

PARENT HANDBOOK

SPRING 2025

Everything you need to know
about KidsPraise.



AnastasiaKids.com

We're so excited that your children are joining us! Anastasia KidsPraise is the midweek worship + arts ministry for children from three years old through fifth grade. We exist to guide children to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and become lifelong worshipers of God through music, arts and media. We do this by equipping kids to offer whatever talents, gifts and skills they possess back to God as an act of worship.

KidsPraise meets Wednesday evenings during the school year from 6 - 7:15 pm at Anastasia Church on the Island. All the details can be found within this handbook and on our website.

We're led by a team of staff and volunteers whose passion is children and whose vision is to partner with parents and families to help your child discover and embrace a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Anastasia Kids, our children's ministry at Anastasia Church, provides your kids with a solid foundation of biblical knowledge to help them make wiser choices, build stronger relationships and develop a deeper faith. We recognize that family at home and family at church must partner to help kids embrace a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and provides tools and resources to support families at home.

In His Service,
The Anastasia Kids Team

Tamre Bennett
Children's Minister
tamre.b@anastasiachurch.org

Hannahlee Goedelman
Early Childhood Minister
hannahlee.g@anastasiachurch.org

Taylor Nicolosi
Children's Ministry Associate
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Stephanie Styles
Children's Ministry Lead Associate
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Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:6

CLASS LEADERSHIP TEAMS

- Three's, Four's & Kindergarten -

THREE-YEAR-OLDS

Building A / Blue Door

6 - 7 pm (7:15 pm for on-campus parents in a ministry)

Co-Directors: Sydney Newton and Taylor Nicolosi
Adult Assistants: Brittanie Gass, Lindsay Livingood, Vickie Woltner
Secretary: Becky Hopkins
Youth Helper: TBD

FOUR-YEAR-OLDS + KINDERGARTEN

Building B / Yellow Doors

6 - 7 pm (7:15 pm for on-campus parents in a ministry)

Coordinator & Music Director: Michelle Vijgen
Craft Director: Kelly Thigpen
Snack Coordinator: Karen Kindron
Snack Assistant: Tom Kindron

FOUR'S TEAM

Adult Assistants: Kristin Johns, Mandy Murdock, Elle Posten, Carrie Sullivan
Secretary: Sue Grasso
Youth Helper: Emma Valentin

KINDERGARTEN TEAM

Adult Assistants: Tracy Nicolosi, Madison Odomorik, Teresa Petrilli, Laurel Wallace
Secretary: Stephanie Whaley
Youth Helper: TBD

ELECTIVE CLASS TEAMS

- 1st-5th Grade -

ART MASTERS / Building F (South Purple Door) / Class Size: 12

Director: Lori Manning

Adult Assistants: Donna Nicolosi (sign holder), Teresa Andrews

CHEERNASTICS / CLC / Class Size: 30

Director: Brianne Stansell

Adult Assistants: Chelsea Guzman (sign holder), Michelle Hurley

CRAFTS / CLC Room 300 / Class Size: 20-24

Director: Kelly Robins

Adult Assistant: Vivian Brown, Kim Busbee, Kristle Jones

INTRO TO DANCE / Building F (North Purple Door) / Class Size: 12-14

Director: Anna Curtin (sign holder)

Adult Assistant: Diane Nettles

DRUM / Building C (Teal Doors) / Class Size: 20-24

Director: Evan Nicolosi

Adult Assistants: Eric Curtin (sign holder), Billy Richardson

FISHING 101 / Building F (Middle Purple Door) / Class Size: 10

Director: Donna Frantz

Adult Assistants: Glenda Thompson (sign holder), Jon Thompson

HELPING HANDS / CLC Room 302 / Class Size 20-24

Director: Jane Johnson

Adult Assistants: Tracy Helms (sign holder), Elisha Alexander

LEGO/ CLC Room 301 (Game Room) / Class Size 20-30

Director: Christy Valentin

Adult Assistants: Andrew Hurley (sign holder), Kathy Halter, Kristin Thomas

REC+GAMES / Rec Center / Two Sections - each with Class Size 30-35

Co-Directors: Doug Stauffer & Jonathan McClure

Adult Assistants: Caitlyn Ginn (sign holder), Rick Ginn, T.J. Jones,
Jon Livingood, Kyle Murdock, Jacky Nero, Chris Woodard

