

Allison Harmon

Dear Redeemer Community,

Hello and happy almost fall and back to school time! I want to introduce myself to all of you and tell you a little bit about Rite 13, Redeemer's youth formation class for 6th and 7th graders. I've been involved at Redeemer since 2013, and last year was my first year teaching Rite 13. I learned so much about our community from some of our youngest members, and I am really looking forward to heading back into the classroom. This year I am excited to be partnering with other members of Redeemer's Youth Ministry Team, Vivian Campagna and Stephanie and Allen Brizee, to develop some new lesson plans for Journey to Adulthood (J2A) and Rite 13. We are creating a comprehensive education program for our young people that will help prepare them for a life-time of faith and exploration.

This year in Rite 13 we will focus on identity formation, community dynamics/responsibilities, and walking our faith. Rite 13 lays the ground work for the more in-depth work that our students will do in J2A, so much of our work is to introduce the concepts that they will explore in J2A. For example, in order for our youth to be prepared to discuss peaceful civil disobedience in J2A, we need to introduce concepts of justice/God's justice in Rite 13. Though I am a teacher by trade (I teach Ethics, World Religions, and Scripture at Loyola Blakefield), I am also aware that our young people have quite a bit on their plates. So, it is my goal to make the Rite 13 lessons fun and engaging. I want the students to look forward to coming to class and to feel safe expressing who they are with their peers. I plan to incorporate lessons about self-care, meditations, prayerful contemplations, de-stress techniques and service/outreach activities this year. Our goal this year is to empower our students to take an active role in our community of faith and in the world.

Soon, our syllabus and lesson plans will be posted on the youth ministry page on redeemberbaltimore.org so the community can be involved with what is going on with our Rite 13 students. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or if you want to get involved in any of the good work that we are doing, please let me know.

Working towards a faith that promotes justice,

Allison