



Hi Parents!

I'm Pastor Jerrod, the Next Gen Leader at New D and I want to tell you what you can expect with NewDKidz as we begin this season with your students! We have been through transition in our ministry, but we have a strong leadership team. The leaders who work with your children have amazing passion to serve New Direction families.

One of the first things you can expect to see is volunteers and leaders who love to serve New D students and parents! We have worked hard to build a team that understands we are here to help you lead your students in an awesome relationship with Jesus right now.

You can also expect to see a ministry creating leaders now amongst our children. Have you ever played Minecraft? Well, our students have! In Minecraft they get to create mini-worlds, build empires and rule over cities. The students have authority and passion to create in this alternative world, but many times in church, they don't have the same authority and access. We often want students to do the 3S routine: Sit down, Shut up and Smile! At NewDKidz we know our students are capable of leading. Kids don't need passion. They have that naturally. Kids need permission. Permission to lead!



In order to develop those leaders, we made some upgrades to the children's ministry over the summer. NewDKidz has extended to include 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Your 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will not transition to New D Youth, but they will be instrumental in leading their younger peers in their spiritual development. We believe every generation should empower the ones coming behind them and we want to start with our young leaders. We have created a junior leadership team made up of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have met requirements to influence their peers and our overall ministry.

Another change you'll see is that we are in the process of creating a place of wonder in the children's areas! We want the students to worship in spaces that are fun and inviting! Spaces where your student loves to attend, can make new friends, and learn to love Jesus. We are supposed to be having fun as believers and we want to teach that to our students early! Ecclesiastes 3:12 tells us we should enjoy life for as long as the Lord allows. We want to make sure that begins with our children.



The most important thing you can expect to see is your children growing as young disciples of Jesus Christ. From the nursery to our junior leaders, students will learn about God and how they can see him in their everyday lives. Students will be in small groups after their worship experience with teachers who will guide them to know the Lord and understand how they are made in his image. We are developing indicators to help you identify your student's growth track and milestones they

should achieve as they grow. We will have cue cards that help you continue you the spiritual development at home through memory verses, bible reading and activities you can do with your child. You are the biggest influence in your students' lives and we want to equip you to be part of their spiritual growth.

We hope you will consider volunteering one Sunday per month while your student is part of NewDKidz. Volunteering would allow you to be even more engaged in their growth and see what's happening here at New Direction. Just let our leaders at check-in know you are ready to serve or sign-up online.

"Kidlife" is the NewDKidz theme this season. It encompasses all of the upgrades and changes you'll see. Our students have so many different experiences and deal with everyday life just like we adults do, but from a very different perspective: joy, disappointments, relationships, family, God, parents... they are trying to navigate all these experiences and feelings while living the "kidlife!" We want to come along side you and help your students succeed during this critical time, and point them to the one who makes living the kidlife amazing: Jesus!

Thank you for allowing us to lead your children.

Sincerely,

Pastor Jerrod