

How to Help Your Child Have a Successful Synod School Experience

(advice gathered from experienced Synod School parents)

We are so happy that your child(ren) will be enjoying Synod School this July! Synod School is a wonderful, faith-filled experience for families and people of all ages. With some of our youngest participants still in their first months of life, and other attendees in their 90s, the community is blessed by the gifts of people of many generations. We want this to be a positive event for everyone involved, so with that in mind, here are some things that experience tells us will make this a safe and enjoyable week for all involved:

- For the youngest children involved, remember to bring baby, toddler, and preschool items along with you (high chairs and booster seats are in short supply on a college campus so please bring your own).
- Bring along blankets or sweaters, as the temperature in campus buildings varies widely.
- If you registered your child as a camper, be sure to bring an air mattress and sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, portable crib, or whatever else you expect them to sleep on. Most of the floors (but not in all of the dorms) are carpeted but have little or no padding.
- It is imperative that the health information form is completely filled out for each child or youth and returned before the week begins. Your child will not be allowed to participate in activities until the form is on file.
- You know your child best. With younger children, there is some flexibility in which class/age group they are placed. If your child would thrive in another group, just talk to the teachers involved.
- Each child will receive a card to be placed in their nametag holder this year for emergency numbers or cell phone information. This will enable us to contact you more quickly should your child have need of you while in class, etc.
- Meal times are periods where a few hundred people of all ages gather together. Because of the numbers and the shared space, please make sure that your child is well-supervised at all times. Children should be accompanied and assisted as necessary when they are choosing their food, and also when they are returning trays, etc. If you need help choosing and transporting food, there are helpers for that purpose stationed near the entrance to the food court where the food is served. Remind your children not to run in the dining room or in the food court. Collisions can happen between big people and little people.
- Young children are welcome to sit on the floor/carpeted area at the front of the worship space during services, but must be accompanied by a parent to ensure safety in that area and to make sure that their enthusiasm does not interfere too much with the worship experience of others.

If you have questions now or as the week of the School progresses, please feel free to contact us!