



## Parent Handbook

2023 - 2024

# **Cross Pointe Children's Ministry Vision**

Here at Cross Pointe Church, we teach Truth, Life, and Ministry. These are the key values we have as a church and in the Children's Ministry for our children.

## **Teach the Word of God Fully (Truth)**

It is our goal as a Children's Ministry to not leave anything out of the Word of God as we teach our children. We strive to choose a curriculum that dives deep into the Word and doesn't just skim the surface.

## **Teach kids how to apply the Bible practically to their lives (Life)**

We strive to teach our children in a way where they can practically apply what they have learned to their own lives.

## **Teach kids to value serving and growing into the church (Ministry)**

We don't want our children to be lost once they grow out of children's programming. We aim to give the older children opportunities to volunteer and serve in our church so that they know they are a vital part of the church body as a whole.



## What is BLAST?

BLAST is our Wednesday night program for children here at Cross Pointe Church. On Wednesday nights we meet from 6:00-7:45pm. At BLAST, we have a nursery and 8 children's classes.

A typical night at BLAST includes a lesson from the Bible, games, and music. The Poppers, our 3-year-old class uses the Awana Puggles curriculum, and each of our other classes use the Answers Bible Curriculum. Our preschool class focuses on the gospel and the life of Jesus, and our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade children will study the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

## BLAST Classes

We have eight classes at BLAST, split by the child's age and grade. Each class also has a class color. Children are encouraged to wear the class t-shirt, or a shirt the color of their class. BLAST t-shirts are available to order in the online registration.

- Poppers (green) - 3-year-olds (and 2-year-olds of volunteers)
- Stars (blue) - 4-year-olds and 5-year-olds who are not yet in kindergarten.
- Meteors (purple) - Kindergarten
- Rockets (red) - 1st Grade
- Novas (yellow) - 2nd Grade
- Comets (orange) - 3rd Grade
- Asteroids (navy blue) - 4th Grade
- Jets (black) - 5th Grade

Each BLAST class has a teacher and at least one assistant. We have separate volunteers for games and music.

Children are placed in their class in September based on their current age or grade they will be entering. They will remain in that class for the duration of the BLAST year. The Pre-Kindergarten class is based on what year the child will start kindergarten. The Stars class is for children who will start kindergarten the next school year. Poppers is for children who will be in kindergarten in two years or are the 2-year-olds of the BLAST volunteers.

Note: This handbook is a guideline for policies and procedures. The Children's Education Committee and the Elders of Cross Pointe Church reserve the right to change any of these policies at any time without notice if deemed necessary. This document is not legally binding.

## **BLAST Calendar**

A calendar for BLAST is available to download on our website <https://www.cp-church.org/blast-resources-info>. This calendar lists our Mission Moments, Theme Nights, and special celebrations. These will also be available in printed form on the welcome table in the lobby or at the check-in station during BLAST.

If BLAST is canceled due to weather or another reason, an email will be sent to the email address provided on the registration form. Please add [childrens.ministry@cp-church.org](mailto:childrens.ministry@cp-church.org) to your address book; otherwise the email may go to your junk folder. You will also receive monthly emails from this address for the Children's Ministry.

## **BLAST Meals**

There will be a BLAST meal offered the first Wednesday of each month, September through April, at 5:30 pm. There is a recommended donation of \$3/child, \$5/adult, or \$20/family for each meal. Gluten-free options will be available upon request. We would appreciate it if you RSVP to these meals a week in advance. An RSVP registration link for the BLAST Meal will be included with the monthly BLAST Newsletter emails or can be found on our Church Center App.

## **Theme Nights**

BLAST has theme nights throughout the year. If the children would like, on these nights, they can dress up according to the theme. Some of these nights will also have a special lesson, like Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## **Mission Moments**

We have different *Mission Moments* on our calendar throughout the year. The BLAST students will be able to serve others through prayer and giving. During BLAST, we will announce the mission and explain it to the children. For some Mission Moments, we may present a challenge for the children to bring items for the organization. If the children meet the challenge, they will receive a prize. Please see the BLAST calendar for specific dates.

## **BLAST Points**

The children have several opportunities to earn points throughout the year. These points can be spent at two BLAST stores which will take place each January and May. The classroom teachers will oversee recording points for each child in their class. Points can be earned in the following ways:

- **Attendance** - 5 points
- **Bring Bible** - 5 points
- **Wear BLAST shirt (or class color)** - 5 points
- **Participate in theme night (See BLAST calendar)** - 5 points
- **Completed take-home or sermon notes (detailed below)** - 15 points
- **Memorize an assigned Bible Verse** - 20 points
- **Bring a Friend** - 20 points

## **Memory Verses**

Each class has a first, second, and third list of memory verses. All classes start with the first verse sheet at the beginning of the year. Please work with your children on these verses at home, as they will not spend much time on them in class. When your child is ready with a verse, they can recite it to their teacher during class time. BLAST verse sheets are available to download on our website <https://www.cp-church.org/blast-resources-info>. These will also be available in printed form on the welcome table in the foyer.

## **Take-Home Sheets**

Each week, your child will receive a take-home sheet to complete at home and bring back. If they bring it back to class, completed, they will receive points. This will take some parent involvement, depending on the child's age.

