

# PARENT HANDBOOK 2017-2018



**Building Christian Relationships as we  
*Live the Love of Jesus Christ!***

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
Acts 2:42*

**NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## LOGOS CALENDAR 2017-2018

September 20 Welcome Back to LOGOS  
September 27  
October 4  
October 11  
October 18  
October 25  
November 1  
November 8  
November 15  
November 22 No LOGOS - Thanksgiving Holidays Nov. 20-24  
November 29  
December 6  
December 13  
December 20 No LOGOS – Mid-Year Holidays Dec. 21-Jan 3  
January 3 No LOGOS  
January 10  
January 17  
January 24  
January 31  
February 7  
February 14 Ash Wednesday  
February 21  
February 28  
March 7  
March 14  
March 21 March 28 No LOGOS March 26-30 spring holidays  
April 4  
April 11

FYI Easter is April 1, 2018

# Our LOGOS Covenant

## **Each person:**

### **Has a right to be treated with kindness and respect.**

This means that no one will be put down, ignored or have their feelings hurt.

### **Has a right to be treated as a child of God.**

This means that no one will be treated unfairly for any reason.

### **Has a right to have their own opinions.**

The opinions of everyone in the group will be respectfully considered.

### **Has a right to be safe.**

This means no one will do anything to endanger another person. There will be no abuse to people or the building.

### **Has a right to learn.**

This means all ideas will be respected and may be expressed without being interrupted, and questions may be asked without criticism.



## WHAT IS LOGOS?

The LOGOS Program is a dynamic ministry of Christian nurture, which provides opportunities for youth and children to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other. We, at Northbrook, believe that nurturing youth and children into a committed relationship of faith with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church can do; and that this is done best through LOGOS

LOGOS literally means *The Word* (John 1:1-18). At LOGOS on Wednesday evenings, first through twelfth graders will be spending time with God's word; hearing it, discussing it, sharing it with others and acting on it as they treat one another as children of God.

LOGOS involves the entire congregation - people like you who feel that it is most important to take time each week to intentionally nurture youth and children. Parents, single adults, grandparents, couples without children, pastors - all join together sharing their talents and gifts.

We believe that Christian relationships are best learned when consistently experienced in Christian communities. The selfless kind of caring for others found uniquely in Christ is intentionally taught and practiced. LOGOS **will** make a difference in the lives of our youth and children.

The LOGOS Program is designed to reflect the life of the early church as expressed in Acts 2.42:

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

The *apostles' teaching* is Bible Study, *fellowship* is Recreation Play, *breaking of bread* is Family Time, and *prayers and singing* are Worship Skills. Each week the youth and children will be involved in all four parts:

✝ **Bible Study** is where they will learn the faith stories and build bridges between the ancient words of Scripture and the world we live in today. This part of LOGOS provides the foundation upon which the rest of the program is designed.

✝ **Family Time** is where the LOGOS community shares a meal, prayers, singing and games, and experiences being the family of God. The meal is served family style, giving everyone the opportunity to serve one another. A caring "multi-age family" is created at each table as members share important events in their lives and enjoy Family Fun together.

✝ **Recreation Play** is where they will come together with friends, participating together in a variety of activities in an environment where they can experience great fun at the expense of no one else.

**LOGOS is a commitment to put church first  
in the lives of your children and youth!**

**Who am I?**

I am created in the image of God.

**Where am I going?**

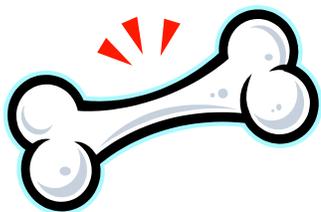
I am entering into Christian relationships and community.

**Is there a purpose to the journey?**

My purpose is to live in right relationship with  
God, others, myself and the world.

Those right relationships motivate me to use my gifts  
in service to God and others.

# SKELETAL BONES OF LOGOS



**These bones are the essential elements of the structure within our LOGOS ministry. They provide strength and stability to the program. This structure provides the best opportunity for building relationships among young people and adults and between each of them and God. These relationships result in commitments to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Each bone is equally as important as the others.**

High School	HIGH SCHOOL is where the accumulated effects of involvement in the LOGOS Ministry reach their fullest potential.
Call	The process of CALL is used to staff the program.
Fees	The program is supported by a monetary investment paid by participating families.
Mid-Week	Wednesday is the day we meet. It is half-way through the week and gives spiritual support to our children/youth until Sunday comes around.
Four Parts	We participate in all FOUR PARTS of the program, every week.
Parental Commitment	PARENTS make a commitment to the weekly program by getting their kids here on time and volunteering.
Worship Participation	Everyone participates in Wednesday worship, worshipping and leading worship too.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE LOGOS PROGRAM**

LOGOS is an integral part of the Christian Education and Nurture program of the church. Children and youth “catch” the Christian faith by entering into relationships with adults who live their Christian faith, and who treat *every* person as a child of God. Whether you are leading a game, washing dishes, parenting a table, or driving a car pool, you are demonstrating to youth and children in the LOGOS Program that you love them and, because of your participation, that you believe the LOGOS Program is a high priority in the life of your family.

