

**July
2025**



PARENT NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S HAPPENING THE REST OF THE SUMMER

July 9th - Oakwood Family Night @ Hennessey Pool

July 18th - OSM Lock-In

July 23rd - OSM Summer Night

August 3rd - Oakwood Family Night @ YMCA

August 6th - Final OSM Summer Night

August 13th - No OSM (First day of school)

August 20th - OSM Fall Kickoff!!



**OSM
LOCK-IN**

OSM LOCK-IN EVENT!

This is a FREE event for all current 6th-12th graders and their friends! We will be in the OAC playing games, eating food, and having a grand ol' time from 7pm on Friday night July 18th until 7am on Saturday the 19th!

We do want students to register for the event so we can know how many are coming. So please register them at the link below.

>>> CLICK HERE TO REGISTER <<<

Every Sunday morning at 9am, our student ministry meets in the youth room for some in-depth Bible study. We teach through different books of the Bible in one large group, then split up into smaller groups to discuss it and apply it to our lives. We would love to have your middle school or high school student join us!

Sunday School



FALL RETREATS AT OZARK

[>>> CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION LINKS <<<](#)

Our middle school and high school students will be heading to “Getaway” and “The Event” (respectively) at Ozark Christian College for our fall retreats in 2025. These are each weekend events that challenge youth to pursue life on mission with God, practice Christian service, and build Christian character at a young age. They also recruit more workers for the harvest field, engaging them in Ozark’s mission to train for Christian service.

Getaway for MS will be September 26th-28th
The Event for HS will be November 7th-9th

The link above will give you all the details, but if you have any questions please reach out to Jeremy - jeremy@myoakwood.org



GOING #MONKMODE

Posts tagged #monkmode are romanticizing the minimalistic life of the monastery, often using pictures of sparsely decorated bedroom cells.

As an article from [The Cut](#) puts it, “It’s a curious contradiction, the fantasy of stillness and spiritual retreat being aestheticized on platforms built to keep us engaged, visible, and optimized. The urge to disappear must now perform itself.” But this tension between the content of a message and the form in which the message appears doesn’t have to discredit the message itself. (Or at least, we hoped it wouldn’t when we published [a video on YouTube about cutting back on YouTube](#).) The #monkmode trend is, at its heart, about trying to persuade others of the monkly values of focus and simplicity—and in order to persuade others, you have to go where the others are. But the bigger complication with #monkmode is that for real monks, disciplines like intentional simplicity have typically been a means to a very particular end—and not an end in themselves.

When monks commit themselves to lives of poverty, chastity, and obedience, they’re probably not doing it for the ‘gram. The intention of these vows is to clear out space in their lives in order to purposefully pursue a deeper relationship with God (or, in the case of Buddhist monks, to achieve enlightenment).

Mere renunciation of worldly things is not enough to bring the mindset change that monks seek, nor the deep fulfillment that human beings were made to experience in relationship with God. The real #monkmode (or, we could say, #nunmode) is about eliminating distractions to pursue connection with Jesus.

In Kierkegaard’s classic *Fear and Trembling*, he describes two characters: the Knight of Faith, and the Knight of Infinite Resignation. The Knight of Infinite Resignation gives up what is most precious to him with no hope of receiving anything in return, at least in this life. But the Knight of Faith, in Kierkegaard’s words, “resign[s] everything infinitely, and then [takes] everything back on the strength of the absurd.” In other words, the Knight of Faith believes that through giving up what is most precious to him, God—through some unforeseeable and unexplainable circumstance—will repay him for it in this life.

Resigning ourselves to a less stimulated life, a la #monkmode, can offer a welcome reprieve from hyper-consumerism and personal brand management. But when we clear out space in our lives, we should remember that eventually, something else is going to fill that space. Aristotle is credited with saying “Nature abhors a vacuum,” which means that our goal should not merely be “infinite resignation.” God offers to fill up the space we clear out with a deeper relationship with Him.

We can learn from #monkmode that a simplified life is often a good life—and we can go further, arranging that newly-reclaimed time and space for more intentional communion with our Creator.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO TEEN PRIVACY

The amount of privacy to give your teenager in various areas of their life can be a touchy subject. They demand more, you want to pull back the reins and give them less. This article does a great job of teaching parents how to navigate those decisions and conversations.

This guide will help you discuss the following questions:

- What's the difference between privacy and secrecy?
- Why does my teen need privacy?
- What are healthy boundaries in teen privacy?
- What are some practical ways I can help my teen develop responsibility?
- Why is it important to trust my teen?
- How can privacy help my teen grow?

[>>> CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THIS GUIDE <<<](#)

CONNECT WITH US

Text - If you don't already get parent texts from us then subscribe to our text group by texting the word "parents" to the number 580-246-4084

Instagram - @oakwood.students

Facebook - Oakwood Student Ministry

