



VICTORY
student ministries

Parent Playbook 2017 - 2018

Dear Families of Students,

We are so excited about working with your students! The adolescent years can be one of the most challenging and exciting times in one's life. As parents and guardians, you are the primary spiritual leaders of your students, and it is our desire to walk alongside you and partner with your family.

We know that every student is asking three questions –

- Who am I? [Identity]
- Where do I belong? [Community]
- What is my mission? [Mission]

Here at VSM, we aim to provide opportunities for students to discover their Christ-centered identity, a community where they truly belong, and a mission driven life as we follow Jesus together.

Consistency is one of the most important ingredients for growth in a student's life, which is why we focus on our two weekly events – every Sunday and Wednesday. Small groups take place during our Sunday services, and can be a powerful connection point with other peers and Christian adults. We invite you, as your students' spiritual leaders, to allow us to partner with you by making VSM a consistent part of your students' lifestyle.

In this packet, you will find information about what's happening at VSM in the 2016-2017 year - our weekly venues, as well as special events.

Please, if you have any questions, concerns, or input, come speak with us. We are here to serve you and partner with you.

Stacy & Brad

Our goals

- To provide safe environments where students can develop into passionate followers of Jesus.
- To provide biblical teaching that helps students apply the truth of the Bible to their daily life.
- To partner with parents in raising up fully devoted followers of Jesus.
- To connect students to other caring adults who will walk alongside them and affirm what their parents are teaching.
- To see students develop daily habits for spiritual maturity in their own lives, and reach out to be a light in their schools, sports teams, and community.

Communication Avenues

There are several ways that you can receive information about Victory Student Ministries:

- Join our Facebook Group to receive updates @ "Victory Highway Student Ministry" and "VSM Parents"
- Follow us on Twitter at our handle, "@victorystudents" and Instagram at victory_student_ministries
- Stay plugged in to our website, www.victorystudents.com, where you will find Parent Resources, Upcoming Events, and paperwork.

VSM Weekly Venues

Here at VSM, we focus on our weekly venues rather than special events so that we can walk steadily with students and live for Christ together. Our events take place in the VSM Student Center, featuring an affordable café, ping pong, pool table, air hockey, & video games.

Sunday Mornings (Discipleship)

180 Worship Service @ 10:15am & 11:30am

This is a venue for middle school and high school students, revolving around discipleship, where students will experience worship music, hear Biblical teaching, and connect with small group leaders and peers their age to grow in relationships and in walking with Christ together.

Wednesday Nights (Outreach)

The Mix (Middle School) @ 7 – 8:15pm

This weekly event is high energy, revolves around outreach and community, and is designed as a safe place to bring unchurched friends to VSM. Doors open at 6:30pm, so come grab a snack at the café, or play pool or ping pong. Meets in the Student Center (Room #30).

The Mix (High School) @ 7 – 8:15pm

Our high school night is the encouragement that you need to get through the week strong! Pivotal relationships are built with adults and peers, and we play together and grow together through Bible-based teaching. This is an environment designed to bring your unchurched friends to VSM. Meets in PowerHouse (Room #27).

***There will be no Mix the following Wednesdays:** Sept. 6, Nov. 22, Dec. 20, Dec. 27, April 25, July 4, NTS Camp Week, and Mission Trip Week (TBA). Keep up to date on our Parent Facebook page for any changes!

VSM Serves

Every few months, VSM will offer an opportunity for students to serve our church or community. Sometimes these projects will happen in place of Mix and sometimes they fall on a weekend. We will communicate the opportunities multiple weeks in advance, so make sure to keep up with our Facebook Pages!

Short Term Bible Studies & Student Leadership

We seek to use high school students in servant leadership in many ways, whether it is in the worship band, tech, outreach team, or another area of our church. For high school students who are looking for more in-depth Bible study, there will be short-term opportunities offered, so watch for them on the calendar!

VSM Rules (our middle school students hear these every week!)

