highrock

Highrock Next Gen Middle School Calendar

FALL 2026 – SUMMER 2027 · GRADES 6–8

Your full guide to

Middle School Ministry

This Year

Next Gen Families & First-time Guests,

Fall is here! With it comes a return to the rhythms and routines your family was rooted in before the summer! Our hope with student ministry at Highrock is to offer programs and practices that connect all of us to God personally, God's people, and to God's purposes throughout the year. What is required of you, parents, is a commitment to **prioritize** these programs and practices.

We know your middle schoolers are inundated with team sports, piano & violin practices, homework, group projects, relational drama, etc. What we also know is that you want them to have a **real faith**, **real friendship** with other Christians, and to **real**ize God's purposes for them far exceed any other purpose they may endeavor or strive for! I won't sugarcoat it… the **real**ity of following Christ into **full** life comes with a *cost*, BUT, what we receive FAR outweighs any cost:

> *Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"*
>
> Matthew 16:24–26

As we approach this upcoming year of student ministry, I want you to know we're committed as a church to supporting, guiding, praying for, and walking with your students. We have a growing team of adults who are stepping in and heeding the call of Christ to teach, admonish, encourage, equip, and raise up the Next Generation. My prayer is that we would all follow Jesus into full life, be honest about the costs, and hold on to the **hope of Christ.**

🔁 HOW THE YEAR WORKS

Our Rhythm

Sunday mornings we grow. 1st Sundays we serve. Last Sundays we connect. A few times a year we adventure.

Morning Fellowship

Every Sunday, 10:00–11:15AM at Highrock · **All MS (grades 6–8)**

Worship with families, then games, Scripture, and small groups.

Soulfood

1st Sundays · **All MS, with HS serving alongside**

Serving together, plus Soulfun.

Connection Sunday

Last Sunday of the month · **All MS**

A shorter lesson and longer small groups: sports, cooking, crafts, and games. Volunteer-led.

MS Adventure

Three times a year · **All MS, friends welcome**

Fall, winter, and spring outings.

MS + HS Events

A few times a year · **MS + HS**

New Year's Day Football, the Super Bowl Party, the Outdoor Spring Hang, and the Campout.

Special Events

A few times a year · **All MS**

The Christmas Party, Winter Retreat, Easter, Milestone Sunday, and our End-of-Year Party.

No MS programming: Thanksgiving weekend (Nov 29), winter break (Dec 27–Jan 10), and April vacation (Apr 18).

■ Morning Fellowship ■ Connection Sunday ■ Soulfood Sunday ■ Adventure **MS + HS** Combined event ■ Special Event

🔵 *October 2026*

04 OCT

Milestone: The Church (Week 2)
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside

11 OCT

Milestone: The Church (Week 3)
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

16 OCT

Fall Adventure

All MS · 6:45–9:00pm · Launch Trampoline Park, Norwood

Friends welcome!

18 OCT

Imago Dei: God's Creative Design

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

25 OCT

Imago Dei: Image-Bearers

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

Connection Sunday: shorter lesson, longer small groups. Volunteer-led

🔵 *November 2026*

01 NOV

Imago Dei: One Family, One Mission

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside

08 NOV

FOMO: The Anatomy of Fear

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

15 NOV

FOMO: The Wedge of Fear

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

22 NOV

FOMO: Grace Overcomes Fear

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

Connection Sunday: shorter lesson, longer small groups. Volunteer-led

🔵 *December 2026*

04 DEC

Winter Adventure

All MS · 6:45pm - 9:00pm · Level 99, Natick

Friends welcome!

06 DEC

Advent Series

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside

13 DEC

Advent Series

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

20 DEC

Christmas Party

All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

Advent series finale. HS volunteers welcome

🔵 *January 2027*

01 JAN
New Year's Day Football MS + HS
MS + HS · Time to come · Natick, MA
Optional drop-in. Come if you're around!

17 JAN
Missio Dei: The Mosaic
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

24 JAN
Missio Dei: The Messiah
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

31 JAN
Missio Dei: Blessed to Be a Blessing
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Connection Sunday: shorter lesson, longer small groups. Volunteer-led

