

## EDGE Parent Session Information

### *EDGE Schedule*

- EDGE Sessions: This year for EDGE, we are meeting twice a month, approximately every 2 weeks
  - Our 2019-2020 Schedule is posted on the St. Matthew website [here](#).
- Monthly events:
  - Xtreme EDGE- Events for your teen to come and socialize with other middle school teens.
    - Open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
    - 6:30-8:00 pm, location varies
    - Teens are encouraged to bring friends!
    - All of the Fall Xtreme Edge events are on the main campus. More information will be sent out as the dates approach.
    - Xtreme Edge dates are listed in the [2019-2020 Schedule](#) and on the [Youth Ministry Calendar](#).
  - Virtue Groups- For teens who enjoy the social events, but also desire to dive deeper. Along with a social activity, we will teach the teens about a saint (guys will learn about a male saint, and ladies a female saint) who exemplified a virtue with their life that we want to emulate in our own.
    - Open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
    - 6:30-8:00 pm in the Parish Center Gym & Youth Room
    - **Please RSVP on the Sign Up Genius [here](#).**
    - Virtue Group dates are listed in the [2019-2020 Schedule](#) and on the [Youth Ministry Calendar](#).
  - Bible & Baking- This is a service event sponsored and organized by Scott and Claire Kuechle. They bring supplies for teens to bake goods for the Missionaries of the Poor, and while they bake in the oven, Scott and Claire do a short Bible study with the teens.
    - Always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (September-April)
    - 7:00-8:15 pm in the Family Room
    - Please RSVP [here](#).
    - Bible & Baking dates are on the [Youth Ministry Calendar](#).
- Retreats
  - Fall retreat: [Into the Dark](#)
    - October 25-27 at White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro, SC
    - Open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
    - We encourage our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders to attend, as this is their only retreat opportunity this year.
    - *This retreat is optional.\**
    - [Click here](#) to make payment.
    - [Click here](#) to fill out the liability form.

## EDGE Parent Session Information

- Ignite Conference
  - March 27-29 at White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro, SC
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade teens must attend in order to receive Confirmation.

### *Structure of EDGE Nights*

This is the general flow of Edge sessions. Any deviation due to inclement weather or other factors will be communicated by St. Matthew Staff.

- Drop Off:
  - Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday- Teens are dropped off at the gym doors at the side of St. Matthew School. They may walk in by themselves.
  - Wednesday (Waxhaw)- Teens dropped off at the main front doors. They may walk in by themselves.
- Gather together with their catechist, and we will play a game together up front or in their small group.
- A “Proclaim” will be given to the teens. The “Proclaim” is a short talk or message given by the St. Matthew Staff Member assigned to the session focused on the topic for the session.
- Small Group time: This is absolutely crucial to the Edge program. Your teens get dedicated time with their catechist to digest and personalize the message of the night. No matter what, your teens will meet in small groups.
- We will gather back together in our main meeting space for final announcements.
- Pick Up:
  - Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday- Teens will be in their small groups at the front of the school. *You must get out of your vehicle and come pick up your teen. They are not allowed to walk to your vehicle.*
  - Wednesday (Waxhaw)- Teens will be in their small groups in the main worship space. *You must get out of your vehicle and come pick up your teen. They are not allowed to walk to your vehicle.*

## EDGE Parent Session Information

### *Responsibilities & Expectations*

- Confirmation Overview – Due Week of September 22
  - The “Confirmation Overview” is a document provided by the parish that concisely and thoroughly explains the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents need to go through the “Confirmation Overview” (link [here](#)) with their teen, and fill out the final page where there are questions for both the teen and the parent.
  - The filled out and signed page is due when your teen comes to session the week of September 22.
- Attendance:
  - Teens should participate regularly in the sacraments (attend Mass on Sundays, going to Reconciliation, etc.)
    - St. Matthew Mass and Reconciliation times can be found [here](#).
    - To find Mass and Reconciliation times at other parishes here in the Charlotte area or while you’re on vacation, [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) is a great resource!
  - Teens are expected to be present at all Edge Sessions with a personal Bible.
    - The NABRE or NAB versions are preferred, as they are good Catholic editions.
    - Late arrival or early dismissal is not permitted.
    - For absences in cases of emergency, contact Avery Utz. Sessions missed will have make up work.
    - Chronic and consecutive absences will be handled on an individual basis and may result in transferring your teen to a different session or delaying Confirmation by one year.
  - 3 “extra” events
    - We want our teens to come to these events as supplementary to the Edge session. The relationships built during them will enhance their experience in the small groups and with their catechists.
    - Xtreme EDGE, Virtue Groups, and Family Connections count as one of these events. There will be RSVP sign up and check in at the events.
- Service projects:
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teens must complete 3 service projects throughout the year, two as an individual and one with their small group.
  - The [Service Project Report](#) form must be completed for all three projects.
  - The three reports are due April 1st, 2020

## EDGE Parent Session Information

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY Requirements:
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade teens must attend the Ignite Conference, March 27-29 at White Oak Conference Center.
  - Paperwork:
    - All paperwork can be submitted online, *except the Sponsor Eligibility Form.*
    - Copy of Baptismal Certificate
      - Due November, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019
      - If your child was baptized at St. Matthew, we should have record of it. If, however, you receive an email from us saying we need a copy, please let us know and we will
    - Sponsor Agreement and Eligibility Forms
      - Filled out by your teen's chosen sponsor.
      - *Note: The eligibility form must be signed by the sponsor's pastor and has instructions to mail/fax to St. Matthew Church Office ATTN: Youth Ministry Office.*
      - Due January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020
    - Confirmation Saint Name Essay
      - Due January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020
    - Service Project Form (Three total, one for each project)
      - Due April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### *Notes about Confirmation 2020*

- Dates
  - The Bishop's office has not yet given us dates for Confirmation in the Spring.
  - Last year, they did not give us dates until January, so we would not expect to receive this year's dates before January.
  - As soon as we are given the dates from the Bishop's office, we will post it on the website, send it to your email, and announce it at Edge sessions.
- Assigned Mass
  - When we receive the dates for Confirmation, your teen will be assigned to a Confirmation Mass.
  - We want to keep the integrity of the small group, so all the members may receive together, and also the integrity of the session, so that the larger group who have journeyed together for the last year may receive together.
  - We ask that you request to change your assigned Mass ONLY in case of conflict (wedding, graduation, etc.).