

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church



LOGOS

Parent Handbook

2017-2018

LOGOS PARENT HANDBOOK 2017 - 2018

Welcome

Welcome to LOGOS at Fair Oaks Presbyterian

Church! This Handbook outlines the philosophy, policies, and goals of LOGOS at Fair Oaks. Please read it carefully and use it as a reference tool during the year. In addition, all LOGOS families are asked to comply with Fair Oaks' policies, including the Safe Practices Policy, copies of which will be available at registration. Do not hesitate to call upon any LOGOS Board member or leader with your questions or comments. A list of our Board Members is on the next page. We look forward to working closely with you this year.

Parent Support & Participation

The support and participation of parents are absolute essentials to the success and effectiveness of the LOGOS ministry. Children are never more affirmed than when their parents give them the precious gift of time. Active participation by parents in the operation of the LOGOS Ministry is necessary to keeping all of the activities going.

Consider how you fulfill your parental commitment:

- Bible study helper (Elementary, Mid High, or Sr High)
- Kitchen Crew – eight times
- Recreation or Craft helper (Elementary or Mid High)
- Visual Worship (Senior High) helper
- Table Parent (Elementary, Mid High, or Senior High)
- Front Table Welcome
- LOGOS Set Up (Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning)
- Dessert Team

Communication

The LOGOS Board values strong communication between our LOGOS families and leaders and strives to keep everyone informed. Watch your **e-mail, Sunday morning worship bulletin, the Bulletin Board in Fair Oaks' narthex, and Fair Oaks' Eweekly** for important updates about the ministry. Also, we welcome any news

about your child's life that you think might affect his or her behavior or mood.

Attendance on Wednesdays & Sundays

We don't want your child to miss a single minute!

It is very important that your children attend each LOGOS session and be present for all four parts of each session. Please do all that you can to schedule doctor visits and other appointments within your control so as to not interfere with your child's ability to participate fully in the Wednesday sessions.

One of the key elements of the LOGOS Ministry is **worship participation**, meaning that LOGOS helps prepare young people for meaningful participation in Sunday worship. In addition to experiencing worship as a community, our children and youth help lead certain Sunday services at Fair Oaks through music, spoken presentations, and visual interpretations.

Children and youth will be participating in worship at the 10:00 am service throughout the course of the year. We expect each LOGOS family - even if not a member of Fair Oaks - to make every effort to worship with us at our Sunday service at 10:00 am. To help you plan, a calendar of these dates will be given to you.

LOGOS Sunday, our special celebration of our LOGOS ministry, is **Sunday, March 18, 2018**. All the children and youth lead in worship at that day.

Registration & Fees

Registration is open to all young people in grades

1—12, without regard to whether the registrants' families are members of Fair Oaks. Registration is held before the start of the program year. Once the term begins, anyone interested in enrolling must meet with Rev Hailey Braden Lynch or Wendy Owen to discuss opportunities for joining LOGOS.

Participation in LOGOS is an investment in your child and other young people of our congregation and community. Fees cover the numerous expenses incurred to sponsor LOGOS, such as:

- Bible study materials
- Music
- Staff training
- Meal costs
- Arts and recreation supplies

- Visual worship supplies
- Special activities
- Volunteer recognition
- Nursery Caregivers

Fees and Parental Participation:

Full or partial scholarships are available!

The fees for the 2017—2018 year are:

- \$215.00 for one child (grades 1—8)
- \$195.00 for the second and more children from the same family
- \$30 additional fee for Senior High youth (includes special meals)
- Time commitment described in the Section entitled “Parental Support and Participation” on page 1.

This is about \$10/week/child for a three-hour program and dinner!

We are happy to discuss confidentially with you any scholarship needs you may have.

Fees may be paid at one time at Registration in September or in installments throughout the year. You may indicate your preference at Registration. Do not place LOGOS fees in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Please make checks payable to “LOGOS” or you can pay online at www.fairoakspres.org (Click on “Giving” and then “Give Now” and indicate LOGOS.).

Absences & Dismissal Policy

To provide the safest environment possible for our children, we ask your help with the following:

- If your child is **sick or not able to attend** a specific LOGOS session, please call the Fair Oaks Office (708-386-4920) before 3:00 p.m. on the day of the missed session.
- Please **drop off and pick up your child on time** unless you have informed us of particular circumstances.
- **Come inside the church to pick up** your child at the close of each session. Children are not permitted to leave the building unless they are with a parent or designated adult listed on their Registration Form.
- Please send us a written notice if someone other than one of the adults listed on the Registration Form will be taking your child home. Similarly, your child will not be dismissed early unless requested by a parent, either in person or in writing.

Child Care For Younger Siblings “Junior LOGOS!”

To assist parents in satisfying their LOGOS commitments, child care is available in Fair Oaks Nursery on Wednesdays (including dinner) for children of kindergarten age and younger from 3:30 until 7:00 pm. Please let us know who will be in the Nursery and for what time frame so we may plan accordingly.

