

“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives him far from it.”

Proverbs 22:15

“For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son whom he receives.”

Hebrews 12:6

The Structure of Our Discipline System: What Does It Look Like in Practice?

Warning system: Once one of the rules has been infringed, report infraction to lead teacher or Scary Clipboard Person (SCP). Once a child accrues 3 warnings, they will be sent to D-Hall. If discipline problems continue, child will be sent home. If situation warrants, child may not be allowed to return to Pioneers for an indeterminate amount of time.

-SCPs will keep a disciplinary action in a centralized location so that we know what is going on all the time. They will be scary because they will take on the heavier disciplinary responsibilities, probably being the anti-hero in most situations.

-Formerly, the kids knew discipline was fractioned and subjective and not always enforced. That's going to change.

- Scary Clipboard Person for the girls – Holli Davila
- Scary Clipboard Person for the boys – Mark Zobeck
- Scary Clipboard Person for the scooters – Eric Paugh

-Weakness Areas: kids know they can break the rules, and which rules are easy to break and when to break rules, which only encourages more rule breaking.

While we are playing outside: Kids are not allowed anywhere except main yard. They are...

- NOT allowed inside the buildings (unless with a counselor to bathroom).
- NOT allowed to run around the side of the buildings.
- NOT allowed in the street for any reason.
- NOT allowed in the tree.
- We repeat, NOT allowed in that dumb tree.

In transition times, kids should not run in hallways but be kept in classes and with teachers as much as possible. In big time, kids should not run around the sanctuary and should not ever be on the stage or standing on seats. Dinner time kids should stay in seats and ask counselors if they need anything. Also, don't let them bang on the tables.

Do not be scared to send a kid to one of the SCP or D-Hall. It will focus your class and motivate good behavior because bad behavior is not tolerated. They want to be at Pioneers; hold them to a standard of conduct that proves they do.

Another aspect of our discipline that has worked well, especially in the older classes, is asking a kid into the hallway to calm down or go for a walk before their behavior becomes an infraction. Keep this in mind.

You are not here to only be a friend to the kids. Keeping them safe means being willing to correct bad or reckless behavior. You are first their counselor and then their friend.

Curriculum: What Are We Teaching This Semester?

This semester we are teaching about being Men and Women of God. We realize this may seem like its hard to teach at a kid's ministry, but we are incorporating character studies of people who model godly living for us all. The follow is a bare-bones outline of what we plan to cover this semester. We have broken it up into teaching segments. We will email the lead teachers with details lessons in sets of three. The lessons will be able on the google group also. Release dates are September 11, October 2, and October 30.

September 11- Kick off, rules, welcome back.

September 18 David / Miriam

September 25 David /Hannah

October 2 David/ Rahab

October 9 Joshua/Esther

October 16 Joshua/Esther

October 23 Joshua/Esther

October 30 – Fall Festival

November 6 Paul/ Ruth

November 13 Paul/ Ruth

November20 Paul/ Ruth

December 4-Last Pioneers/Christmas Story

December 11- Christmas Party at the Baber's

Miscellaneous: Anything Else We Should Know?

In order to make certain everyone at the church is part of Pioneers and belong there, Emmanuel has required that we implement a **name tag/sign in policy**. This means when you arrive you must pick up your name tag first and wear it all night. Turn it back before you leave. If you see anyone without a name tag, send them to get one immediately. **If they don't have one, they don't belong on church property or around the children.** We realize there will be extenuating circumstances at times and will have "visitor" name tags available for those who qualify.

We are developing a **new mentorship program** for our youth.

Purpose: To provide the context for a one on one mentor relationship between a counselor and a youth with the goal of spiritual growth and encouragement. (more contact with the kids = more opportunity for ministry and saying Jesus' name)

What that means: Hang out with the kid at least once a week. Have a heart for the kid and earnestly desire that they know Jesus more and more. Pray for them.

-So as to stay "above reproach" we request certain stipulations to be followed:

-First hangout, introduce yourself to parents and let them know a little about yourself. Parent contact is important as it could provide even more opportunity to share the gospel. Plus, parents will be more comfortable knowing who is taking their kid.

-Limit first 2 hangouts to an hour and go to public places – restaurants, parks, malls, etc. This will help establish rapport while staying “above reproach”.

-Evaluate activities with an awareness of what it may look like. Remember, “above reproach” is important.

Who can do it: Counselors will be evaluated on a provisional basis for mentorship eligibility by the coordinators and directors. We request counselors to have been at Pioneers for at least a semester, and we very seriously emphasize the importance of consistency both within Pioneers and within the mentorship context.

Thoughts on Teaching/Mentality Changes:

Mark and Holli met with Nancy Conlin, children’s director of FBC Bryan and Child Psychologist, and she gave us some great thoughts we want to share with you.

- Lessons should last no longer than ten minutes. Lessons should be upon entry into the classroom.
- The kids NEED structure, both on a macro and micro level. Each night of transition should be the same; each night in the classroom should follow the same schedule.
- 1st-4th graders may focus better with fingerplay activities during story.
- Unpredictable prize nights often encourage good behavior.
- If kids do not want to participate, make them sit quietly in the corner. One should not get extra attention for being unwilling to participate.
- Maintaining constant discipline is in the children’s best interest.
 - think 10 years down the road if kid would benefit more from learning how to listen and follow instructions or having teacher be cool with them for an hour a week
 - We are not only teaching behavior skills, but the ability to respond to authority and work in a system, skills they will need as they seeks jobs, etc.
- Utilize resources to teach lessons and crafts. You don’t have to come up with it all on your own.
- Engage the kids in the story. Have a place for them to make noise or clap or wave their hands.
- Anything can be cool if we make it cool. It has a lot to with presentation.
- Make class good enough that the kids want what we’ve got to offer.

Resources:

Familyfun.com – use as a starting place for crafts and activities. Tweak to your specific lesson

Daniellesplace.com – a Christian resource for kids

Username:

Password: