

August 29, 23

Dear Community Members,

Ozark Adventist School (OAS) is off to a great start. Classrooms are buzzing with bright minds. The principal, teachers, and staff members are continuing to create happy and safe environments for the kids to learn and grow.

This school year has certainly started with a few changes. As many are already aware, OAS no longer has open access to the Gentry Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Church facilities, which includes their Youth Center, the Church, and the Pathfinder Building. This occurred after the Gentry SDA Church presented a usage policy that included terms with which OAS was unable to comply.

**How this impacts our school:**

- OAS no longer has an indoor facility for PE or recreation on bad weather days (e.g., extreme heat index days, rainy days, snow days, extreme cold days, etc).
- OAS no longer has a facility on campus for assembly, chapels, graduation ceremonies, or school program/rehearsals.
- OAS no longer has an on campus facility for the basketball or gymnastics programs.
- OAS no longer has an on campus facility for the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) program. Of note, the Gentry SDA Church offered special permission to continue using the Pathfinder Building for this program. However, in attempts to protect the school as well as the Gentry SDA Church, it was decided that using this facility without a signed contract as previously requested was not in the best interest of either party.
- OAS Home & School (H&S) no longer has a location to prepare and serve food for hot lunches or special events (e.g., Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, Thanksgiving Meal, Valentine's Day Breakfast for Lunch Meal, etc.).
- OAS H&S no longer has an on campus facility to host school events such as Fall Festival.

**How this is being managed:**

- PE and/or recreation on bad weather days are being conducted in the classrooms.
- Assemblies and chapels are being held in the 5th/6th grade classroom on Friday mornings. Students take their chairs to the hosting classroom for seating.
- OAS is in the process of working out arrangements for basketball and gymnastics programs to be done at Ozark Adventist Academy (OAA) facilities.

- STEAM will be held in the OAS library for now. This will be challenging as projects will be left vulnerable and potential for tampering (even if unintentional) will be high. As you can imagine, this is a huge concern for the students that put many hours into these projects in preparation for upcoming meets. Additionally, OAS is working hard to renovate a newly acquired facility on campus that will hopefully serve as a better location for this program.
- “Hot lunches” will no longer be prepared and served to the student body on Wednesdays as was tradition in the past. Monday-Thursday meals will be replaced with “fast-food” type options along with a sack of items that are prepared off campus and delivered to the students by OAS H&S in order to provide a complete meal and maintain the lunch program option.
- School events and programs will take place at one of the other constituent churches. OAS is very blessed to have many active constituent churches that have offered the use of their facilities to OAS for various events and activities.

This situation may have been unexpected, presented us with many challenges, and may be disappointing; but, kids are resilient, which means our school is resilient. God is working hard to ensure our school thrives. Prayers, suggestions, volunteers, and support are greatly appreciated as we navigate our way through these changes.

For questions or more information on this matter, contact information has been listed below. We encourage you to reach out. We are all in this together and look forward to seeing where God leads our school.

Sincerely yours,

OAS Home & School Association

Contact Information:

Richard Dye, ARKLA SDA President - [rdye@arklac.org](mailto:rdye@arklac.org)

Tim Kripps, ARKLA SDA Education Superintendent - [tkripps@arklac.org](mailto:tkripps@arklac.org)

Tara Bailey, OAS Principal - [tbailey@arklac.org](mailto:tbailey@arklac.org)

Werner Gil, Gentry SDA Church Pastor - [wgil@arklac.org](mailto:wgil@arklac.org)

## GENTRY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FACILITY USE POLICY

### Statement of Purpose

The church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members; therefore, the Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church (identified from here on as Gentry SDA) desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and always to God's glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to both our schools: Ozark Adventist School (OAS) as well as Ozark Adventist Academy (OAA) as witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

Gentry SDA Church facilities however, will not be permitted to persons or groups, which hold, advances or advocates beliefs or engage in practices that conflict with the Church's faith and moral teachings (See 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22) which are summarized in, among other places, the Church Manual.

**NOTE:** Plant Sub-Committee appointed by the Church Board, is the final decision-maker on whether a person or group is allowed the use of church facilities. If issue arise the Plant Sub-Committee will forward the issue to the Plant Committee and at their discretion on to the church Board.