SEW MUCH FUN / CLC 307 / Class Size 12-14

Co-Directors: Erin Ginn & Kim Runk

Adult Assistant: Susan Allen (sign holder)

WOODWORKING / Building F (North Purple Door) / Class Size 12

Director: Mac Gamache

Adult Assistant: Cheryl Norman (sign holder)

Youth Helper: Levi Gamache

ATRIUM + DISMISSAL TEAMS

- 1ST-5TH GRADE -

KIDSPRAISE CONNECTION TEAM/ NORTH ATRIUM

Stephanie Styles and Becky Yeoman (Michelle Curtin as needed)

Floater: Lindsey Fischer

SUBSTITUTES

Patrick McCollum, Corma McCranie, Rob McLellan, Mary Melfi, Mimi Moxon, Sandra Nagy, Allie Patrou, April Sheltz, Claudia Stark, Susan Stauffer, Kim Storms, Pat Wynkoop

SCRIPTURE MEMORY (5:45-6 pm Reciting / 7:15 pm Prize Pickup)

Lindsey Fischer

CLC Adult Monitors for Early Arrivers: Jon & Glenda Thompson, Ronda Wages

A-G (Pink) Check-in Secretaries: Leslie Gamache & Brandy Heuts

H-M (Green) Check-In Secretaries: Kay Dunn & Elisa West

N-Z (Orange) Check-In Secretaries: Abrina Fechter & Lacey Runk

A-G (Pink) Dismissal Secretaries: Leslie Gamache & Mac Gamache

H-M (Green) Dismissal Secretaries: Kay Dunn & Susan Allen

N-Z (Orange) Dismissal Secretaries: Abrina Fechter & Lacey Runk

DISMISSAL ESCORTS / CHAIR TAG COLLECTORS

Retrieve pick-up cards from Secretaries, find kids in color-coded sections, take name tags, escort kids to parents and return pick-up cards to parents. Pick up chair tags at end.

**** Sit in your dismissal section during Rap Up Rally.**

A-G (Pink): Kim Busbee, Eric Curtin, Caitlyn Ginn, Billy Richardson, Glenda Thompson, Jon Thompson

H-M (Green): Chelsea Guzman, Kathy Halter, Andrew Hurley, Michelle Hurley, Kristle Jones, TJ Jones, Jon Livingood, Donna Nicolosi

N-Z (Orange): Teresa Andrews, Tracy Helms, Jonathan McClure, Diane Nettles, Jacky Nero, Kristin Thomas, Chris Woodard

Walk kids of Anastasia Students volunteers to the Student Center:

