PARENT HANDBOOK

FALL 2025

Everything you need to know about KidsPraise.



AnastasiaKids.com







We're so glad your children are joining us! Anastasia KidsPraise is our midweek worship and arts ministry for children ages 3 through 5th grade. Our mission is to help kids know Jesus as Savior and become lifelong worshipers of God by offering their gifts and talents back to Him through music, arts, and media.

KidsPraise meets Wednesday evenings during the school year from 6–7:15 pm at Anastasia Church on the Island. You'll find all the details in this handbook and on our website.

Our team of staff and volunteers is passionate about partnering with families to help children build a strong foundation of biblical truth—so they can make wise choices, grow deeper in faith, and develop lasting relationships. Together, we believe church and home can guide kids toward a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

In His Service, The Anastasia Kids Team

Tamre Bennett Children's Minister

tamre.b@anastasiachurch.org

Taylor Nicolosi
Children's Ministry Associate
taylor.n@anastasiachurch.org

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

Stephanie Styles Children's Ministry Lead Associate stephanie.s@anastasiachurch.org

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

CLASS LEADERSHIP TEAMS - Three's, Four's & Kindergarten -

First Floor NextGen Center 6 - 7 pm (7:15 pm for on-campus parents in a ministry)

THREE-YEAR-OLDS

Director: Taylor Nicolosi

Adult Assistants: Dawn Dutra, Brittanie Gass, Bailey Smith,

Andrea Vidal

Secretary: Brittanie Gass

Youth Helper: TBD

FOUR YEAR-OLDS

Co-Director (thru October): Mandy Murdock
Co-Director (Oct-Dec): Sydney Newton

Adult Assistants: Becky Hopkins, Teresa Petrilli

Secretary: Sue Grasso

Youth Helper: TBD

KINDERGARTEN

Director: Michelle Vijgen

Adult Assistants: Elle Posten, Anne Strotz, Laurel Wallace

Vickie Woltner

Secretary:Stephanie WhaleyYouth Helper:Lyla Harrington

- 1st-5th Grade -

GOD'S CANVAS (ART) / Room 5/ Class Size: 16-20

Directors: Annie Nardone

Adult Assistants: Teresa Andrews (sign holder), Hilary Martin, Carrie Sullivan

Youth Helper: Dylan Alexander

BRAIN CHALLENGES + PUZZLES / The Q / Class Size: 18-22

Director: Lindsay Livingood

Adult Assistants: Jonathan Scott (sign holder), Allie Patrou

Youth Helper: TBD

DANCE / Room 2 / Class Size: 13-15

Director: Anna Curtin **Adult Assistant:** Diane Nettles

DRUM / Worship Room / Class Size: 20-25

Director: Evan Nicolosi

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

Youth Helper: TBD

FISHING 101 / Game Room / Class Size: 10

Director: Donna Frantz

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

HELPING HANDS / Room 4 / Class Size 20-24

Director: Jane Johnson

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

Youth Helper: TBD

LEGO / Room 1 / Class Size 20-28

Director: Christy Valentin

Adult Assistants: Andrew Hurley (sign holder), Kathy Halter, Danny Smith,

Kristin Thomas

REC+GAMES / Rec Center / Class Size 40-50

Directors: Doug Stauffer & Jonathan McClure

Adult Assistants: Jacky Nero (sign holder), Logan Fischer (youth),

Caitlyn Ginn, Jonathan Livingood

SEW MUCH FUN / Room 3 / Class Size 12 -14

Co-Directors: Erin Ginn & Kim Runk

Adult Assistant: Mary Melfi (sign holder), Kim Craig

Youth Helper: TBD

WOODWORKING / CLC Room 106 / Class Size 12

Director: Mac Gamache

Adult Assistant: K im Storms (sign holder), Cheryl Norman (after 9/5)

Youth Helper: TBD

ATRIUM + DISMISSAL TEAMS - IST-5TH GRADE -

KIDSPRAISE CONNECTION TEAM/ SOUTH ATRIUM

Connection Table: Stephanie Styles and Becky Yeoman

Floaters: Donna Nicolosi, Chelsea Guzman

NextGen Center 2nd Floor Monitor: Lindsev Fischer

SUBSTITUTES

Lori Manning, Rob McLellan, Sherry McLellan, Sandra Nagy, April Sheltz, Susan Stauffer (6-6:45), Krista Wallace, Pat Wynkoop

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

Donna Nicolosi

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

A-G (Pink) Check-in Secretaries: Chelsea Guzman & Brandy Heuts

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

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

A-G (Pink) Dismissal Secretaries: Chelsea Guzman & Kim Storms

H-Q (Green) Dismissal Secretaries: Kay Dunn & Kristin Thomas

R-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 and Large Group Rehearsal.

