

Fall Retreat 2020 & Staying Healthy Together

Dear Fall Retreat parents/students,

With Fall Retreat just around the corner there are a few things we need to talk about that are specific to this year. It is our goal to engage in significant ministry with students this fall but also to be extra cautious and aware of the need to be healthy together! This is especially important for our upcoming Fall Retreat October 23-25, 2020. Here are some thoughts...

1. Be aware of the COVID-19 related risks of Fall Retreat.

We want every parent to be fully aware that all ministry gatherings, and especially a 2-night Fall Retreat, carry health risks. Although we will be extra careful and healthy together (more info below), we can't eliminate the ability for students to pass germs. Please take this into consideration and make sure you are comfortable with sending your student on this Fall Retreat.

2. Be aware that we will not practice social distancing at Fall Retreat.

We want to be very open and upfront about the fact that we will not enforce, expect, promote, or encourage social distancing at any point at Fall Retreat. There are several aspects of Fall Retreat (and activities at Fall Retreat) where social distancing is not possible. And there are so many other situations where social distancing would be difficult to enforce at the least and a major hinderance to Fall Retreat activities and the overall Fall Retreat experience. Long story short, if it is important in this season for your student to engage in a socially distanced ministry environment, Fall Retreat is not be the right experience for your student. We are happy to issue a full refund if this is the case.

3. We will take extra measures to stay healthy together at Fall Retreat!

Although we will not be enforcing strict social distancing, we do have a heart to make Fall Retreat as healthy of an experience as we can. Here are some extra health measures that will be in place and enforced at Fall Retreat 2020:

- Unless the mask mandate is lifted before Fall Retreat begins, students will be required to wear face coverings during large group gatherings (on the buses and during our retreat worship services).
- Extra hand sanitizer readily available the entire Fall Retreat.
- Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer before every meal in the dining hall.
- Students will be asked to limit their contact with one another (no holding hands during prayer for example).
- If a student becomes ill during the retreat, they will be sent home.

4. We need your help before Fall Retreat starts!

Please take your student's temperature Friday afternoon, Oct. 23, before your student leaves for Pathway to begin Fall Retreat. Do not send your student if their answer to any of the below questions is a "yes"...

- Have you recently been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Have you had a fever in the last 72 hours?
- Have you had new loss of taste or smell?

Thank you for reading through this, and again let me know if you have any questions!

Brad Bullock
Student Ministries Pastor
Pathway Community Church
260-469-4444; bbullock@pccfw.org