Kingwood

students

PARENT GUIDE | 2026-2027

Partnering together to help students know Jesus deeply and live as a movement of hope.

WELCOME TO KINGWOOD STUDENTS

Hey Parents!

Welcome to Kingwood Students!

Whether your student is brand new to student ministry or has been part of Kingwood Students for years, I'm grateful we get to walk alongside your family during these important seasons of middle school and high school.

These years are incredibly formative. Students are figuring out who they are, what they believe, who they trust, and what kind of person they want to become. And while there are a lot of voices competing for their attention, our desire is simple: **we want to help your student know Jesus deeply and learn what it looks like to follow Him for themselves.**

We also know that we aren't your student's primary spiritual influence...you are. Our role isn't to replace what happens at home. We want to come alongside you, reinforce what you're building, and surround your student with trusted leaders and a community that continually points them toward Jesus.

That's why relationships matter so much to us. We want your student to be known. We want someone to notice when they're missing. We want leaders cheering them on at church and beyond it. We want them to have a place where they can ask hard questions, build meaningful friendships, encounter God, and take greater ownership of their faith.

This Parent Guide will give you a look at who we are, how Kingwood Students works, how we care for students, and what you can expect throughout the year.

I'm excited about what God is doing in this generation, and I'm grateful we get to partner with you along the way.

Welcome to Kingwood Students!

Chris Blackwell
Student Pastor

WHO WE ARE

Everything we do at Kingwood Students flows from one purpose: helping students become lifelong followers of Jesus who carry His hope into their world.

OUR MISSION

We exist to disciple students to know Jesus deeply and live as a movement of hope in their world.

Colossians 2:6–7
"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him."

FOLLOW HIM → ROOTED IN HIM → BUILT ON HIM → OVERFLOWING

OUR VISION

To create a student movement where hope comes alive—where every student encounters Jesus, belongs to life-giving community, grows into a lifelong disciple, and brings hope to the world.

ENCOUNTER JESUS → BELONG TO COMMUNITY → GROW AS DISCIPLES → LIVE ON MISSION

OUR WIN

ROOTED IN JESUS. RADIATING HOPE.

ROOTED IN JESUS
Students are increasingly building their identity, decisions, and lives around a growing relationship with Jesus.

RADIATING HOPE
Students are increasingly living out their faith beyond church through their relationships, serving, leadership, and influence.

We don't just measure attendance. We look for movement. Because every step toward Jesus is worth celebrating.

HOW WE HELP STUDENTS GROW

We believe discipleship happens over time and in different environments. Each part of Kingwood Students is intentionally designed to help your student take another step in following Jesus.

WE WANT STUDENTS TO:	WE CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH...
ENCOUNTER JESUS Experience the presence of God through worship, biblical teaching, prayer, and response.	**MIDWEEK + ENCOUNTER NIGHTS**
BELONG TO COMMUNITY Build life-giving relationships where they are known, valued, encouraged, and cared for.	**SMALL GROUPS + EVENTS + RETREATS**
GROW AS DISCIPLES Develop spiritual rhythms, take ownership of their faith, and continue becoming more like Jesus.	**HOPE COLLECTIVE + SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**
LIVE ON MISSION Put their faith into action by serving others, sharing Jesus, inviting friends, and making a difference.	**MOVEMENT NIGHTS + SERVE THE CITY + MISSIONS**

DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS. ONE GOAL.

Helping students become lifelong followers of Jesus.

WHAT HAPPENS ON WEDNESDAYS?

MIDWEEK | Wednesdays | 6:30–8:30 PM

Midweek is the heartbeat of Kingwood Students...a weekly night for students to have fun, build relationships, worship, hear biblical teaching, and grow together.

6:30 PM	**HANG TIME** — Check-in, Snack Shack, games, friends + leaders
6:50 PM	**10-MINUTE TURN UP** — High-energy game or competition
7:00 PM	**MIDWEEK** — Worship, giving, announcements + biblical teaching
8:00 PM	**SMALL GROUPS** — Discussion, questions, prayer + connection
8:30 PM	**PICKUP** — Students are dismissed

SMALL GROUPS ARE A BIG DEAL TO US.

Midweek brings everyone together, but
Small Groups make a big ministry feel small.

This is where we want your student to become truly known...where a consistent leader knows their name and story, notices when they're missing, celebrates what's happening in their life, and helps them take their next step with Jesus.

We don't want your student to simply attend Kingwood Students. We want them to belong here.

THERE'S MORE TO KINGWOOD STUDENTS

Midweek is our regular Wednesday rhythm, but throughout the year we create special environments designed to help students connect, encounter God, grow deeper, and take their next step.

MOVEMENT NIGHTS | Invite a friend. Bring the energy.

Once a month, our regular Wednesday night becomes a Movement Night—a themed, high-energy night built around fun, relationships, worship, and a clear gospel message. These nights are intentionally designed to be easy for students to invite friends.

ENCOUNTER NIGHTS | Slow down. Go deeper.

