

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church

LOGOS

Parent Handbook

2024-2025

LOGOS PARENT HANDBOOK 2024 - 2025

Welcome to LOGOS at Fair Oaks Presbyterian

Church! This Handbook outlines the philosophy, policies, and goals of LOGOS at Fair Oaks. Please read it carefully and use it as a reference tool during the year. In addition, all LOGOS families are asked to comply with Fair Oaks' policies, including the Safe Practices Policy, copies of which will be available at registration. We look forward to working closely with you this year.

Parent Support & Participation

The support and participation of parents are essential to the success and effectiveness of LOGOS.

Consider how you fulfill your parental commitment:

- Bible study helper (Elementary, Mid High, or Sr High)
- Meal Crew – 5 times
- Recreation or Craft helper (Elementary or Mid High)
- Table Parent (Elementary, Mid High, or Senior High)
- Front Table Welcome
- Set Up, Clean Up, or Laundry (flexible schedule)
- Dessert Team

Communication

The LOGOS Board values strong communication between our LOGOS families and leaders and strives to keep everyone informed. Watch your **e-mail, Sunday morning worship bulletin, the announcement screen in Fair Oaks' narthex, and Fair Oaks' eWeekly** for important updates about the ministry. Also, we welcome any news about your child's life that you think might affect his or her behavior or mood.

Attendance on Wednesdays & Sundays

We don't want your child to miss a single minute! Of course your child will want to attend each LOGOS session and be present for all four parts of each session. Additionally, one of the key elements of the LOGOS Ministry is **worship participation**. LOGOS helps prepare young people for meaningful participation in Sunday worship. In addition to experiencing worship as a community, our children and youth help lead certain Sunday services at Fair Oaks through music, spoken presentations, and visual interpretations.

Children and youth will be participating in worship at the 10:00 am service throughout the course of the year. We would love for each LOGOS family - even if not a member of Fair Oaks - to worship with us at our Sunday service at 10:00 am when possible.

LOGOS Sunday, our special celebration of our LOGOS ministry, is **Sunday, March 16, 2025**. All the children and youth lead in worship at that day.

Registration & Fees

Registration is open to all young people in grades

1-12, without regard to whether the registrants' families are members of Fair Oaks.

Fees cover Bible study materials, music, staff training, meal costs (when applicable), art and recreation supplies, special activities, and volunteer recognition.

Fees:

Full or partial scholarships are available!

The fees for the 2023-2024

- \$150.00 per child (grades 1-5)
- \$200.00 per youth (grades 6-12)
- Parents sign up for at least four volunteer slots

Please pay through Realm when you register. If you need other options for payment or full or partial scholarships let us know.

Absences & Dismissal Policy

To provide the safest environment possible for our children, we ask your help with the following:

- If your child is **sick or not able to attend** a specific LOGOS session, please call the Fair Oaks Office (708-386-4920) before 3:00 p.m. on the day of the missed session.
- Please **drop off and pick up your child on time** unless you have informed us of particular circumstances.
- **Come inside the church to pick up** your child at the close of each session. Children are not permitted to leave the building unless they are with a parent or designated adult listed on their Registration Form.
- Please send us a written notice if someone other than one of the adults listed on the Registration Form will be taking your child home. Similarly, your child will not be dismissed early unless requested by a parent, either in person or in writing.

WHAT IS LOGOS?

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church is dedicated to the nurture of children and youth into mature relationships of faith. One of the ways we try to meet that goal is through LOGOS. LOGOS is a unique area of Fair Oaks' commitment to Christian nurture and strongly enhances the total ministry of the church.

Logos = "word" or "wisdom"

Logos is Greek for "word" or "wisdom," as we find in John 1:1-18, "In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." The basis for every aspect of LOGOS is God's love for us - enabling us to love and care for one another.

The LOGOS ministry is the theology and practice of Christian relationships in a disciplined, midweek, four-part format that creates an ideal setting for Christian nurture. The philosophy of LOGOS is that Christian relationships are best learned in community. Through participation in each Wednesday's activities, children and youth experience God's love and have an opportunity to share that love with their peers and adult leaders. Participants will:

- learn in age-specific group Bible study classes
- play creative recreational activities
- prepare liturgy and/or prepare music for worship
- enjoy family time with a small group

The Four Parts of LOGOS

LOGOS is a ministry of relationships that takes place in the context of the following four areas of study and experience. Each of the four parts contributes uniquely to the nurturing LOGOS environment.

1. BIBLE STUDY

We study the Bible in LOGOS because the Bible is the story of God's relationship with people and their relationships with one another.

The goal of Bible Study is to nurture children and youth into intelligent and biblically-informed journeys of faith. Creative, relevant, age-appropriate, and interactive Bible study for each grade level is taught by our co-pastors and other dedicated, prepared teachers. We use the LOGOS Bible Study curriculum called Faith for Life.

2. WORSHIP ARTS

Each person's own relationship with God is renewed and nurtured in worship.

The goal of Worship Arts is to develop responsibility for and practice in worship skills. LOGOS Worship Arts is an arena for challenge, discovery, and nurture of the gifts God has given each of us, in order to find ways to offer them in

the community of faith. Fair Oaks is committed to involving young people in *all* aspects of congregational worship through music, art, and writing and leading liturgy.

3. RECREATION

Personal relationships need time for adults, children, and youth to delight in fun.

The goal of Recreation is to experience great fun at the expense of no one else. Non-competitive play and art projects provide wonderful opportunities to learn respect and cooperation. Even during the seemingly unstructured play time, the LOGOS rule that "you are a child of God, and I will treat you that way" is actively practiced.

4. FAMILY TIME

A great joy of Christian community is the experience of intergenerational relationships.

The goal of Family Time is to provide a joyous, inter-generational time with the 'church family' as we experience being the family of God. A unique sense of the family of God develops as children, youth, and adult volunteer table parents share together each week.

Behavioral Expectations

There is really only one rule at LOGOS:

Treat Everyone as a Child of God!

As a child of God, each person is of infinite worth and deserves to be treated with respect, kindness, patience, and love. We act with courtesy and concern for one another, whether the activity is in study or play.

It is our LOGOS policy that no one will be asked to leave LOGOS because of inappropriate behavior. This policy motivates all of us to work to understand each individual and, through relationships, learn to get along with each other.

Disciplinary issues will be dealt with as promptly, realistically, and consistently as possible to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants and adherence to the one rule of LOGOS.

LOGOS teaches that unacceptable behavior indicates that the child does not wish to be in the activity. At the first sign of misbehavior, an adult will point out how the behavior shows lack of respect for others and breaks the LOGOS rule. If necessary, the child, accompanied by a comforter, will leave the class for a short time until he or she is ready to participate.

If the misbehavior continues, the LOGOS leaders and a pastor will work with the child or youth and their parent, to try to understand the situation, encourage communication, and elicit a commitment for constructive change.

Fair Oaks Staff

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