

**“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1**

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**Unite at Bridge of Hope belongs to help students *follow* the teachings of scripture, continuing to further a deeply rooted Biblical faith, to *flourish* while using their God-given gifts in their own relationship with Christ and in the community around them, and *formulate* the ability to put what they learn into action both now and in the future.**

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***General Policies:***

Check out our Policies HandBook (pg 10-11) for full details. We ask that all families fill out the Participation + Release Form for the 2023-2024 calendar year, which will be provided at the kickoff.

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***Main Building Blocks:***

- ***Unite Meetings:*** We will gather together on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday night of each month for our youth group meeting. These are at the Ministry Center and are from 7:00-8:30 pm. Each of these nights will be structured similarly, beginning with time to fellowship and catch up, moving to our lesson and time for discussion/questions and fun activities.
  - ***CONNECT/UNITE Events:*** At least once each month we will get together with the CONNECT group to go out into our communities (or somewhere close) to hang out and have fun together! Our hope is to have a monthly fun event that will help us to build community within our group. These events will vary from “going out” to places like Sioux City or Sioux Falls, to “staying in” at places such as the Ministry Center.
  - ***Service:*** Each semester there will be a service project that our UNITE group will participate in. Our goal is to reflect what proper Christ-like service and humility looks like when it comes to serving both people in our own community and when reaching outside the margins of Sioux Center. We strive to be a group that emboldens students to love and serve their community!
  - ***Student Outings:*** This will be an informal time that is scheduled by Kira or the students. Typically, Kira hopes to meet with students in small or large groups; whether to enjoy food, chat over coffee, or attend student events. UNITE also enjoys fun activities, such as pickleball, disc golfing, or just playing games! Being intentional is *extremely* important, and creates a deeper relationship built on trust within the UNITE ministry.
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***Unite Leader:***

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  - Jamin Ver Velde
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### ***How to Invest:***

UNITE is a ministry continuation from CONNECT, and is *always* in need of support and prayer as we continue building community!! This ministry does not simply rely on having leaders who care and invest in the lives of your student(s). It also heavily relies on each of you as parents, the adults who each student interacts with the most, to invest in your student(s) through this ministry. What we mean by that is:

- **Ask Questions:** Stay up to date on what your student(s) is talking about during UNITE. Ask about the latest discussions, what they're learning/hearing, or what they might yet have questions about. Keep the conversation going after they return home!
- **Stay Connected to Your Students' Leader:** The idea and hope is that your student(s) will develop a trusted relationship with their small group leader. You, too, should get to know them! When your student is struggling, talk to their leaders. When your student is asking tough questions, talk to their leaders. When your student is approaching a huge milestone, let their Small Group Leaders know! We desire to do life together. Our goal is to intentionally invest in your students' lives. Let leaders know when your students' birthday is, let them know when your students' concert/game/tournament is- your students' leaders care and want to be involved!
- **Model What We Teach:** Along with asking questions and staying up to speed with what we at Connect are talking about, model that in your home life! Last year, our Youth Group focused on how we are called to show God's love by putting others' needs above our own- serving in a humble Christ-like manner. This is something that can be done in every aspect of life, and that is something the UNITE group desired to implement. We believe that one of the best ways to walk through this discipleship process with each student is by modeling in our own lives what we talk about. Doing is a powerful action.
- **Volunteer to help:** Our leaders do a lot of work and invest a lot of time into the students, but there are always ways we could use help! Whether that is signing up to bring snacks for the next youth group meeting, volunteering your vehicle, or communicating with your students leader to let them know about your students events! Bridge of Hope is lucky to have a body so willing to serve, and volunteering for the needs of CONNECT is a great way to start!