

Welcome to the Edge 2011-2012

We are so excited that you are here this year!! The Edge is a community building, youth ministry style PSR program for middle school youth. We provide large group instruction to all students enrolled in the Edge program and small group instruction by grade level.

This means we begin preparing your son or daughter for Confirmation in 6th grade. Each year the cycle of lessons changes. Last year we focused on the major figures of the Old and New Testament. This year we are teaching our Edgers about Morality in light of the Sermon on the Mount, the 10 Commandments, and the Precepts of the Church. In addition, we are teaching them about the Seven Sacraments, Apologetics, the revised Mass changes going into effect at Advent, and the Life of Jesus. We want them to see and understand how these teachings and tools relate to their lives today.

The Eighth graders will also be attending additional classes one Sunday a month to prepare them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 2, 2012.

We are having a mandatory parent meeting for **6th and 7th grade parents** on **Sunday, September 18th after the 9:00 mass** in the church and we are having an **8th grade parent meeting on Sunday, Sept 25th also after the 9:00 mass** in the church. During each of these meetings you will receive a folder with a calendar for the year, important information about the year, when we meet, etc. and for the 8th grade parents we will talk specifically about the additional expectations for Confirmation. We look forward to seeing you.

How are we going to stay in touch with you during the year?

Parent News Letter to be posted on the parish website by our Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Glassmire. We listened to your feedback and we've come up with a way to communicate with you the parents so that you know what your child is learning at the Edge. In this Newsletter, you'll find information about what we're teaching and doing at the Edge so that you can talk to your child and actually have a conversation. You will also find information about upcoming events and important dates. We are still working out the details, but hope to update the newsletter every other month.

What should you expect as part of your commitment in the Edge?

There is an attendance requirement at all grade levels. Knowing your faith is an important part of your development towards adulthood. Being able to live and defend that faith is critical in high school and college. For these reasons, we are instituting an attendance requirement for all middle school grades. In order to pass the year you must be here at least sixty percent of the time in 6th, seventy percent in 7th grade and eighty percent of the time in 8th

grade. There are 23 Edge Classes this year; therefore, you can only miss 9 Edge classes if you are in sixth grade, 7 Edge classes for seventh grade, and 5 Edge classes and 1 Confirmation classes for eighth grade. We are offering make up days for students who are in danger of falling below the attendance minimum. These make up days, November 16, January 11 and March 14, are offered at 5:45 pm in the Upper Social Hall. Each of these make up dates occurs on a regularly scheduled Edge class. There is a document on the parish website outlining the questions and requirements for the make up sessions. When your child misses a class, I would highlight the topic on your calendar so they'll know what questions to answer. When attending a make up class, each child will be asked to prepare a short presentation (oral report) about the topic to receive credit. Parents are encouraged to come and watch their child give their reports. I will be there and so will other students, and teachers. If your student has several days to make up, they will be given the topics for all of the days and they should prepare a short oral report for each topic.

Attendance Notification: In January you will receive an email from our Administrative Assistant with an attendance update for your child. If your child is in danger of falling below the minimum attendance requirement before January, you will be notified sooner. We want your child to feel a part of the community here at the Edge and the best/easiest way to accomplish that is to get them here each week. Please let us know as soon as possible if you're having trouble. We will work with you to find a solution.

If you ever need to talk to me, please call or email. I am not in the office at St John Neumann very often, but Jennifer does check messages left for me. I can also be reached via email at kritchey@cdeducation.org or you can call me at home at 740-881-0651. Finally, if you need to speak to me on an Edge night, please come early, between 5:45-6:00 so I can give you my full attention or come see me at the end of the Edge (8:15). We are making every effort to start on time this year at 6:30, so I need to be up in front beginning prayer then and cannot talk to parents at that time. Thank you for help in this regard.

I am so excited about this year!!! My teachers are excited about this year!!! We do so much to minister to the needs of your children through the teachings of the Catholic Faith and all we need now are their beautiful faces and enthusiasm!!! Thank you for entrusting your children to us for this year. It is sure to be an AMAZING year for all.

God Bless,

Kerrie Ritchey

Edge Coordinator