

2023-2024 Confirmation Expectations: Developing a Lifelong Faith

So that you are aware of your child's outward signs of spiritual growth, we ask that each semester you complete and submit the Confirmation Track Sheet found in your child's folder.

Your child is already a disciple of Jesus Christ! We hold these expectations of Confirmation students not because they represent the "perfect" Christian life, but because they encourage and strengthen a relationship with God:

Yellow ("Faith5" and Video) Sheets: As Christ followers, students will engage God's Word and discuss it with their family and spiritual mentors. The student and parent (or faith mentor) will watch a video introducing the week's lesson. Students will then complete the yellow "Faith5" page, which is intended to lead to deeper discussion of the material presented in the video.

Take time to **SHARE** about your own faith experiences, **READ** the corresponding Bible or Catechism sections, **TALK** about what you've learned from the video lesson, **PRAY** together, and **BLESS** each other with Scripture (these verses are also great verses to memorize and take to heart!).

These five steps can also serve as a model for future faith conversations or devotions.

If a student must miss a lesson week, make-up lessons (videos and yellow sheets) can be obtained at www.christlincoln.org/middleschool. When the yellow sheet is completed and signed, keep it in your folder and mark it off on your Confirmation Track Sheet. (15 total for the year.)



ROWS | Worship

Prioritize Regular Worship Attendance: As Christ followers, our primary place for discipleship is in worship, where we gather around His Word and Sacraments because He loves us and delights in our prayers and praises.

Worship attendance should be recorded weekly on the Confirmation Track Sheet. Students are expected to worship at least 10 weeks each semester.

Worship notes are an additional tool to help students listen carefully and apply the message shared through the scripture, songs, and sermon. Parents or faith mentors, please review your child's worship notes and discuss them with your student.

6th graders will complete 2 worship notes (in the spring semester only); 7th graders will complete 6 worship notes (2 in the fall, 4 in the spring); and 8th graders will complete 4 worship notes each semester.



CIRCLES | Gather

Engage with your small group: As Christ followers, we spend time in community to develop authentic relationships with others and practice spiritual disciplines such as prayer, service, hospitality, encouragement, and more.

Wednesday night small group attendance should be recorded on the Confirmation Track Sheet. Students are expected to engage in at least 10 of the scheduled Wednesday night activities each semester.

Wednesday nights include more than teaching! Once each semester, students will take time for a fun night and a service project with their small group.

ARROWS | Serve

Serve others: As Christ followers, we love our neighbors by serving sacrificially because the amazing grace of God naturally leads to compassion for others.

Service hours may be counted for any project (at church or in the community) in which a student volunteers his or her time to help someone else. Examples of service include raking leaves for a neighbor, serving alongside peers in a class or club project, or volunteering at church. Regular chores, paid tasks, and fundraisers should not be counted.

6th graders will complete 2 service hours (in the spring semester only); 7th graders will complete 6 service hours (2 in the fall, 4 in the spring); and 8th graders will complete 4 service hours each semester.

DOTS | Abide

Read and reflect on God's Word: As Christ followers, we regularly read God's Word and apply it to our lives. Seeking time to speak with God in prayer and listen to His Word improves our spiritual health and helps us engage in all other areas of our discipleship well.

Students should record the completion of each of the 14 Bible Journal (orange) pages on the Confirmation Track sheet each semester.

Students and their families are encouraged to read God's Word together each week. We recommend **using a physical Bible** for this time (instead of Bible app). Listening to an audio Bible may also be helpful.

For students who learn better in a **group Bible study** setting, we offer Middle School Bible Study each Sunday morning from 9-10am at our Yankee Hill campus and from 9:30-10:30am at our Sumner campus. Students should bring their Bible and Bible Journal page (orange sheet) each Sunday. Bible Study lessons each Sunday will match the chapters assigned for the weekly Bible Journal pages.

Interviews: As Christ followers, we are ready to explain our faith and hope in Christ in our own words. In December and May, confirmands will have the opportunity to interview with a mature adult member of our faith community who will ask questions about what the student learned throughout the semester. Along with a parent/faith mentor, students should review the questions (given beforehand and found on our webpage) and practice speaking about their answers. Interviewers will determine if the student was able to articulate his/her beliefs in accordance with Scripture. Students either pass or have the opportunity to retry. Students must eventually pass each semester's interview.

6th grade students will interview with their regular small group leader in groups of 3 or 4. 7th and 8th grade students will interview in pairs with an adult member of our faith community. Please watch carefully each semester for information about students' assigned half-hour interview time slots.

Witness: As Christ followers, we honor Jesus' mission to seek and save the lost by actively inviting others to know Christ. In addition to worship, group events such as Impact Nights, the Nebraska District Youth Gathering, the Supermarket Sweep, and summer Mission Trips offer opportunities for students to invite friends into our community and know Christ.

Upon completion of these formative years, our prayer is that students recognize the extent of God's love for them and all people. We intend for students to affirm their faith with conviction on Confirmation Day not because it is what their family expects, but because it is what *they* desire!