Eric Curtin & Chris Woodard

Sit with kids of KP Volunteers (CLC Front Row): Elisha Alexander

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DETAILED SCHEDULE

5:00 PM	Family Dinner served in the CLC
5:30-5:40 PM	Volunteers arrive
5:45 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead teachers for PreK+K must be in classroom• PreK+K kids of volunteers may check into classroom• 1st-5th grade kids of volunteers check-in with secretaries and go to CLC.• 1st-5th grade kids can recite Scripture 5:45-6:00 pm
5:50 PM	Check-in begins for all Children <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PreK+K check in at classroom doors• 1st-5th grade check in with secretaries then go into CLC and sit with their elective classes.
6:00 PM	1st-5th Grade begins dismissing elective classes from CLC to classrooms
6:00 - 7:00 PM	PreK+K remain self-contained in Buildings A & B
6:05-6:40 PM	Elective Classes meet
6:45 - 7:15 PM	EVERY Wednesday: Rap Up Rally - Large Group Worship / CLC - all 1st-5th Graders Director: Tamré Bennett Tech: Carter Altman, Justin Lane, Charles Rentz, Levi Gamache CLC Crowd Control: All Second Adults and Youth Helpers
7:00 PM	PreK+K begin dismissing from classrooms. <i>Parents attending an on-campus ministry group or Bible study must pick up their PreK+K children by 7:15 pm.</i>
7:10 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dismissal Secretaries begin accepting Pick-Up cards.• All 1st-5th graders back to CLC for dismissal.
7:15 PM	1st-5th graders dismissal from CLC
7:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st-5th grade kids of Anastasia Students volunteers are taken to the Student Center.• PreK+K children of Anastasia Students volunteers stay with Hannahlee Goedelman in Building A.• 1st-5th grade kids of KP volunteers sit in the CLC front row awaiting completion of dismissal.• KP volunteers with PreK+K children are released to pick up their kids.

DETAILED CHECK-IN + DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN / 6:00 - 7:00 PM

CHECK-IN: Parents check in and pick up children from their classrooms. We begin accepting children at 5:50 p.m. Children of volunteers are accepted at 5:45 so they may get to their own stations in time.

- 3-year olds: Building A/ Blue Door
- 4-year olds: Building B / North Yellow Door
- Kindergarten: Building B / South Yellow Door

DISMISSAL: Parents must present the **BLUE** PreK+K Pick-Up Card with their child's name on it in order to retrieve their child.

Parents do not go into PreK+K classrooms.

FIRST THRU 5TH GRADES / 6:00 - 7:15 PM

CHECK-IN: All 1st-5th grade children check in alphabetically by last name in the Atrium. Groups are A-G (pink), H-M (green) and N-Z (orange). Kids receive their name tags from the secretaries and go directly to the CLC where they are seated by elective class.

Parents do not go into the CLC, Rec Center or elective classrooms.

DISMISSAL: All 1st-5th grade children are dismissed from the CLC. Groups are the same as check-in: A-G (pink), H-M (green) and N-Z (orange). Starting at 7:15 pm, parents give their Pick-Up Cards with their child's name on it to their secretary in order to retrieve their child. KidsPraise Volunteers then go in to the CLC to bring kids out and return Pick Up Cards to parents.

PreK+K SUPER SINGERS

PreK+K classes recognize a boy and girl Super Singer in each age group each Wednesday. Every child WILL receive the award during the KidsPraise year. This award is presented to children who are:

- listening,
- following directions and
- trying their very best.

1st-5th ATTENDANCE AWARDS

First thru 5th graders who attend each Wednesday of any given month receive a dog tag at the next month's Rap Up Rally. At the end of the KidsPraise year (Fall and Spring), kids who earned all SIX monthly attendance prizes receive a special prize!

1st-5th DOG TAG WEEKLY PRIZES

First thru 5th graders who have earned scripture or attendance dog tags, wear them to KidsPraise and are checked in and seated in the CLC by 6 pm will receive a high five and piece of candy from Ms. Tamre. Our goal is encourage conversation among the kids about how they earned the dog tags.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHALLENGE

God wants His children to know what is in His Word so that we can learn, grow strong, and live the life He created us to live. We emphasize the importance of learning scripture in all of our children's ministry age groups. Each semester, three age-appropriate Memory Verses are announced for each age group (PreK+K and 1st-5th Grade).

PreK+ Kindergarten

Preschoolers and kindergartners receive a prize for each verse completely memorized and recited to a KidsPraise Adult Volunteer in their classroom. Children must be able to say the verse, book, chapter and scripture number without the help of an adult or other child.

