

**Let's Get it Started!**  
**August 30, 2015**  
**Launching Church School**

Launching a new church school year can be exciting! New classes, new teachers, new enthusiasm...also surrounded by a new school year, new friends, and new opportunities...new, new, new!

Here are some ideas to help launch your congregation's new church school year.

- Celebrate! Kick off the new year with a free carnival for the families of the church and community
  - Church school picnic (grill hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings and sides for an old fashioned picnic)
  - Inflatables (rent giant inflatables for the children and adults to jump)
  - Face painting
  - Gospel singing
  - Any other carnival games or activities
- Invite the entire congregation and community for a church school breakfast/brunch during your regularly scheduled church school time.
- Conduct a Church School Fair with booths provided by each class. Each class can set up a booth to highlight what each class will be studying during the course of the year. This is a great way for parents to connect with what their children will be learning and adults an opportunity to look at the various options of study and focus. It is also an opportunity for those who do not attend church school to discover areas of interest and where they may join in.
- Recognize your previous church school teachers. Set time aside in the last worship service of the church school year to thank those who have served so graciously, and present them with a certificate or small gift in appreciation of that service.
- Commission your teachers (see commissioning service at <http://ministrycouncil.cumberland.org/liturgyforspecialsundays>)
- Designate a Registration Sunday for your church school. The registration could begin approximately one month before the launch of the new church school year. This will alert members and visitors that the new year is beginning soon and will keep the date fresh in their minds.
- Set up church school prayer partners between classes. (Pair an elementary student with a senior adult or a young adult with a middle school student.) Each week set aside time to pray for the prayer partner from the neighboring class. This could be a wonderful opportunity to pair children and adults for an intergenerational church school prayer ministry.