🔵 *February 2027*

07 FEB
Mealtime: One Body, One Loaf
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside

14 FEB
Mealtime: No VIP Seats
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

14 FEB
Super Bowl Party MS + HS
MS + HS · 5:00PM–halftime · Highrock
MS pickup at halftime. HS stays to the end

21 FEB
Mealtime: For God's Glory & Neighbor's Good
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Connection Sunday: shorter lesson, longer small groups. Volunteer-led

28 FEB
Winter Retreat
All MS · Details to come · Location to come
Registration info to come

🔵 *March 2027*

07 MAR
New Birth: Adopted into a New Identity
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside

14 MAR
New Birth: Breaking Walls & New Allegiance
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

21 MAR
New Birth: Living the New Life Together
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Connection Sunday: shorter lesson, longer small groups. Volunteer-led

28 MAR
Easter Sunday
All MS · Sunday morning · Highrock
Serve and worship with the whole church

🔵 *April 2027*

02 APR
Spring Adventure
All MS · 6:45pm - 9pm · Needham Bowlaway, Needham
Friends welcome!

04 APR
Family Code & Reunion: The Wardrobe of Grace
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside

11 APR
Family Code & Reunion: Solidarity & Release
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

25 APR
Family Code & Reunion: Refereeing the Inner Battle
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Connection Sunday: shorter lesson, longer small groups. Volunteer-led

🔵 *May 2027*

02 MAY
Family Code & Reunion: Preview of the Kingdom
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside

09 MAY
Mothers of the Bible: Sarai & Hagar
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

16 MAY
Milestone Sunday
All MS & families · Sunday morning · Highrock
Celebrating milestones with the whole church

22 MAY
Outdoor Spring Hang MS + HS
MS + HS · Time to come · Location to come
Mini golf, pickup games, or a beach day

23 MAY
Mothers of the Bible: Ruth
All MS · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock

30 MAY	**Mothers of the Bible: Mary** **All MS** · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock *Connection Sunday: shorter lesson, longer small groups. Volunteer-led*

🔵 *June 2027*

06 JUN	**Fathers of the Bible: Abraham** **All MS** · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock *Soulfood & Soulfun Sunday. HS serve alongside*
13 JUN	**Fathers of the Bible: David** **All MS** · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock
20 JUN	**End-of-Year Party** **All MS** · 10:00–11:15AM · Highrock *Fathers of the Bible: Joseph. Our last Sunday of the year!*
26 JUN	**Campout & S'mores** MS + HS **MS + HS** · Time to come · Bradley home (to be confirmed) *MS pickup around 9PM. HS stays for the late night*

☀️ **Summer 2027** Sunday mornings pause for the summer, and we'll share summer events and camps as they come together. Dates to come!

📅 **Save These Dates!** Adventure details, retreat info, and registration links will go out as we get closer to each event. Every Sunday morning is at Highrock.

⏰ **SUNDAY MORNINGS**

What a Sunday Looks Like

Most Sundays follow the same simple flow:

10:00AM
Worship songs upstairs with parents (15 minutes)

10:15AM
Head to the youth room for Morning Fellowship

10:20AM
Welcome and a large group game or activity

10:40AM

Sword drills, teaching, and testimonies

11:00AM
Group discussion, questions, and prayer

11:15AM
Pickup

📓 **FOR PARENTS**

Two Resources I Genuinely Recommend

Understanding Teen Culture: **Weekly Pop Culture Translator [Axis Newsletter]**
A thoughtful weekly resource for parents navigating current trends in teen culture.

Understanding Parenting Reactivity: **The Human-Sized Journal**
Amid the demands and anxious pulls of raising children, this journal offers a compassionate space to pause, process, and cultivate a calmer, more grounded presence for your family.

💙 **A Word of Thanks** A heartfelt thank you to this church and to the parents who give generously to support Next Gen ministry. What happens in these students' lives doesn't happen without your love, faithfulness, and generosity.

🎧 **What I'm Listening To** Jon Guerra, *"Jesus"* Album

New here? Questions?

All middle schoolers (grades 6–8) are welcome. No registration is needed for Sunday mornings. Just come! For Adventures, retreats, and special events, registration info will be sent to families in advance.

📍 Highrock MetroWest · 754 Greendale Ave, Needham, MA 02492
🌐 highrock.org/metrowest
📋 *This calendar is updated throughout the year. Check back for new dates, locations, and details.*

Blessings,
Pastor Michael
Next Gen (Students) Pastor, Highrock Metrowest
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