First-5th Grade

When they're ready to recite that month's verse, 1st-5th graders visit the Scripture Memory Desk in the Atrium on Wednesdays from 5:45 – 6:00 pm BEFORE checking in to KidsPraise. Children must be able to say the verse, book, chapter and scripture number without the help of an adult or other child. Kids pick up their dog tags AFTER dismissal from 7:15-7:30 pm at the same location. First through 5th graders who memorize all six verses from both semesters will receive a Scripture Medal at the end of the KidsPraise year.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Note to Leaders & Parents regarding Deuteronomy 31:6

In this verse, "them" refers to enemies of the Israelites who were living in the land God had promised them, called The Promised Land. This verse encourages us to trust God's love and protection in anything that feels scary or difficult, like a test, a bully, or trying something new. Just as He reminded the Israelites, God reminds us that He is always with us and will never leave us. *Please help children connect by sharing examples of challenges they might face and encouraging them to trust God's presence and help.*

PreK+K Verses

January/February 2025

"Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them."
Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIRV)

March/April 2025

"Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them. The Lord your God will go with you. He will never leave you."
Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIRV)

1st-5th Grade Verses

January/February 2025

"Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them.
The Lord your God will go with you."
Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIRV)

March/April 2025

"Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them.
The Lord your God will go with you.
He will never leave you.
He'll never desert you."
Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIRV)

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- GENERAL INFORMATION -

LEADER & SECOND ADULT VOLUNTEER DEFINITIONS: Anastasia Kids consists of hundreds of individuals caring for hundreds of kids. We utilize Leaders and Second Adult Volunteers to effectively care for kids who call us their church home.

- A Leader is a screened adult serving in KidsPraise who leads children spiritually. They are classroom/age group instructors and are responsible for preparing weekly lessons and crafts for small group time as well as classroom management. They are also church members who have been baptized by immersion.
- A Second Adult Volunteer is an screened adult who serves in KidsPraise and assists the Leader during the lesson, assists children during the craft, handles trips to the water fountain or bathroom, etc.

TWO ADULT RULE: Anastasia Church requires two screened and unrelated adults to be present at every function and in each classroom, vehicle, or enclosed area during any activity involving children, youth, or vulnerable adults.

- Related adults – even if screened – are counted as one adult because a presumption of bias may cloud their account of a family member's or spouse's actions.
- If there are only two screened adults, they should be female or a male and female.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (Middle + High School Students): We welcome youth as volunteers; however, we highly encourage them to attend Anastasia Students on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am and/or Wednesdays at 6 pm. Should a youth and their parent approach us about volunteering instead, the student will complete an application and interview process with Ministry Staff before being scheduled for a specific role. Middle schoolers may serve beginning the January of 6th grade year. Youth may not show up unscheduled on Sundays or Wednesdays and they may not bring friends with them to serve.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT: We value your leadership and love when you recommend potential volunteers! Please feel free to share names and contact information with Anastasia Kids staff. All volunteers undergo an extensive screening and interview process so you understand when we state that invitations to shadow or serve should not be extended by anyone other than Ministry Staff.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- SAFETY + WELLNESS + BEHAVIOR -

WELL CHILD POLICY: We operate a well-child environment. For the protection of all the children in our ministry, we cannot accept a child with a runny nose, fresh cold (four days or less), fever, red or runny eyes, sore throat, undiagnosed rash, persistent cough, vomiting, diarrhea, illness being treated with antibiotics for less than 24 hours or any other signs of illness.

FIRST AID: First Aid kits are located throughout campus.

- Building A: Hallway cabinets past the kitchen.
- Building B: In the kitchen located next to the bathrooms.
- CLC 3rd Floor: Coffee station drawer in elevator lobby and Room 302
- Defibrillators are mounted in several locations in the Atrium and the Security Team is trained to use them.

ALLERGIES/MEDICAL NEEDS: Allergies or special medical needs are denoted on the front of a child's name badge with a sticker and allergy/medical information supplied by parents is on the back. Leaders are provided this information as well.

FOOD + SNACKS: We regularly serve snacks to preschool children but do not typically do so with 1st-5th grade. If you plan to bring in special snacks for your group, please check every child's name tag before bringing out the food. Some allergies are airborne and can be life-threatening.

