

Scarsdale Community Baptist Church

Christian Benchmarks For Children and Youth



Parents, below you will find benchmarks for the different stages in our Church School classes. These are guidelines and goals for each class as the children develop cognitively and theologically.

This is a partnership between the church and families. Both parties need to work together to create a comprehensive spiritual formation for your child.

****All goals are cumulative as they progress through developmental stages****

‘SCBC Benchmarks for Students’ are ideas and truths that we will be instilling in the students as they attend Church School classes, Children’s Worship and Youth Group.

‘Home/Family Practices’ are those that we hope you will participate in to reinforce what is being taught at church.

Preschool and Kindergarten

SCBC Benchmarks for Students

- To know that God loves them deeply
- To learn to talk with/pray to God
- To know that we're God's children, created in His image
- To experience church as a life-giving secure place where people care about and listen to them.
- Introduce OT and NT stories through books and songs
- Introduce practices of baptism, communion and worship

Home/Family Practices

- Model service to others
- Read Bible Stories together
- Pray together on a daily basis (specifically, The Lord's Prayer, grace before meals, etc.)
- Make personal connections within the Church family

**SCBC also provides a weekday nursery school. Its vision incorporates play, academics, socialization and spiritual formation. For more information, please visit the website www.scarsdalenurseryschool.com.*

Younger Elementary

SCBC Benchmarks for Students:

- To learn about and relate to God the Creator, Jesus and the Holy Spirit (The Triune God)
- To feel comfortable with spontaneous prayer and experience various kinds of prayer (ACTS: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication)
- To understand that God created and loves our world and that we are responsible for caring for it.
- To understand the Bible stories that recount the Christmas and Easter seasons
- To understand Jesus' acts, as recounted in the Bible, that lead to our celebrations of Baptism and Communion and recognize the actions of both ordinances as experienced in worship
- To understand key foundations from worship—The Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments
- To explore the plot and characters in Jesus' parables
- To begin becoming familiar with stories that tell of Jesus' care for the sick, the poor and the outcast.
- To begin to explore the idea of the sinfulness of humanity and salvation through Jesus Christ

Home/Family Practices

- Discuss how Bible stories have direct application to our lives
- Help children consider and recognize the rights of others and understand what that means to our families
- Look for 'God Sightings' as evidence of His presence in our lives
- Memorize the Ten Commandments

Older Elementary

SCBC Benchmarks for Children:

- To begin to expand role in the church family: serving as acolyte, ushering, reading scripture
- To master Bible skills; to be able to read and discuss short biblical passages
- To explore the liturgies of Communion and Baptism, connecting the ordinances with biblical events and our relationship with God
- To explore promises that we make to God and connecting them to our daily actions
- To begin to tie the Old Testament to Jesus
- Understand the dynamic of peer groups and peer pressure and when to ask a trusted adult for help
- Understand the basic definitions of 'Christianity', 'Catholicism' and 'Protestantism'
- Participate in local and international service opportunities provided through SCBC

Home/Family Practices

- Teach children to learn to take responsibility for acting on Christian beliefs and values as you interact as a family
- Connect scripture to right and wrong behavior
- Use inappropriate behavior as a 'teachable moment' on sin, grace and justice
- Look for ways to serve neighbors and the community as a family

Middle School

SCBC Benchmarks for Youth:

- To begin building a mature self-image, and more stable relationships (outside of the family) and a more coherent understanding of the world as it pertains to their faith
- To begin to identify one's gifts
- To become more fully involved in the church community and beyond by volunteering to serve
- To be able to explain the biblical story of God's people and the life of Jesus
- To begin to reflect on scripture and meaning in our lives
- To reflect on and discuss moral issues from a Christian perspective
- To gain a sense of responsibility for belonging to large and small communities, including the development of empathy as exemplified by Jesus
- Understand the importance of being good stewards of their bodies including the development of healthy sexuality and sexual behaviors as a part of Christian holiness

Home/Family Practices

- Encourage student to initiate service to the community and world
- Identify ways to serve the Church independently from parents
- Discuss as a family what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus and how to develop a response when others ask about the basis of their faith.
- Help student identify a trusted adult/mentor in church

High School

SCBC Benchmarks For Youth:

- To be able to state why Jesus' resurrection is a central proclamation of the Christian faith
- To be able to give a coherent explanation of the importance and necessity to Jesus' suffering and death
- To be able to discuss what it is to have a 'personal' relationship with Jesus and be able to share how they live out that relationship
- To be able to offer a coherent timeline of the Old Testament story
- Develop a working definition of justice and injustice and relate these to Christian living
- To internalize and embody the SCBC Church Covenant and its value to the church body and foundation on scripture
- To be able to relate Jesus' preaching of the kingdom of God to their everyday world and lives
- To have some understanding of how the Protestant church relates to other mainline world religions

Home/Family Practices

- Discuss topics in the news and look at them through the lens of scripture vs. the World
- Discuss the sacrament of Baptism and encourage student to participate in it if not already baptized
- Discuss and make a plan for personal financial stewardship for the Church
- Discuss with friends and family who practice religions other than Baptist and familiarize yourselves with their basic tenets to enable you to interact with them on a personal level

Church School Year Activities

Fall:

Kick-Off Sunday Worship service and BBQ

Trunk or Treat

Car Wash Fundraiser

Winter:

Advent Supper

Christmas Pageant

March Mission Madness

Spring:

Easter Celebration

Talent Show

Church School Sunday Recognition

Summer:

Youth Mission Trip

Vacation Bible School

Family Activities and Trips



Annual Christmas Pageant



Youth Mission Trip



Making bag lunches for local soup kitchen

SCBC Church Covenant

Having been brought by divine grace to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we do now solemnly covenant with one another that God shall enable us we will devote ourselves to the love, obedience and service of Jesus Christ; that we will take His word as the law of our lives; that we will endeavor to follow Him in all things, seeking by prayer and reverent study of the Bible to learn God's will.

We will strive to walk together as His disciples in brotherly love, to exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over one another, to participate in one another's joys and to endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear one another's burdens and so to live as to hasten the coming of His Kingdom.

We will daily give heartfelt praise to the Creator for His goodness to His children, as shown in Nature's handiwork so generously manifest in the community where we abide.

We will sustain public worship in this church by regular attendance and by systematic giving as God shall prosper us. We will contribute for benevolent purposes and for the spread of the Gospel all over the world.

Scarsdale Community Baptist Church

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