

New Class Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in helping start a new Sunday School class. The importance of new classes cannot be over-stated! So you are much appreciated.

Here are some things we are asking you to do in order to help make this new class the biggest possible success:

1. **Cooperate with us as we age-grade this class.** We may group on some basis other than aging (parents of teenagers, for example), but with every new class we are seeking to reach a specific group. This way, those who attend feel like they fit in more. They have things in common with the rest of the class members. When a person looks in the door for the first time, our goal is that their first impression is, “I will fit in with this group.”

We already have classes for men from high school graduation to Rose Hill Cemetery. And we already have women’s classes that span multiple generations. That need has been met; we don’t need any more of those. What we need now are some classes for specific age groups.

It is our policy to encourage age grading. We will not *force* people to attend the class officially designated for their age group. However, we will post the dates of birth on the door, gear the class toward that age group, and limit the names of the prospect information given to a class to the names of people in its assigned age range.

2. **Fully staff your class leadership team.** That means you as teacher, an outreach leader, a fellowship leader, a prayer leader, a secretary, a growth agent, and a functioning care group leader for every 5-7 class members on roll. The secretary can double as a care group leader and things like that, but we are asking you to organize your class for ministry and growth.
3. **Gear your class toward reproduction.** Great teachers train new teachers and send them out to serve. Great classes sponsor new classes. They don’t try to protect their little group; they focus on being fruitful in service.
4. **Maintain a prospect list.** Your class Outreach Leader should be the primary person in the matter of outreach to new prospects (complimenting the care group leaders’ efforts to minister to absentees and members in need of ministry).
5. **Have regular class social get-togethers.** Such events are powerful tools for building class fellowship and reaching prospects, some of whom will be lost. Don’t forget to invite in-service members - people who teach, for example, in the preschool division, who need the opportunity to fellowship with people their own age.
6. **Build your class by reaching new people, not by stealing members from other classes.** It is understood you will need a small core group of transfers to start the class. And there may be people in another class who will feel your class is where they best fit in; if they transfer into your class that’s fine. However, the goal is to reach new people for the Lord and for the church, not to rotate members around or to develop personal followings within the church.
7. **Be team players.** Recognize that your class is under the authority of the Teaching Ministry Leadership Team and, ultimately, the church. Promote and explain church events. When we have a high attendance day or a revival “pack a pew night,” or whatever, be sure to participate.