Several times throughout the year, we set aside a Wednesday night to focus on worship, prayer, and encountering God. Expect extended worship, deeper biblical teaching, and intentional altar moments with fewer distractions and more room to respond.

EVENTS, CAMPS & RETREATS | Some moments need more time.

Camps, retreats, special events, and hangouts give students opportunities to get away from the normal routine, build stronger relationships with friends and leaders, and create memories that often become meaningful spiritual milestones.

HOPE COLLECTIVE | Go deeper. Serve. Lead.

Our discipleship and leadership pathway for **9th–12th grade students** who want to take greater ownership of their faith. Hope Collective helps students grow spiritually, develop as leaders, serve others, and influence their world for Jesus.

LOOKING AHEAD: SERVE + MISSIONS | Hope was meant to be shared.

As Kingwood Students grows, part of our vision is to create more opportunities for students to serve locally and participate in missions beyond our community. We want students to discover that following Jesus doesn't stop at the church doors... **changed people change the world.**

MEET THE TEAM

It takes a team. From our pastoral team to our Small Group Leaders, each person plays a part in creating a place where students can be known, cared for, and pointed toward Jesus.

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

These leaders provide direction, support, and oversight for Kingwood Students.

Alana Blackwell
Next Gen Pastor

Chris Blackwell
Student Pastor

Danielle Stone
Student Administrator

Alex Coleman
Student Experience Coordinator

Mimi Penhale
Girls Group Coordinator

Pat Raffaniello
Boys Group Coordinator

Hallie McAbee
Worship Leader



Pastor Chris Blackwell

STUDENT PASTOR

“My greatest desire is for this generation to truly know the Person of Jesus Christ...not just simply know about Him. I want them to encounter Jesus in such a way that truly transforms their hearts and awakens a hunger for more and more of Him. My prayer in this season is that pursuing Jesus becomes a lifestyle for our students...a continual filling of His Spirit that shapes who they are and how they live.”



Pastor Alana Blackwell

NEXT GEN PASTOR

“I’m grateful to serve in Next Gen because we live in a world where so much is influencing younger generations to follow the world. So It encourages me to know that we get to be a community that loves them intentionally, points them back to Jesus, and helps give them a firm foundation before the world tries to define who they are.”

Hobbies: nature walks, cooking and reading



Hallie McAbee

WORSHIP LEADER

“I love serving in youth ministry because I love the fact that I get to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of students! When I was a youth student, I had leaders who invested in me, and I’m committed to doing the same for this generation. It’s truly a joy to see students encounter Jesus!”

Hobbies: traveling, pickleball, coffee connoisseur, and visual arts
Favorite emoji: 🙃



Danielle Stone

STUDENT ADMINISTRATOR

“I love serving student ministry because I know firsthand the value of investing in the next generation. I wouldn’t be who I am today without the influence of key leaders when I was a teen.”

Hobbies: reading and vacationing. Preferable at the same time.
Favorite emoji: 😅

Dondra Goldsby

6TH GRADE GIRLS



"I'm excited to invest in our students' growth and to pay it forward because of the way my own kids benefited from their spiritual leaders."

Random fact: I am a writer

TJ Burcham

6TH GRADE BOYS



"I walked away from God as a teenager due to not having a personal relationship with Jesus. If I can help any kid avoid my mistake, it would be worth every struggle."

Fun Fact: I've been to 43 states and 8 countries

Samantha Bush

7TH GRADE GIRLS TECH LEADER



"I love serving in student ministry because my youth leaders were instrumental in building the foundation of my faith and self-worth and I want to give that consistent care, guidance, and support to this generation of students."

Hobbies: reading, hiking, and needlework



JB Gibson

7TH GRADE BOYS

“I'm excited to serve in student ministry to see growth in students and their yearning to dive deeper with the Lord.”

Hobbies: games, drawing, talking about Jesus, the Bible and conspiracies.



Kelly Coleman

8TH GRADE GIRLS
PR & GRAPHICS LEADER

“God never promised life would be easy BUT He did promise that He has overcome the world and He can handle everything even when we can’t.”

Most used emoji: 😬

Random Fact: I pulled my hair out as a baby and ate it. Caused a lot of medical issues and I almost had to get a feeding tube.



Alex Coleman

8TH GRADE BOYS
STUDENT EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR

“When I was a kid, I felt too shy to make friends. I wasn't there every Sunday to develop relationships. Often went to a new church every couple years. It was not a great feeling, and I wished I had someone in a leadership role that approached me and made me feel more welcome. And that's what I hope I can do for our kids.”

Hobby: metal detecting

Random Fact: I have almost half a million followers on social media through metal detecting.

Saige Raffeniello

9TH GRADE GIRLS
SNACK SHACK LEADER



"I'm excited to serve in the snack shack because it gives me an opportunity to meet new students and grow relationships."

I'm a respiratory therapist. I help patients who need a transplant get ready for surgery and recovery.

Most used emoji: ❤️

Patrick Raffeniello

9TH GRADE BOYS
BOYS GROUP COORDINATOR



"Im looking forward to serving in student ministry for a 3rd year. I enjoy seeing the future generation grow closer to Jesus and turn there lives towards the cross."

