



## BRILLIANT AT THE BASICS | Get Ready for Fall Club

Ownership is a key element of “Brilliant at the Basics” but partnerships are more appropriate in WyldLife. You need to include both eighth graders and parents in this partnership.

### EIGHTH GRADERS

**Host a pizza night with eighth graders.** Your goal is to get eighth graders excited about the WyldLife kickoff. Middle schoolers care deeply what others think and may not be ready for a vision to share the gospel with their school. However, they can get excited about something that has brought them joy and the leaders who have cared for them.

- Ask them about their favorites from WyldLife last year: theme clubs, games, music, events.
- Ask their opinions on a few T-shirt designs.
- Ask them if/how they want to be up front during club. (Ideas: handing out raffle tickets or announcing winners, leading a dance party with leaders, or making an eighth-grade-only video)
- Ask which of their friends would have fun at club. Teach them how to invite friends.
- Pull back the curtain of club just slightly. Many of them will not be ready for the “whys” but you can invite them to be part of the “what” of club.

Eighth graders can’t run club, but we want them to love it and discover “It’s for me! I got to be a part of it!”

**Identify eighth graders who may be ready for more.** You may know kids who are following Jesus and more mature both emotionally and spiritually than their peers. Have one-on-one conversations with these kids about how you believe they can grow in their faith and serve others. They may be more willing and able to take on bigger roles, invite younger kids to club, or pray for their friends.

### PARENTS

**Host a parent meeting before school starts.** Your goal is to talk about the fall schedule and the need for parents to be involved. Because parents manage the schedules, transportation and finances of their middle schoolers, WyldLife leaders must build relationships and communicate effectively with parents.

- Ask parents to bring school calendars and help identify potential conflicts with WyldLife.
- Get input from parents on the best tools and timing for regular WyldLife communication.
- Identify key parents by grade and gender who will advocate with other parents.
- Identify parents who want to serve in other roles: drive kids, bring snacks, provide crowd control, etc.

If parents aren’t available, start by building relationships with teachers and administrators. School staff can advocate for you and introduce you to parents.

**Create a parent communication plan.** Use what you learn at this meeting to create a consistent communication plan using the tools preferred by parents. Your plan might include mailing the fall schedule at the beginning of the semester, and emailing parents weekly. Find more ideas in the [WyldLife Toolbox](#).