

August 2019

## TNT Club 2019-2020 @ Trinity!

TNT Club is ready for the new school year starting on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>! Our purpose... to assemble Middle School students for community service and learning in Marin! We also have opportunity for lots of fun relationship building games and activities too! I promise your student will learn and grow in all we do at TNT Club... all are welcome here!



TNT Club is designed for Middle School students (grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>). We continue our Tuesday (2:15-5:00pm) and Thursday (1:00-5:00pm) schedule at Trinity (333 Woodland Avenue, San Rafael). When students arrive, we begin with "Chill Time". During Chill Time students can do homework, read or socialize with others. After Chill Time is finished, we offer fun group games and activities. We also have a Nintendo WiiU and Nintendo Switch for video games along with music, arts and crafts and lots of snacks until 5:00pm.

Last year we were pleased to host 50 students a week on a regular basis. We are very thankful for all of the past donations to the club! My last letter described some changes for this year, and I am happy to say we have settled on a very affordable donation request for the 2019-2020 school year!

We are requesting a \$20 per month per student donation to help offset food costs for your student. No need to worry about the month of August... that's on us! We would appreciate your \$20 donation starting in September via cash or personal check (checks can be made out to "Trinity"). Via the church website (trinitysanrafael.org) we do have an option to donate with a credit card using the "Give Online" link at the bottom of the home page if you would like to consider that as well.

Students are ALWAYS welcome to bring friends to TNT Club! All students are asked to share their family information (names, address, cell phone and email) so we can stay in touch regarding our activities and plans. I commit to sending a weekly email "heads up" for upcoming events and activities while using parent/guardian cell phone calls/texts for more important issues. Let's stay in touch!

In order for us to keep track of everyone when we meet, students need to sign themselves in each day when they arrive and also sign themselves out when they leave. Some students forget to do this. Please remind your student that this is a necessary part of the program. If they are unfamiliar with this process, I can show them how... it's very easy!

We have our Code of Conduct for TNT Club available online for you to review with your student:

**<https://permission.click/WIBgq/us>**

These guidelines will allow us to create a safe and fun environment for everyone involved!

Until we can fully realize our plans for expansion, we are faced with limited space for TNT Club. Including our outdoor space, we can safely host 75 maximum students. When the weather forces us indoors, this will be crowded but still possible considering we will not have a full 75 attending. Please contact me to make sure we have room for your student for the 2019-2020 school year ASAP.

(over for page 2)



You will see on this year's schedule (attached) we use Thursdays for our Community Service Projects and off-campus Learning Events because we have more time together. I personally recruit our volunteer drivers and adult leaders and they often work with other student activities at Trinity. Another adult leader you will see often at TNT Club is Peter Bauer. For years Peter has been a Scout Master for Boy Scouts of America in Marin and is very talented with engaging students in service and learning!

We also have other wonderful adult leaders that help lead our student groups at Trinity. Adult leaders selected to help with our student activities are already known by me. Despite that, we still have them complete background checks to make sure that information is on file.

As I mentioned, we really value community service and empowering students to make a difference in Marin. This year our theme is "**Freedom in Service**". Because we are so close to downtown San Rafael, we often have off campus events that allow us to engage in the community and experience first-hand all the amazing opportunities around us.

If you aren't already receiving emails from me please be sure to contact me so I can add you to my list. My weekly emails serve to keep families informed of our off-campus and on-campus plans. I also will need a contact phone number (cell phone is best for calls/texts) in case of emergency. **Please take the time to contact me if I still need this information from you!**

TNT Club remains a non-religious program at Trinity. We pride ourselves on differentiating TNT Club with our other youth ministry events. Families have indicated they appreciate this, and we are committed to supporting your role as parents and guardians to these students. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

That being said, we have another great **FREE** program to offer for your student on Tuesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. "H2H" (Head to the Heart) is our Youth Group Program that allows us to engage in religious and spiritual dialog. Dinner is provided also for free! These gatherings will begin on Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Topics this year include the themes "Life and Times of Martin Luther", "The Apostles Creed" and "Lutheran Life".

I would also like to mention that TNT Club has very high expectations for students that choose to be involved. Students need to be ready to self-regulate in ways that allow us to create a safe and loving environment that also allows us to stay focused on our Community Service goals. These expectations are outlined in our Code of Conduct (see the link above). I would like to call special attention to the use of foul language while attending. This is most difficult considering our current culture and practice, but it is possible! My rationale is that this language is overly aggressive and also demeaning. In my opinion it is also a lazy way to express yourself. I ask students live up to this standard and I promise you we will be a more bonded and productive group because of it! Practically speaking, we also have our own preschool on campus, and it would be best if these students and their families not be exposed to this language.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at Trinity for these amazing opportunities for students. Let me know if you have any questions or need more information!

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