It is expected that one adult from every family with a young person registered in LOGOS will support him or her and the LOGOS Program by:

- Encouraging and going out of your way to facilitate regular attendance on Wednesdays.
- Making a monetary investment in the program to cover program costs.
- Praying for the young people and adults in the program.

With all kinds of pressures working to shape the minds of our youth and children, the challenge to the church is immense to effectively influence our youth and children to live lives consistent with the Christian faith. The format of the LOGOS Program provides an arena within which Christian relationships will be formed and nurtured and within which Christian discipleship will be understood and practiced.

# LOGOS FAMILY COVENANT

*LOGOS at Northbrook is a system of Christian nurture designed to help youth, children and adults grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other. Family participation is an integral part of this system of spiritual nurture, so the LOGOS Board and Staff ask that you read over and make a commitment to the LOGOS Family Covenant.*

Believing that being a disciple of Jesus Christ is truly the most important choice we ever make, we will with the help of the Holy Spirit make the following commitments:

We will:

- Pray for the people and program of LOGOS.
- Be regular in attendance at LOGOS and fulfill our commitments of time and talents to the program with enthusiasm!
- Regularly attend Wednesday Worship and lead worship too.
- Recognize that each person is made in the image of God, is valuable and precious, and should be treated accordingly at all times.

We agree with the LOGOS Program Family Covenant and commit to upholding it in the coming year.

Signatures of LOGOS youth, children and their parent(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The LOGOS Covenant will be in plain view around the church. This is the statement of how we will behave toward one another at all times, not just on Wednesdays at church. It is important that the congregation and parents partner with the LOGOS staff helping youth and children behave according to the only rule of LOGOS: Everyone is to treat everyone else as a child of God.**

# DISCIPLINE and BEHAVIOR

**The one rule of LOGOS is:  
Everyone will treat everyone else as a child of God.**

As a child of God, each person is of infinite worth and deserves to be treated with respect, kindness, patience, and all other aspects of love. Built into this rule are the goals that each young person understand that he/she is really of value and that each young person learn (sometimes over and over again!) to treat all other people in this way. **The LOGOS Code of Conduct** is a document that every student and his/her parent will be asked to read and talk about as a family.

It would be wonderful if everyone came to LOGOS understanding and living this rule, but that is not reality. It is also not reality that we can simply post this rule on the wall and expect everyone to immediately comprehend it and live by it. The understanding of one's self and of others that is encompassed by this rule takes lots of time and practice to develop...but that is what LOGOS is all about! We have set aside the time each Wednesday and structured a practice arena (LOGOS) in which our youth and children can work on treating one another as GOD intended.

Basic behavioral guidelines include:

- Safety for self and others. There will be  
no running, unless it is supervised.  
no dangerous horseplay.  
no hurting of others either by words or actions.
  
- Respect for others  
Every person is a Child of God and deserves to be treated that way.  
Be courteous to others.  
Refrain from inappropriate language.  
Observe proper manners and eating habits.  
Talk when it is appropriate, don't interrupt.  
Teachers are Children of God too and deserve your attention and respect.  
Respect one another's personal space; hands to yourself.  
Respect the handiwork and property of others.
  
- General Orderliness  
Walk when moving through the church.  
Arrive on time.  
Clean up when you are finished.

## Discipline and Behavior continued . . .

The specifics of our discipline and behavior policy are designed to support the above understanding. To begin with, a youth or child can never be “kicked out” of LOGOS. God does not give up on us, but instead gives us chance after chance and forgiveness after forgiveness. We will strive to treat each child likewise through our Four Step Discipline Plan:

1. Warning about behavior: When someone breaks the rule of LOGOS, there is an opportunity to explain why a particular action does not show respect or kindness to someone else.
2. Removal from classroom/activity: Though a youth or child cannot be kicked out of LOGOS, a child can choose to remove him/herself from a class or activity by continuing to break the rules of LOGOS after being warned.
3. Parent(s) or Guardian(s) contacted: If a youth or child is removed from a class or an activity more than once, the adults who sponsor that child will be contacted so that we can work more closely together to solve the problem.
4. Conference with the Pastor, adult sponsor, and the youth or child: If necessary, a conference will be set up to further encourage communication and problem solving for the child’s benefit and for the benefit of the entire LOGOS ministry.