Fun fact: I Compete in BBQ Competitions in my free time

Most used emoji: 🔥

Kayla West

10TH GRADE GIRLS
CONNECTIONS LEADER



"I'm excited to serve in student ministry because they are the next generation. They need to be loved, seen and cared for. My life will come to a point when I let them take over – how exciting that we get to equip them for that season!"

Hobbies: pickleball, hanging out with my husband and friends!

Most used emoji: 😊



Trey Pierce

10TH GRADE BOYS

“I love serving in youth ministry because I get to watch the Holy Spirit work in the lives of our students to grow in wisdom, power, love, and boldness. They are learning to walk in the fear of the Lord, share their testimonies, and put their faith in the power of God!”

Hobbies: music, saxophone, hunting, camping, DIY projects, spending time with family, church



Mimi Penhale

10TH GRADE GIRLS
GIRLS GROUP COORDINATOR

“Matt and I decided to serve in youth ministry because of the positive impact we experienced in our own church youth groups as kids. Many of those leaders we still look to today for encouragement and guidance!”

Hobbies: I love basketball and I coach basketball for my kids in Alabaster. I also serve as a Board member for Vineyard Family Services and love how they work to support families in Shelby County.



Gabrielle Marcum

11TH GRADE GIRLS

“Serving in student ministry is so cool to me because this is such an important age and I want to help them through their teen struggles with Jesus by their side.”

Hobbies: traveling, running, hanging out with people I love

Sawyer Huguley

11TH GRADE BOYS



“I love serving in student ministry because I love seeing students grow in their walk with Christ and I love being a part of that journey.“

Hobbies: video games, board games, and watching football and soccer

Abby Huguley

12TH GRADE GIRLS



“I love serving in student ministry because I love to help students develop a deeper relationship with God. I grew up not going to church, and high school was tough for me. I want to be a mentor to students and show them they can always lean on God!”

Hobbies: cross stitching and finding good matcha!

Matt Penhale

12TH GRADE BOYS



“I am so excited to see what amazing things God has in store for our Kingwood Youth this year!”

Hobbies: Legos & video games

PARTNERING TOGETHER

We believe students are discipled best when **the church and home work together. You know your student better than anyone, and we're grateful to come alongside you during these important years.**

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US:

CONSISTENT LEADERS
Your student will have leaders who know them, pray for them, and walk alongside them.

INTENTIONAL FOLLOW-UP
We notice when students are missing and reach out when they begin disconnecting.

SAFE ENVIRONMENTS
Our leaders follow clear boundaries designed to protect students and leaders.

SHARED CARE
When hard situations arise, our leaders involve ministry staff and parents when appropriate.

Our goal: every student seen, known, pursued, and cared for.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US:

PRAY
Pray for your student, their leaders, and what God is doing in their life.

PRIORITIZE
Help your student make Wednesdays and meaningful ministry opportunities a priority.

ASK
Keep the conversation going. Try *"What stood out tonight?"* or *"What did your group talk about?"*

STAY CONNECTED
Keep up with parent communication, important dates, and opportunities.

KEEP US IN THE LOOP
Let us know when something significant is happening in your student's life. **We can care better when we know.**

CHEER THEM ON
Celebrate the steps they're taking toward Jesus...even the small ones.

FALL 2026 AT A GLANCE

AUGUST

KEY DATES

Aug. 12 — 6th Grade Open House
Aug. 12 — Rising 6th Graders Join Kingwood Students
Aug. 19 — Small Groups Begin
Aug. 26 — Movement Night: Royal Rumble
Aug. 26 — Hope Collective Applications Due
Aug. 30 — Hope Collective Kickoff

SEPTEMBER

KEY DATES

Sept. 16 — SMASH at Christian Life Church

OCTOBER

KEY DATES

Oct. 4 — Hope Collective Night
Oct. 28 — Movement Night: Bo'Smo

NOVEMBER

KEY DATES

Nov. 1 — Hope Collective Night
Nov. 18 — Encounter Night
Nov. 20–22 — Hope Collective Fall Retreat
Nov. 25 — No Midweek | Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

KEY DATES

Dec. 16 — Movement Night: Christmas Chaos
Dec. 23 — No Midweek | Christmas Break
Dec. 30 — No Midweek | Christmas Break

STAY IN THE LOOP

We want to make it easy for you to know what's happening at Kingwood Students. Here are the two best ways to stay connected throughout the year:

WEEKLY PARENT EMAIL SIGNUP:

This is our primary way of communicating with parents.

Each week, you'll receive important updates, upcoming dates, event registrations, reminders, and other information you need to know

INSTAGRAM:

@kingwoodstudents_

Follow Kingwood Students for event reminders, photos, highlights, and a look at what's happening throughout the week.

Have a question? Feel free to reply to the weekly email from Pastor Chris or email students @kingwoodchurch.com

ROOTED IN JESUS.
RADIATING HOPE.

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