## Sermon Notes

First through fifth grade students who attend the main service on Sunday mornings can also earn points by filling out "Sermon Notes for Kids," getting a parent signature, signifying they discussed the notes/sermon with their children, and turning it into their teacher on Wednesday night.

## BLAST Newsletter Emails

BLAST Newsletter Emails will be sent out at the beginning of each month. It will contain information about upcoming events and an RSVP for that month's BLAST Meal. The email will be sent to the email address you provided on the registration form. Please add [childrens.ministry@cp-church.org](mailto:childrens.ministry@cp-church.org) to your address book otherwise, the email may go to your junk folder. In addition, if BLAST is canceled due to weather or another reason, an email will be sent to the email address provided on the registration form.

## Child Drop Off/Pick Up and Check-In

- Upon arrival, each child must be checked in at the check-in station with their parents. As they check-in, a nametag is printed out for each child. Please have the child wear their nametag throughout the night. The child's nametag has their parent's phone number on it in case of emergency, and a code for the parent to use for picking up their children.
- A printed tag with a code that matches the code on the child's nametag is printed at the same time. This printed tag with the code must be shown to the teacher for the child to be released from the classroom at the end of the evening.
- Children will be dropped off and picked up in their classrooms.
- Security and medical persons are on-site during BLAST.

## Behavior Policy

Children are expected to treat their teachers and classmates with respect and always listen to instructions.

If discipline is needed, BLAST leaders will use the following counts:

- Count 1:** The classroom teacher will talk to the child about the behavior.
- Count 2:** If misbehavior and disobedience continue, the child will be separated from his/her class, in a common area, to speak with a different leader.
- a. The Leader will assertively, and calmly speak to the child about his/her behavior.
  - b. Leader will explain that the Bible tells us we must submit to authority, for all authority comes from God. Those who rebel against authority are rebelling against what God has instituted (explain in age-appropriate terms).
  - c. Leaders will encourage students to pray and repent.
  - d. Students will be brought back to class.
- Count 3:** Upon the third offense, the child will be removed from the class and placed under the supervision of an available leader. The Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their child. The Parents and the BLAST Teacher will discuss behavior.

## **Poppers & Stars Bathroom Policy**

Parents are going to be encouraged to take their children to the bathroom before class and send them to class wearing bottoms that are simple for the child to take on and off. If a child cannot use the bathroom independently, the parents are to stay in the building the entire evening and a text will be sent if needed. If they cannot do this, their child should not go to class until he is ready to use the bathroom without assistance.

When a child needs to use the restroom, two adults must be present. The bathroom door should remain open, and the adults should assist as little as possible. Provide a stool if needed. Adults must not wipe a child or pull up pants or underpants.

## **Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bathroom Policy**

There will be one group bathroom break each evening using the following protocol below.

Children will stand in line outside of the bathrooms.

Before allowing any child to enter, two adults will check the bathrooms (male check male, female check female) to make sure they are empty.

One male adult should stand at the male bathroom door, and the female adult at the female bathroom door. They should leave the main doors open and allow the appropriate number of children in at a time to use the restroom. This number will be based on the number of toilets/urinals.

In the case of a bathroom "emergency," and a child needs to use the restroom outside of the regular group bathroom break time, two adults must be present, and stand outside the bathroom door.



## Security

- Security and medical persons are on-site during BLAST.
- A volunteer is never left alone with a child.

## Well-Child Policy

We ask that children be kept at home with any of the following symptoms and/or illnesses. We appreciate your cooperation.

- Fever (must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Runny Nose (excessive or discolored)
- Persistent Cough
- Strep Throat
- Sore Throat
- Active Chicken Pox
- Measles
- Mumps
- Unexplained or Contagious Rash
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
- Fifth Disease
- Impetigo
- Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease
- Lice (Children should not attend until after treatment, and all live lice and visible nits have been removed).
- COVID-19 diagnosis, close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, or a suspected COVID-19 illness in your family.

If a child is being treated with antibiotics, he/she should be on medication for 24 hours before attending classes.

If a child develops any of the above symptoms while in our care, we will call and ask you to come get him/her. If you notice your child has an illness after attending our classes, please notify [childrens.ministry@cp-church.org](mailto:childrens.ministry@cp-church.org) or 763-843-2271. Thank you for helping us avoid the spread of illness and helping keep the children and volunteers at Cross Pointe Church healthy.

## **Modesty Guidelines**

Each night at BLAST, volunteers and children should dress in a manner that brings honor to God. On Theme Nights and Holiday Celebrations, when costumes or other clothing can be worn, please consider this as well.

## **Children's Ministry Big Events (Open to all children):**

Fall Festival, Operation Christmas Child, Christmas Program, Palm Sunday Parade, Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt, VBS, Camp Jim, and more!

## **THANK YOU!**

Your commitment and faithfulness are paramount to our church! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, we want to address them!

## **Contact**

**Cross Pointe Church - 763-689-2667**

**Trailblazers: Youth Leader - Calvin Peterson 612-402-6446 // [petersonc@cp-church.org](mailto:petersonc@cp-church.org)**

**Kingdom Builders: Pastor Cubby Westerberg 763-746-6305 // [pastor.cubby@cp-church.org](mailto:pastor.cubby@cp-church.org)**

**BLAST: Children's Ministry Director - Nancy Cooper 763-843-2271 // [childrens.ministry@cp-church.org](mailto:childrens.ministry@cp-church.org)**