We do not want to slip into the secular mode of discipline where punishment is the only response to unacceptable behavior. By itself, punishment is just punishment. It is a way for one person to control another. **Discipline is not a tool for controlling others, but for enabling the exercising of self-control.**

A youth or child who learns self-discipline has self-control, self-reliance, self-esteem, and expresses orderly conduct. Self-discipline is assuming responsibility for our actions and making decisions about our behavior. **As disciples (the root word of discipline)** we are followers and learners. Discipline is a process of teaching and learning how to think about, care about, and make decisions about others, through the eyes of God – the way Jesus taught us.

**The LOGOS Program includes an investment of both time and money.**

# **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

## **Registration**

To register for LOGOS:

- Complete a LOGOS Registration Form, Authorization to Provide Medical Care for Minor Youth and Children, photography permission and Permission Slip for Trips for each of their children.
- Pay the fees or request a scholarship or payment plan. (monetary investment)
- Make a commitment to volunteer in the LOGOS Program. (investment in time)
- Read carefully and sign as a family the LOGOS Covenant with your child(ren) and youth. (Keep this covenant where you can see it at home.)

## **Emergency Closing**

**LOGOS will be cancelled when the Birmingham Public Schools are closed for bad weather or other emergencies.**

<i>Investment implies a return will be realized – cost implies an expense.</i>
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## **Monetary Investment – Fees**

Your monetary investment covers the cost of dinner, curriculum, music and other program expenses. Two payments are due for the program year as follows:

**Monetary investment for children K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade...**

### **First Payment due in September**

\$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> child in the family  
\$ 75 for 2<sup>nd</sup> child in the family  
\$ 45 for 3<sup>rd</sup> child in the family

### **Second Payment due in January**

\$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> child in the family  
\$ 75 for 2<sup>nd</sup> child in the family  
\$ 45 for 3<sup>rd</sup> child in the family

Senior High cost for dinner is \$40.00 for each semester.

No youth or child should miss LOGOS for financial reasons. Please see or call Ken Stetson at 248-302-2177 to make financial arrangements as needed. All inquiries and arrangements are strictly confidential.

## **Policies and Procedures continued...**

### **Schedule during the renovation**

**5:00 – 5:15 Gathering time**   **5:15- 6:15 Bible Study – K-8**   **6:15 -7:00 Dinner and Recreation**  
**Senior Highs 7:00-8:00**

### **After the renovation**

5:00-5:15 Gathering and Games	6:15-7:15 Family Time (dinner/games)
5:15-6:15 Bible Study	7:15-8:00 Ken and Sr. Highs

Senior Highs are welcome to come at whatever time their schedule allows.

### **Investment of Time**

Each family is to volunteer a minimum of **four times per semester**, or 8 times total. This is to help in the kitchen and setting tables and washing dishes, etc. Families who are Table Parents or have a specific job in the kitchen, i.e. dishwasher, will have those times counted as their service. The times you work at LOGOS lets your child(ren) know that you think LOGOS is important and worthy of your commitment of time and energy. They like to have you here (no matter what they say 😊), and are proud that you are involved. LOGOS provides a great opportunity for you to meet other church members and get to know them better. Sign-up sheets are located outside Ken's office on Wednesday nights.

**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT**

**LOVE GOD, LOVE YOUTH AND CHILDREN & HAVE A GIFT TO SHARE!**

**Dining Room Set Up** – This involves putting on tablecloths, silverware, centerpieces, and aiding the kitchen in preparing for the evening meal.

**Kitchen/Dining Room Cleanup** – This job involves helping the people in charge of cleanup and jobs include: rinsing dishes and silverware, loading them in the dishwasher, putting dishes and silverware away, and/or clearing the tables, putting away centerpieces and decorations, salt and pepper shakers and the like.

If you have an idea for something you want to do during LOGOS, please Ken Stetson.

*God doesn't just call those who are equipped. . .  
God equips those who are called.*

**LOGOS youth and children are involved in the total life of the church  
developing habits that will last a lifetime!**

## **IMPORTANT NUMBER and EMAIL**

**Ken Stetson, staff 248-302-2177 (cell)  
stetson.kenny@gmail.com**