

**Dec.
2025**



PARENT NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SEMESTER AND NEXT

December 7th - Christmas Violin Concert 6pm
December 15th - Laughing All The Way Comedy Show 6pm
December 18th - OSM Christmas Party
December 24th - No OSM (Christmas)
December 31st - No OSM (New Years)
January 1st - Camp Registration opens!
January 23rd-24th - Burly Men's Conference (ages 18+)
March 8th - OSM Auction!



NEW WEDNESDAY SERIES

As we prepare for Christmas, we're kicking off a new three-week series called "Illuminate." Throughout this series, we'll look at the special role that "light" plays in the Christmas story throughout history. We'll dive into the past, present, and future of the Christmas story while challenging students to carry the light of Jesus into their world.

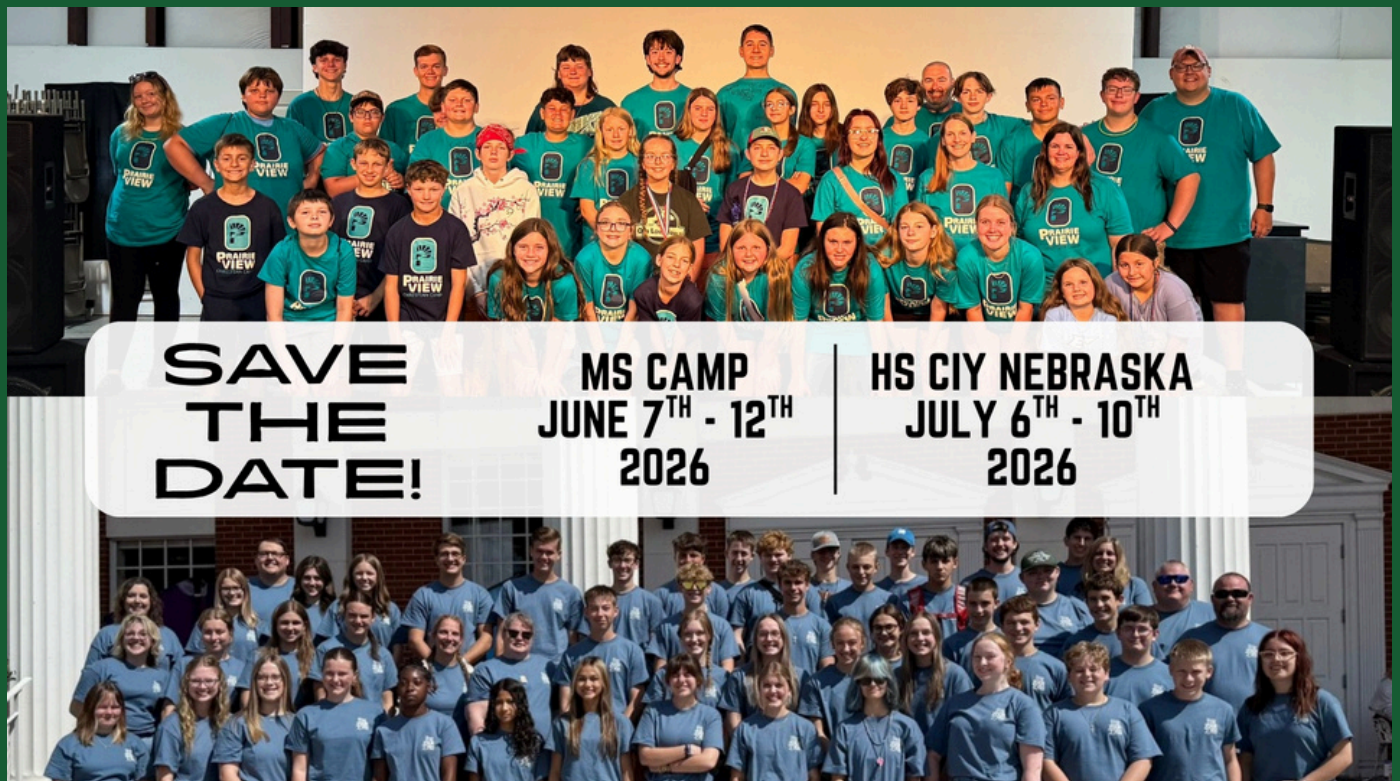


Every Sunday morning at 9am, our student ministry meets in the youth room for some in depth Bible study. This Sunday School hour is meant to help teach students how to understand the Bible and study it for themselves. We teach through different books of the Bible in one large group, then split up into smaller groups to discuss it and apply it to our lives. Plus there's donuts! We hope your student can join us!

Sunday School



The OSM Auction is the **ONLY** fundraiser we do all year to help students pay for our summer trips and other events we do throughout the year. Our whole church rallies around our youth for a fun auction event that takes place in the OAC at noon on that Sunday. We always have a fantastic meal and auction off donated desserts, quilts made by our His Quilters ministry, and fun other items. Our students serve at this event by setting up, serving tables, and helping clean up. Then the money that is raised gets divided among students and put into their student accounts that we've set up for them through the church. Often times, the money students make from this event will almost completely pay for their summer camp. So they do **NOT** want to miss it!



CULTURE TRANSLATOR CONVERSATIONS

CIGFLUENCED

What it is: Pop stars and influencers are posting more and more photos of themselves smoking cigarettes. It's sparking an online debate: are cigarettes cool again?

Why it's taking off: Anyone who lived through the '80s and '90s can remember the graphic ads and messages from former smokers speaking through voice boxes warning others to stay away from the "cancer sticks," but more recent public health messaging has focused on the dangers of vaping. Meanwhile, pop stars and Hollywood's elite have begun treating cigarettes like a classy status symbol. Beyoncé puffed a (fake) cigarette throughout her Cowboy Carter tour, and Sabrina Carpenter posted a photo on Instagram of her smoking while wearing a corset... made of cigarette boxes. The Instagram account @cigfluencers has curated 450+ posts of stars—including Justin Bieber, Channing Tatum, Charli XCX, and Sabrina Carpenter—smoking cigarettes.

