

August 21, 2020

AWANA families,

I wanted to update you about our AWANA schedule for 2020-21.

I am very excited to announce that we will be meeting In-Person for AWANA this fall. Registration begins August 21st for our FBCO families.

One of our main goals this year is to provide a safe, in-person experience for our children and workers in our current COVID-19 environment. First Baptist Church O'Fallon is committed to training boys and girls to follow Jesus and we believe that AWANA is a great tool in accomplishing this. Our goal is to provide a fun environment where kids can worship, hear a mid-week message from God's Word, and have the opportunity to study and memorize scripture in a small group time.

While I enjoy having fun and making time for children to interact in recreation and games, at this time, I feel we can provide the safest environment by adjusting our Wednesday night schedule to not include recreation time for our Sparks and T&T. I have spoken with Alan Fath, our Associate Pastor of Worship and our Children's Choir leaders and we are going to move back their start time to be a part of our Wednesday Night schedule. Many of your children are already a part of our Wednesday Night Music program, and I am excited about the opportunity for more children to be a part of this wonderful opportunity to sing and worship.

All of our Wednesday Night Clubs: Puggles, Cubbies, Sparks, and T&T will have a 6:15 pm start time. Choirs will meet at 6:15 pm for Sparks and T&T* followed by Large Group and Small group rotations. (*This year we will not have our Lord's Lamb Choir for 3 and 4-year-olds.)

I realize that no game time is a pretty big adjustment. Let me say that I realize that the fun of Game time is important to our kids. I hope that our theme nights, AWANA store, and the fun that our leaders put into each part of the night will help to make AWANA a fun time. I also want to stress that we are not planning to eliminate game time indefinitely from AWANA. I hope in the spring of 2021 that we can reevaluate our current situation with COVID-19 and volunteers and perhaps be able to get back to weekly game time rotations.

Again, let me stress that our number one goal is to be able to meet in-person safely and to carry out our main objectives of worship, Bible study, sharing the Gospel, and building community. As Children's Minister, I wanted to be sure that this fall we make it a priority to continue meeting in person and I wanted to prioritize all of the activities we have for the children.

Visit us at firstofallon.com/AWANA to register your child today.

Your servant and friend,

Andrew Scheltens Children's Minister