CHILDREN WITH DIFFERING ABILITIES: We place a high value on all God's children and try to keep kids with differing abilities in the most inclusive environment that is in their best interest. When we know of a student with differing abilities, we will communicate with you and customize a plan. Depending on a child's needs, we may assign a one-on-one buddy who pairs up with them on Sunday mornings.

TOYS + DISTRACTIONS FROM HOME: To ensure a focused, engaging, and productive environment for all, we have encouraged the children to leave their toys, electronic devices, outside food or drink and other distractions at home. By minimizing distractions, we aim to create an atmosphere where children can fully engage in the activities we have planned. This will allow them to concentrate better, participate actively, and gain the most from the experience.

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR SELF-HARM: As a volunteer, you are required to promptly report any suspected child abuse, neglect, or concerns about self-harm involving individuals you encounter during your volunteer activities. Protecting the safety and well-being of those we serve is a top priority. If you observe or are made aware of any concerning behavior or disclosures, report the information immediately to your supervisor or the designated safeguarding officer. Your timely action could make a critical difference. Additionally, if you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm, please seek support from a trusted individual or supervisor, as your well-being is equally important. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible, but our first responsibility is ensuring the safety of those at risk.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- SAFETY + WELLNESS + BEHAVIOR -

BATHROOM POLICIES: Below are bathroom policies for the various bathrooms our kids use on a regular basis. Volunteers are never in a bathroom with a child alone. **It is our strict policy that only women may assist or escort children to the bathrooms.**

- **PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN:** Only allow one child in the bathroom at a time. If a child can go on their own, let them (stand by the door ready to help if needed). Do not let the children close the door all the way or lock the door (keep the door slightly ajar so you can hear what is going on). If a child needs help or requires assistance, ask another volunteer to stand at the door and watch you as you assist the child. Every child must wash their hands before returning to the group, as do volunteers.
- **FIRST - 5TH GRADE:** Before allowing kids into the bathroom, make sure there are no adults or teenagers in there. While kids are using the bathroom, do not allow adults or teenagers to enter. If there are only two screened adults in the classroom, Ministry Staff can be enlisted to handle bathroom trips so that the Two Adult Rule remains intact. Neither Youth nor Male Volunteers take children to the bathroom. If a child needs assistance, only enter the bathroom with another adult in the doorway watching you. Although a male can accompany a female adult on bathroom duty, the male cannot assist children in the bathroom.

BEHAVIOR: It is better to reward good behavior than continually call out inappropriate behavior. We never want to humiliate or shame a child. If a child's behavior is out of line, calmly explain why their behavior is inappropriate and remind them to respect their leaders and friends and redirect them to another activity. Any child's behavior that is harmful to themselves, another child, or a teacher (such as fighting, scratching, biting, and hitting) will not be allowed. Behavior that continues after these suggestions should be brought to the attention of Kids Ministry Staff. Parents will be contacted if an unacceptable behavior persists.

EVACUATION PLAN: In the event of an emergency such as a fire alarm or bomb threat that requires us to evacuate the building, it is very important to account for every child and volunteer. Each age group, elective class, and music rehearsal group will have name lists.

- All age groups exit their buildings and go to the North Retention Pond, located at the northwest corner of campus (A1A South and Old Beach Road).
- Lead Classroom instructors take a head count of children in their room.
 - On the 3rd Floor, exit the stairs closest to your classroom and exit the South Atrium doors. Take the sidewalk to the east parking lot and go to the North Retention Pond.
- In Buildings A & B, exit classrooms and take the sidewalk to the east parking lot and go to the North Retention Pond.

