

MAPPING THE CAMPUS



GETTING STARTED

A HELPFUL TOOL IS THE MAPPING YOUR CAMPUS WORKSHEET.

A high school or middle school campus is a unique tapestry of friends, cliques, classes and teams. There are many “tribes” at a school. The trust that students have because of these groups is what creates the campus culture. This friend-to-friend dynamic forms the tapestry where information and news flows rapidly, including the Good News of Jesus Christ. Identifying these groups is called decoding and mapping the campus.

Because most students associate with one or more group, mapping the campus is an effective way to potentially reach out to every student at a school.

BEGIN BY PRAYING. Ask God to give you His heart and insight for your school.

GATHER INFORMATION. Glean info from students and educators. Visit the campus and school events - games, concerts, etc. Look through the latest yearbook, the school web site and newspapers. Goggle the school.

ASK THESE QUESTIONS

- ▶ **What is the personality of the school?** *What are the predominant values and issues?*
- ▶ **What natural groups make up the tapestry of the campus?** *Classes, cliques, sports teams, clubs, etc...*
- ▶ **Who are the influencers in these groups?** *Who stands out, official and unofficial leaders?*
- ▶ **Who are the Christian students in these groups?** *Identify where your students and others are involved.*
- ▶ **Is there a “person of peace” with the group.** *(Luke 10:1-2) When you meet them, you meet the group.*

As you pray and gather info, where are you sensing God wants you to begin? Where are your students involved? As you have met students and faculty, where do you see God working? Where do you feel more comfortable? Campus outreach grows, you have the option to start small and branch out.

MAKE A PLAN. Using the Mapping Tool, brainstorm ideas to pray, care and share Christ with the group(s) you have chosen. As a youth group you could start with several groups. Have your students team up where they want to focus.

PLANNING IDEAS

- ▶ **Pray** for each person in your target group by name.
- ▶ **Get to know the group personally**, be friendly, engage in conversations, ask them about their story.
- ▶ **Do something special for the group**, give snacks or gifts. throw a party, hang out time.
- ▶ **Invite them** to your campus meeting, your church youth group or Bible study group.
- ▶ **Share your story** as you get to know them, and share God’s story, the Gospel.
- ▶ **You could do a special event** for the group, a dinner, sports team meeting, party. Introduce the gospel.

When students from a group respond to Christ, it is much easier to help them grow together in Christ. Because of the common trust they have they will support each other in their new faith.

A SCHOOL IS A RELATIONAL CULTURE. As you respect this reality, God will dramatically multiply your ministry.

MUST READ BOOKS: *God So Loved* by Lee Rogers; *Gospelize* by Greg Stier; *Penetrating the Campus* by Barry St. Clair. **GO TO EVERYSCHOOL.COM FOR MORE RESOURCES.**