

Welcome To FUEL

September 2023

Dear High School Parent,



I know, I know, this is all happening way too quickly! In the case of my wife and I, all we did was blink and, just like that, we had a child in high school...I'm sure that you can relate! I'd like to take a few minutes to introduce you to our high school ministry, FUEL. Over the last 20-plus years of working with high school students, I've found that one of the most difficult hurdles for teens to overcome is the transition from middle school to high school.

Transitions and change, though exciting, can be overwhelming for our kids, BUT remember, spiritual investments are always worthwhile. As your teen remains patient and consistent in the transitional process, the fear and anxiety often dissipates quickly. My best advice is to GIVE IT TIME! My prayer is that your child will find a friendly home here @ FUEL for the next 4 years.

As your teen transitions into our high school ministry, FUEL, there are **4 KEY WORDS** that best describe what I pray these next 4 years will look like for them...

FUN: Many students use the word "boring" when they describe church. Yes, we want students to have a good time at FUEL and to make some incredible memories here. While fun and laughter is of high value to us, our goal is not to entertain your teen, but to live out authentic Christian lives and to present a relationship with Jesus as life's greatest prize and adventure. Serving Jesus is far from boring and I pray that these next 4 years will provide many lifelong memories for your teen.

FAITH: Our primary goal is to help your child mature in their faith. Whether it's through a retreat, a missions outreach, the preaching of God's Word each Friday at FUEL, or in a small group where they can experience deeper community and accountability, our goal and prayer is to see students "own" their faith and to take their relationship with God seriously. "Recognizing that God has given you as parents the responsibility (and privilege) to teach and disciple your kids to become followers of Jesus, my heart is to *come alongside*

you and help. During the next 4 years, I hope to provide you with resources, seminars, and prayer support to help you accomplish this. You are not alone!

FRIENDS: *“Students become like the people they hang out with”.* Even though the teens don’t like to hear these words, I’ve seen that truth played out thousands of times over the years. **Proverbs 13:20** reminds us to *“walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”*

Almost everything in high school revolves around friends. To finish strong, good friends are vital! My prayer is that life-long, godly friendships will be made and cultivated during their time in FUEL.

FINISH: I want to see students finish their high school years strong in their faith. God is glorified when graduating seniors have strong convictions about their faith and a lifestyle that reflects those convictions.

SO, WHAT’S THE NEXT STEP? We kick off the new year at FUEL on **Friday, September 22nd, 7:30pm-10pm.** Have your child come and check it out. A week before, on **Friday, September 15th at 7:30pm,** we are having our FUSION Kick-off. Fusion is a monthly gathering where the middle and high school students come together for a night of worship, challenge from God’s word, and fun. I hope that your 9th grader will join us for this awesome night.

I want to thank you for allowing Island Christian Church, and myself, to play a small part in God's plan for your child. I look forward to connecting with your teen and your family this coming year.

Pastor Seth

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