Elisha Alexander, Kim Busbee, Kim Craig, Anna Curtin, Eric Curtin, Caitlynn Ginn, Chelsea Guzman, Glenda Thompson, A-G (Pink):

Jon Thompson

Kathy Halter, Tracy Helms, Andrew Hurley, Jonathan Livingood, Hilary Martin, Mary Melfi, Donna Nicolosi, Evan Nicolosi, Allie Patrou, Kristin Thomas H-Q (Green):

R-Z (Orange): Teresa Andrews, Jonathan McClure, Diane Nettles,

Jacky Nero, Billý Richardson, Jonathan Scott, Danny Smith,

Kim Storms, Carrie Sullivan

Walk kids of Anastasia Students volunteers to the NextGen Center 3rd Floor:

Eric Curtin & Billy Richardson

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DETAILED SCHEDULE

5:00 PM	Family Dinner served in the CLC
5:30-5:40 PM	Volunteers arrive
5:40 PM	 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
5:45 PM	Check-in begins for all Children PreK+K check in Atrium & NextGen Lobby using KidCheck kiosks Ist-5th grade check in with Atrium 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 1st Floor NextGen Center
6:05-6:40 PM	Elective Classes meet
6:45 - 7:15 PM	First Wednesday: Rap Up Rally / CLC - all 1st-5th Graders
	Second, Third & Fourth Wednesdays: Large group music rehearsals in CLC/ NextGen Second Floor Worship Room
7:00 PM	PreK+K begin dismissing from classrooms. Parents attending an on-campus ministry group or Bible study have til 7:15 pm to pick up PreK+K.
7:10 PM	 Dismissal Secretaries begin accepting Pick-Up cards. All 1st-5th graders back to CLC for dismissal. KP volunteers with PreK+K children are released to pick up their kids.
7:15 PM	1st-5th graders dismissal from CLC
7:15 PM	 1st-5th grade kids of Anastasia Students volunteers are taken to the NextGen Center. PreK+K children of Anastasia Students volunteers stay with Hannahlee Goedelman on the NextGen 1st Floor. 1st-5th grade kids of KB volunteers sit in the CLC.

1st-5th grade kids of KP volunteers sit in the CLC front row awaiting completion of dismissal.

DETAILED CHECK-IN + DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

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

 $\underline{\text{CHECK-IN:}}$ Parents check in and pick up children aged Three Year Old through Kindergarten from the 1st Floor of the NextGen Center.

- We begin accepting children at 5:45 p.m.
- Children of volunteers are accepted at 5:40 so they may get to their own stations in time.
- Parents do not go into PreK+K classrooms.

**NEW THIS YEAR: We are using KidCheck, our Sunday security and attendance software to check-in our Three-year-olds through Kindergartners.

 Each week, parents will input their phone numbers into the iPads in the NextGen 1st Floor Lobby or the Atrium and receive printed name tags and guardian receipts for their kids. You will choose their location as KP Three's, KP Fours or KP Kindergarten as their "Location."

<u>DISMISSAL</u>: Parents must present the **Guardian Receipt** they received at Check-In (which has a number matched to their child's name tag) with their child's name on it in order to retrieve their child from the 1st Floor of the NextGen Center. **If you do not have the Guardian receipt, you must go to the Connection Table in the Atrium to obtain a BLUE pickup card once we've confirmed your identity as an approved pick up person.**

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

<u>CHECK-IN:</u> All 1st-5th grade children check in alphabetically by last name in the Atrium. Groups are A-G (pink), H-Q (green) and R-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 or elective classrooms.**

<u>DISMISSAL:</u> All 1st-5th grade children are dismissed from the CLC. Groups are the same as check-in: A-G (pink), H-Q (green) and R-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.

Rap Up Rally (1st Wednesdays) does not change pick-up procedures.

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,
- o following directions and
- o 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

PreK+K Verses

September

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. *John 3:16a NIV*

<u>October</u>

I will praise the Lord all my life.

Psalm 146:2 NIV

November

But the angels said to them, "Do not be afraid." Luke 2:10 NIV

1st-5th Grade Verses

<u>September</u>

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

October

I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psalm 146:2 NIV

November

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

He is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11 NIV

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 <u>Leader</u> 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 <u>Second Adult Volunteer</u> 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 <u>requires</u> 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 and Wednesday evenings. 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.

SCHEDULING & SUBSTITUTES: KidsPraise is fully scheduled in advance. If your availability changes and you can not serve as scheduled, email or text Stephanie Styles to alert the team. You are not responsible for finding your own substitutes. Please let us know by Monday afternoon if you're unable to serve on Wednesday.

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.

NAME TAGS: You'll receive a KidsPraise nametag and lanyard. You can pick it up from us each week at the KidsPraise table in the Atrium or you may take it home. Name tags must be worn while serving.

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.

- NextGen Center 1st and 2nd Floors: Every classroom
- Worship Center 1st Floor & Rec Center: KidsPraise Atrium Table
- 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 leaders and customize a plan. Depending on a child's needs, we may assign a one-on-one buddy who pairs up with them on Wednesday evenings.