Question to ask your student: What ways have celebrities influenced you?

WICKED: FOR GOOD-ISH

What it is: Wicked: For Good picks up right where the first movie left off, aiming to give fans that huge, emotional ending they've been waiting for all year.

Why it's losing some of its magic: As soon as the lights go down, the film surrounds you with dazzling colors, stunning sets, and costumes that make you want to change your whole wardrobe. Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo's voices are still magical, but the story takes some unexpected turns that sometimes get in its own way. The movie really tries to connect itself to the classic 1939 Wizard of Oz, bending the plot so much that a few story beats feel forced. Characters we thought we knew, like the Tin Man, show up with brand-new personalities; he's suddenly furious about everything, which is pretty impressive for someone who doesn't even have a heart to get worked up. Meanwhile, Elphaba's shift from passionate activist to lovesick romantic feels a bit sudden. By the end, the movie still delivers some emotionally stirring moments, but the magic feels a little different this time.

Question to ask your student: Who in the movie made the most relatable bad decision?

A GOOD WORD

What it is: YouVersion, the world's most popular Bible-reading app, has reached 1 billion downloads.

Why it's incredible: We are in the midst of a spiritual vibe shift, and the Bible is having a moment. Sales of the Bible surged by 11% this year, with 18 million sold. Last month, the Pew Research Center found that 31% of Americans say that religion is gaining influence in public life. Weekly Bible reading, driven by trends in Millennial and Gen Z habits, is now at 42%. The moment of revival that many Christians have prayed for, for decades, seems to be within our reach. How can we make the most of this opportunity?

Questions to discuss with your student:

- Do you think you will see a religious revival in your lifetime? Why or why not?
- Do you prefer reading the Bible on an app, or the physical Bible?
- What's the balance between understanding scripture in context and allowing God to speak through it to us?

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

