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HGC Student Ministry Parent Letter 2025-26

We consider ourselves blessed to have the opportunity and privilege to play a role in impacting the lives of your children for Jesus. At Hawthorne Gospel Church we desire to see people develop into fully devoted followers of Christ. Your child attending our youth events shows your commitment and investment in them and your desire for them to pursue Christ. When we look at youth ministry from a bigger perspective it is obvious that parents have the largest impact on the lives of their children. While it might not always seem as though they want to hear from you, don't ever forget that what you say and do, and especially how you live, *will* impact your children! We urge you as a parent to be proactive in parenting, to be praying for your kids, to be learning more about the world they live in, and to have conversations with them to build deeper relationships.

We also desire to help equip and support you in any way possible. If you ever need to speak with us about something concerning your child, or have specific ideas or questions you are wrestling with, reach out to us! We want to partner with you as we influence the lives of this younger generation for Christ. In addition, we also want to make you aware of a few other resources that are available to help make connections with your child a more attainable goal:

1) Communication - WhatsApp

We send out weekly reminders when we have a group meeting or when we need to adjust or cancel for any reason. We will also send out reminders when we have special events coming up.

In the past we have used Remind Text Alerts, but they recently changed policies so we can no longer use them. So this year we are migrating to **WhatsApp**. The positive to this is that it allows us to do a lot more than just a 160 character message. The negative is that you need to download another app, (and we recommend that you allow it to send you notifications so you know when we send a message). These groups are for BOTH Parents & Students! And if you have any hesitations with your child being on the app we truly understand and you can be the one who receives the updates and messages. Click on one of the following links to join:

[Middle School Students and Parents](#)

[High School Students and Parents](#)

2) Website and Schedule of Events

While our primary means of communication is through Remind, if you go to the church website, hawthornegospel.org, we have a student ministry [page](#) where there are resources and information available to you such as:

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- Meeting times for your specific age group.
- [Resources](#) for parents and students that include lots of good stuff like website, book, & music suggestions from our staff for you.
- [Registration forms](#) for events throughout the year.

3) Axis Media

Axis (axis.org) is a Christian organization that seeks to help parents better connect to and raise their kids. They have a ton of resources that are geared to educate parents as well as video resources that you can watch with your kids to generate conversation on topics such as video game use, dating, doubt, prayer, and also heavier topics such as drug use, porn, sexuality, and suicide. You can sign up for weekly emails called "culture translator" that help you better understand the world your child lives in. Axis has recently made all of their resources free online! so check out their site and let us know what you think.

4) College Student Prayer Group

We have a prayer group for parents of college/young adults that meets on the first Sunday of every month, from 7-8:30, in Y-301! The first meeting will be on September 7th and we would love to have you attend!

5) Young Adult Ministry

When high school ends, our relationships with you don't! That is why our student ministry extends through [young adults](#). This group is led by a committed leadership team of young adults. Their purpose is to help college students and young adults stay connected to the church and begin serving as well.

So overall, we really care about your family! If there is anything else you might need from us, please know you can contact us anytime at the email addresses below or through calling the church office at 973-427-6960.

Jake Minnema - High School Ministry - jake@hawthornegospel.org

Mark Horn - Middle School & Young Adult Ministry - mhorn@hawthornegospel.org

in Christ,

Jake Minnema & Mark Horn (with our amazing wives)

HGC Student Ministry Team

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