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.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES - SAFETY + WELLNESS + BEHAVIOR -

BATHROOM POLICIES: Below are bathroom policies for the various bathrooms our kids use on a regular basis. Never allow yourself to be in a bathroom with a child alone. It is our strict policy that <u>only women</u> 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.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

At KidsPraise, the safety of every child in our care is our highest responsibility. Parents trust us to create a joyful, secure environment —and we take that trust seriously. While we pray that emergencies never happen, we prepare thoughtfully so we can respond quickly and effectively if they do.

Our KidsPraise volunteers work hand-in-hand with our church security team to ensure every child is cared for and protected. If an evacuation is needed, children will be guided to designated safe locations on campus based on where they are during the evening.

Parents will receive an immediate group text with updates and instructions so you'll always know where your child is. You can rest assured that as we guide kids to know and worship Jesus, we are also committed to keeping them safe in every way.

Some additional safeguards in place:

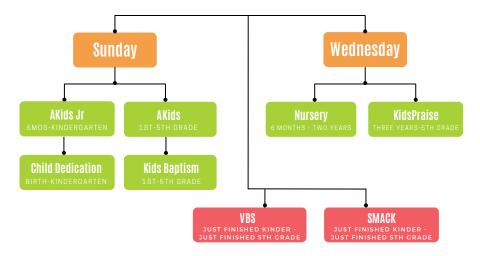
Access Restrictions:

- Parents are not permitted to enter the CLC or NextGen classrooms at any time.
- Only approved KP volunteers wearing official KidsPraise name tags are allowed in these areas. If someone appears lost or out of place, please notify a KidsPraise Staff Member, Church Staff Member or Security Team Member.

Classroom Security:

• During regular class times, classroom doors remain locked but propped open for easy access. KidsPraise Staff Members, Key Leaders in each Zone, and all church staff members have keys in the event of a lockout.

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.

FALL 2025 CALENDAR

Wednesday, 8/20 KidPraise Leadership Training Dessert 7 Details, 6 pm NextGen 2nd Floor

Wednesday, 8/27 KidsPraise Kick Off / Rap Up Rally / 1st Night of Electives
Wednesday, 9/3 KP#2 / Rap Up Rally in NextGen 2nd Floor Worship Room

Sunday, 9/7 Beach Baptism, 1:15 pm Butler Beach East

 Wednesday, 9/10
 KP#3

 Wednesday, 9/17
 KP#4

 Wednesday, 9/24
 KP#5

Saturday, 9/27 KP Fishing 101 Class A - Fishing Trip, 9:30 -11:30 am

Sunday, 9/28 Missions Sunday

Wednesday, 10/1 KP#6 / Rap Up Rally in CLC/ Last night of Session A Electives

Sunday, 10/5 Anastasia Kids Baptism Celebration, 9 am Sanctuary

Wednesday, 10/8 KP#7 /1st Night of Session B Electives

Wednesday, 10/15 KP#8 / Donna Nicolosi Leads Music Rehearsal

Sunday, 10/19 Child Dedication

Wednesday, 10/22 KP#9

Wednesday, 10/29 KP#10 / Electives / 6:45-7:15 pm Three's - 5th Grade GLOW WITH GOD

Dismissal as normal from CLC and NextGen 1st Floor Lobby

Wednesday, 11/5 KP #11 / Rap Up Rally / 4's+K Rehearse in NextGen 1st Floor Worship Room

Saturday, 11/8 KP Fishing 101 Class B - Fishing Trip, 9:30 -11:30 am

Wednesday, 11/12 KP #12 / Last Night of Session B Electives / 4's+K Rehearse in NextGen

1st Floor Worship Room

• Three Year Old Performance for Parents / 6:30pm in NextGen 1st Floor Worship Room

Last night for Three-Year-Olds

• Four's thru 5th Grade Combined Rehearsal in CLC.

 4's + K check-in and dismiss from NextGen Center 1st Floor Lobby

Wednesday, 11/26 No KidsPraise - Happy Thanksgiving!

Wednesday, 12/3 4's+K and 1st-5th Grade Combined Rehearsal in CLC.

• 4's + K check-in and dismiss from NextGen Center 1st Floor Lobby

Sunday, 12/7 REQUIRED Tech Rehearsal, 1:30 - 3 pm in the CLC for all speakers,

soloists and dancers.

Monday, 12/8

REQUIRED Dress Rehearsal, 5:45-7:30 pm in the CLC for 4's through 5th Grade. 4's+K will dismiss at 7 pm.

Wednesday, 12/10
 KidsPraise Christmas Concert, 6pm in the CLC (kids arrive 5:30 pm)

Last night of KidsPraise!

Sunday, 12/21 Anastasia Kids and Anastasia Kids Jr. "Happy Birthday Jesus Party"

Sunday, 12/28 & 1/4/26 Anastasia Kids and Anastasia Kids Jr. do not meet

STAY CONNECTED

- AnastasiaKidsIsland
- AnastasiaKids_Island
 AnastasiaKids.com