1. Be inclusive and kind to all – absolutely no bullying!
2. Respect the Leaders and the property
3. Use appropriate language
4. No drugs, alcohol, weapons, or theft
5. Keep your hands off other students
6. No Public Displays of Affection
7. Put Cell Phones away during lessons

Student Ministries 2017 – 2018 Special Events

September 13 // VSM Fall Kickoff Carnival @ The Mix

Location: Victory Highway

Time: 6:00 - 8:45pm

Activities: The perfect event to invite your friends to! There will be games, inflatables, food, bubble soccer, and a talk from the Bible to get you fired up for this year.

Cost: Free!

Age: For middle school and high school students; invite a new friend for this event!

March 2 – 4 // High School Winter Retreat

Location: Three Springs Ministries and Ski Sawmill

Cost: \$100

Age: High School students

Activities: This will be a weekend away where we will have the chance to ski and tube (weather permitting) and have the chance to focus on our relationships with God and each other.

July 2018 (Week TBD) // Never the Same Camp

Location: Houghton College, NY

Cost: TBD

Age: Middle school and high school students

More Info: go to www.ntscamp.com

Activities: A great time away from home to focus on God and friendships. NTS features team competitions, morning chatrooms, evening rallies, and night activities.

Summer 2018 (Week TBD) // Mission Trip

Location: TBD

Cost: TBD

Age: High school students

Activities: Each winter high school students are invited to apply for our summer mission trip. Look for details about our summer 2018 trip this winter!

Nov. 10, 2017 & June 2, 2018 // High School Leadership Intensives

Location: Houghton College

Cost: FREE

Age: High school students

Activities: Houghton College (Houghton, NY) will be hosting two intensive training events in 2017-18 specifically developed for high school students (grades 9-12) who exhibit spiritual maturity, and/or leadership potential. Presenters will be Houghton College faculty, staff, administrators, theology students, and leading pastors in the region.

- Friday, November 10, 2017 (Veteran's Day Observed) - 9am-4pm
 - THEME: Basic Christian Beliefs
- Saturday, June 2, 2018 - 9am-4pm
 - THEME: Countercultural: Engaging Controversial Topics

Parent Resources

Be sure to check out our blog and parent Facebook page to stay up to date on what is happening at VSM and for parenting resources.

Other Resources:

The Five Love Languages of Teenagers by Gary Chapman

The Sticky Faith Guide for your Family by Kara Powell

Parenting Beyond your Capacity by Reggie Joiner & Carey Nieuwhof

Candid Confessions of an Imperfect Parent by Jonathan McKee

Counseling

If, at any time, you feel that your student or family could benefit from professional counseling, please contact us if we can be of help in referring you to a counselor.

Spiritual Growth Resources

We want to do anything that we can to get your students excited about reading their Bible, and gaining consistency in their relationship with God.

1. Youversion.com
 - a. At this website, students can sign up for personalized bible reading plans sent straight to a mobile device or an email address.
2. For new Christians or seeking students: The Lifebook (available in the student center)
 - a. This book is written for students, explaining the story of the Bible, and moving through the book of John to help people understand who Jesus is, and why we should follow him.
3. 40 day Walk Through the Bible (available on request from office)
 - a. These devotionals take students through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, helping them to dig into God's word.

Computer Protection & Accountability

One of these resources is X3 watch, a free accountability program for the Internet sites being visited on the computers in your home. The individual who signs up is able to pick two accountability partners who will receive reports of any suspicious sites visited; there are additional upgrades that include filters, such as Safe Eyes, for a small fee. We would love to see each of our student's homes signed up with this free accountability. To download this feature, visit the XXX Church website at <http://x3watch.com>.

Financial Assistance

We always strive to make our events as affordable as possible, and do not want finances to be a barrier. Please let us know if your student needs assistance with retreats and camp.

Getting Involved

VSM is always looking for adults that want to invest in the lives of students. We have many times and opportunities to get plugged in, whether you are looking to serve weekly or help out with special events. You can reach us at the church office at 962-7000, or by our email addresses sshaw@victoryhighway.com, and bviolet@victoryhighway.com. Please contact Stacy if you are interested in serving.