This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church sees all its property as holy ground set apart for the worship of God (See Colossians 3:17).

### Approved Users and Priority of Use

Priority shall be given to the Gentry SDA church, ministries of the Gentry SDA Church, activities sponsored by the Gentry SDA church.

### Facility Use Hours

1. The Youth Center is generally available between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. **Monday – Thursday** for the use of our Ozark Adventist School (OAS) for physical activities as well as their Hot Lunch time
2. The Youth Center will be closed off on Fridays. OAS may use the Youth Center on Fridays as needed with prior communication with the church office to verify no other activities are planned (IE: Potluck, etc.)
3. Use of the Community Room will be available to OAS every Wednesday morning for their Chapel services.
4. Should there be a need to make use of the Sanctuary in preparation of any school program in the Gentry SDA Church, the Church office should be notified in advance (1 week in advance at minimum) and practices shall be completed by 10:00 am on Friday.
5. Any use outside of the hours stated above must be officially approved as indicated above.

### Scheduling Events

- a. "All" facility usage is required to be approved, scheduled, and placed on the church calendar prior to usage. This will help keep events coordinated, schedule Audio/Visual staff, security and any extra cleaning required.
- b. Requests for facility use shall be made to church office by submitting the signed "Gentry Seventh-Day Adventist Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form.
- c. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the Plant Sub-Committee appointed by the Board approves the usage.
- d. The Gentry Seventh-Day Adventist Church has priority over member and non-ministry event wanting reservations.

## Fees

1. The use of the Gentry SDA Church facilities by member non-ministry event a cleaning fee of a minimum of \$100.00 will be required at the time of reservation.
2. Use of the Youth Center by OAS shall require a use and maintenance fee of \$10.00 per registered student (Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) per month to cover the utilities, maintenance, and upkeep of the building.

## Facility Use Guidelines

**Note:** The church sanctuary is a place of reverence and is to be respected as a place of worship where we meet with our God. Behavior / conduct in the church building is to be respectful. Running and being out of control will not be tolerated.

1. Group leaders and staff are responsible for the conduct of their participants and provide proper supervision
2. Alcohol Policy: Alcohol in church facilities or on the grounds is prohibited
3. Tobacco/Vaping Policy: The use of tobacco products or vaping indoor or on the grounds of the facilities is prohibited
4. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited while in or on church facilities. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises immediately.
5. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved
6. Food and beverages are restricted to the church community room and the youth center. Only water in a container with screw on lid is allowed in the sanctuary
7. Groups are required to provide their own paper goods (IE: Paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic ware, etc.)
8. No confetti or glitter decorations and no tape or paint on the floors or walls
9. No pets are to be brought into our facilities at any time unless it is an official **Service Animal**
10. Tables are to be covered before using them for any type of craft, especially involving paint
11. No standing or walking on chairs, pews, or bench seats
12. Absolutely **NO Roller Blades, Skates or Scooters** allowed *inside? or outside?*
13. The use of **Fryers** of any type are **PROHIBITED** in the facility as per Fire Department Regulations
14. The use of **Propane Tanks** in the facilities are **PROHIBITED**
15. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event. No equipment of the church will be allowed to be borrowed or rented away from its building.

Before you leave the facilities, you are responsible for:

- a. Empty all trash (including kitchen and bathrooms in the youth center)
- b. Make sure the urinals and toilets have been flushed
- c. Wash the tables and wipe down counters if used
- d. Vacuum/sweep floors
- e. Turn off all lights and lock doors upon departure.

16. Group or Persons using the facilities are responsible for the damages which may occur
17. Fund Raisers for Non-church sponsored ministry, Non-Ozark Adventist School, Non-Ozark Adventist Academy purposes are **PROHIBITED**
18. Reservations are not to be traded to other organizations without the approval of the Plant Sub-Committee.
19. The Gentry Seventh-Day Adventist Church has priority over any reservation should a church sponsored event come up which conflicts with the scheduled event
20. Any equipment brought in for the activity or event shall be removed within 24 hours after the activity or event unless prior arrangements are made.