LOGOS Board

Rev Hailey Braden Lynch (Co-pastor)
Wendy Owen (Director)
Maggie Kelly (Family Time)
Cathryn Steeves (Worship Arts and Treasurer)
Laura Baig (Kitchen)
Lisa Johnson (Recreation)
Nicole Turner (Communications)
Amy Roberts (Bible Study)

Fair Oaks Staff (708)386-4920

Rev Hailey Braden Lynch, Co-pastor
hailey@fairoakspres.org

Rev Ben Lynch, Co-pastor
ben@fairoakspres.org

Linda Van Dyke, Director of LOGOS Music
lvd1313@gmail.com

Monica Sheehan, Office Administrator
office@fairoakspres.org

WHAT IS LOGOS?

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church is dedicated to the nurture of children and youth into mature relationships of faith with God through Jesus Christ. We believe there is no more important goal for Christian education. One of the ways we try to meet that goal is by sponsoring LOGOS. The LOGOS Ministry is not a substitute for or replacement of Sunday school and other Christian education programs in the church. It is a unique area of Fair Oaks' commitment to Christian nurture and strongly enhances the total ministry of the church.

LOGOS is a Greek word meaning "word of God."

The word "LOGOS" means the Word, as we find in John 1:1-18, "In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." The basis for every aspect of LOGOS is God's love for us - enabling us to love and care for one another.

The LOGOS Ministry is the theology and practice of Christian relationships in a disciplined, midweek, four-part format that creates an ideal setting for Christian nurture. The philosophy of LOGOS is that Christian relationships are best learned in Christian community. Through participation in each Wednesday's activities, children and youth from first grade through high school experience God's unconditional love and have an opportunity to share that love with their peers and adult leaders. The participants enjoy fellowship through:

- learning in age-specific group Bible study classes
- playing creative recreational activities
- singing and/or ringing and preparing for worship together
- sharing family-style meals together.

The Four Parts of LOGOS

LOGOS is a ministry of relationships that takes place in the context of the following four areas of study and experience. Each of the four parts contributes uniquely to the nurturing LOGOS environment and each child or youth is expected to participate in all four parts each week.

1. BIBLE STUDY

LOGOS is biblically based because the Bible is the story of God's relationship with people and their relationships with one another.

The goal of Bible Study is to nurture children and youth into intelligent and biblically-informed discipleship. Creative, relevant, age-appropriate, and interactive Bible study for each grade level is taught by dedicated, prepared teachers. For Grades 1 through 8, we use the LOGOS Bible Study curriculum called *Faith for Life*. For High School students we use a PCUSA curriculum called *Faith Questions*.

2. WORSHIP & MUSIC

Each person's own relationship with God is renewed and nurtured in worship.

The goal of Worship & Music is to develop responsibility for and practice in worship skills because worship is our primary service to God as disciples. LOGOS Worship & Music is an arena for challenge, discovery, and nurture of the gifts God has given each of us, in order to find ways to offer them back to God. Fair Oaks is committed to involving young people in *all* aspects of corporate worship through gifts of music, spoken presentations, and visual interpretations. We desire and need all children and youth to participate regularly in Sunday services to experience the family of God.

3. RECREATION AND PLAY

Personal relationships need time for adults, children, and youth to delight in fun.

The goal of Recreation and Play is to experience great fun at the expense of no one else. Non-competitive play and art projects provide wonderful opportunities to learn respect and cooperation. Even during the seemingly unstructured play time, the LOGOS golden rule that "*Everyone is to treat everyone else as a child of God*" is actively practiced.

4. FAMILY TIME

A great joy of Christian relationships is the experience of spirit in the community of Christ.

The goal of Family Time is to provide a joyous, inter-generational celebration of personhood over a shared meal as we experience being the family of God. A unique sense of the family of God develops as children, youth, and adult table parents eat and share together each week. The meals are served family-style, giving everyone the opportunity to practice using table manners, common courtesy, and serving others. After dinner, all participate in that week's "holy hilarity," a special combination of games and activities aimed to build friendships and self-esteem, and to have fun!

Behavioral Expectations

There is, really, only one rule at LOGOS:

Treat Everyone 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 love. General demeanor should reflect Christian concern for others. Courtesy is expected at all times, whether the activity is in study or play. We stress cooperation and respect - for authority, for property, and for one another.

It is our LOGOS policy that no one will be asked to leave LOGOS because of inappropriate behavior. This policy motivates all of us to work to understand each individual and, through relationships, learn to get along with each other.

Disciplinary problems will be dealt with as promptly, realistically, and consistently as possible to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants and adherence to the one rule of LOGOS.

LOGOS teaches that unacceptable behavior indicates that the child does not wish to be in the activity. At the first sign of misbehavior, an adult will point out how the behavior shows lack of respect for others and breaks the LOGOS rule. If necessary, the child, accompanied by a comforter, will leave the class for a short time until he or she is ready to participate.

If the misbehavior continues, the LOGOS leaders and our pastor will work with the child or youth, and possibly a parent, to try to understand the situation, encourage communication, and elicit a commitment for constructive change.

LOGOS Ministry

The LOGOS Ministry was formed to provide training, materials, and resources to churches of all denominations that wish to include the LOGOS ministry as part of their Christian education and nurture commitment. LOGOS has grown tremendously since its inception 50 years ago and today serves thousands of churches around the world. As a member of LOGOS, Fair Oaks benefits from excellent resources, in-depth training for volunteers, and a wealth of shared experiences. This is **our 25th year in the LOGOS Ministry!**