SPRING 2025 CALENDAR

AnastasiaKids.com/calendar



Wednesday, 1/15	KidPraise Leadership Training + Dinner, 6 pm CLC 202
Wednesday, 1/22	KidsPraise Kick Off / Rap Up Rally Guest: Emily Geisel / 1st Night of Session A Electives
Wednesday, 1/29	KP#2 / Rap Up Rally Guest: Kyle Murdock
Wednesday, 2/5	KP#3 / Disney Theme Night / Rap Up Rally Guest: Kelly Robins
Wednesday, 2/12	KP#4 / Rap Up Rally Guest: Evan Nicolosi
Wednesday, 2/19	KP#5 / Rap Up Rally Guest: Kelly Robins
Saturday, 2/22	KP Fishing 101 Session A - Fishing Trip 9 am - 11 am; Session B Date TBD
Wednesday, 2/26	KP#6 / Rap Up Rally: Cheernastics, Dance & Drum Perform; Slideshow of Other Electives; Last night of Session A Electives
Sunday, 2/29	Baby & Child Dedications - 9 am/CLC
Wednesday, 3/5	KP#7 / Superhero Theme Night / Rap Up Rally Guest: Evan Nicolosi / First night of Session B Electives
Wednesday, 3/12	KP#8 / Rap Up Rally Guest: Gene Bennett
Wednesday, 3/19	SPRING BREAK / KidsPraise does not meet
Sunday, 3/23	Anastasia Kids Baptism Celebration @ 9 am
Wednesday, 3/26	KP#9 / Rap Up Rally Guest: Brandon Elder
Wednesday, 4/2	KP #10 / Crazy Hat-Hair Theme Night / Rap Up Rally Guest: Sam Thigpen
Wednesday, 4/9	KP #11 / Rap Up Rally Guest: Sam Thigpen

The remaining April dates are TBA based on the completion of the NextGen Center. If we complete the second six weeks, Cheernastics, Dance & Drum will perform along with an electives slideshow at the 4/16 Rap Up Rally.

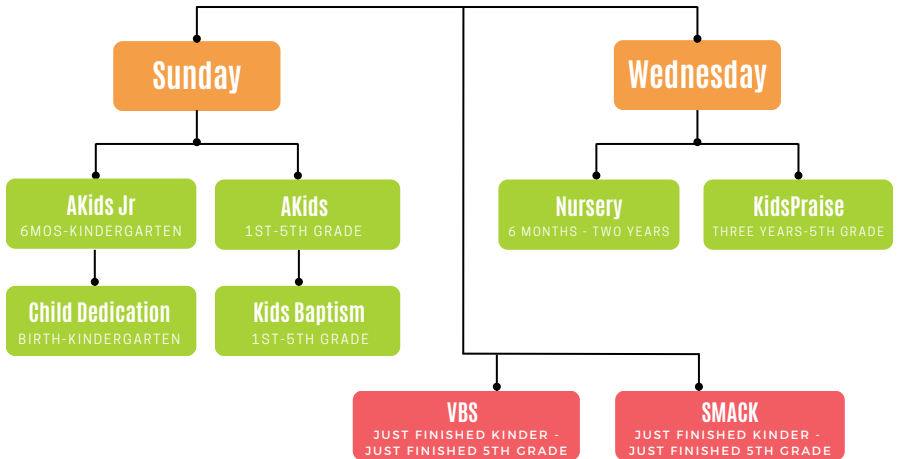


June 9-13, 2025
Vacation Bible School



July 7-11, 2025
Summer Music & Arts Camp for Kids

ANASTASIA KIDS



Anastasia Kids, our children's ministry at Anastasia Church, is led by a team of staff and volunteers whose vision is to partner with parents and families to help your child discover and embrace a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our ministry exists to bring children into age appropriate worship where they can belong to the family of God, grow in their relationship with Christ, learn to serve, and then go share Christ in the world.

AKids and **AKids Jr.** offer a Sunday curriculum for infants through 5th grade to teach children about making wiser choices, building stronger relationships, and developing a deeper faith.

Anastasia KidsPraise is our midweek worship + arts ministry for children from three years old through 5th grade. Our goal is to guide children in knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior and becoming lifelong worshipers of God through music, arts, and media. We do this by equipping kids to offer whatever talents, gifts, and skills they possess back to God as an act of worship.

STAY CONNECTED



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