

School Board Proposal For Focus Club's Wintercamp Weekend Retreat

Proposal Title: Focus Club Wintercamp Weekend Retreat Approval Request

Submitted by: Erica Whitley, Emotional Support Teacher, Grades 9-12 and Focus Club Advisor and Dan Reiste, FCS Teacher, Grades 9-12, and Focus Club Advisor

Executive Summary

The purpose of this proposal is to request approval for the Focus Club-sponsored Wintercamp event at Young Life's Lake Champion through Princeton Institute Youth Ministries (PIMY). The proposed PIMY Wintercamp Retreat at Lake Champion provides Conestoga Valley High School students a safe, life-giving environment to grow in character, faith, and values while deepening friendships and cross-grade mentorship. Focus Club student leaders will utilize their leadership skills by guiding cabin-time discussions to process biblical principles presented in group sessions. (Communicators, Collaborators). All students will engage in team-building challenges through adventure-based learning activities (Innovative Problem Solver/Global Citizens) and reflect on life applications throughout the weekend to define their purpose, restore identity, and reflect on life-changing truths (Life-Long Learners). By the end of this Wintercamp event, students will deepen and strengthen their sense of belonging in their horizontal and vertical relationships as connected members of the CVHS Focus Club.

The following link is provided by PIMY for more information about the Wintercamp retreat:

<https://younglife.my.canva.site/piym2027>

Background and Rationale

- Wintercamp provides Conestoga Valley High School students with immersive, out-of-classroom experiences that foster leadership, collaboration, and personal growth.
- Scheduled at the start of the second semester, the retreat offers a reflective environment for students to:
 - Strengthen leadership development, mentorship and interpersonal skills
 - Engage in team-based collaboration and friendship-building activities
 - Explore spiritual values and moral development
- Supports the district's goal of cultivating confident, responsible, and engaged student leaders while enhancing collaboration, communication, and lifelong learning of all retreat participants

Program Description:

Goal of the PIYM Weekend Retreat: To provide a fun, engaging, and high-quality retreat experience for youth that encourages personal and spiritual growth, reflection, leadership, and a commitment to making a faith-based global impact throughout their lives.

When: 3:00 pm departure from CVHS on **Friday, January 22, 2027**, until approximately 4:00 pm arrival at CVHS on **Sunday, January 24, 2027** (Departing and returning to CVHS in front of the Rill Gym entrance)

Where: From CVHS 2110 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 to Young Life's Lake Champion Retreat Center at 247 Mohican Lake Rd, Glen Spey, NY 12737 (159 miles one way/approximately 3.5 hours to camp)

Who: Students in grades 9-12 who attend CVHS are invited to participate in this retreat, sponsored by the Focus Club

Staffing: Ratio of Chaperones (comprised of CVHS teachers, CVHS staff members, CVHS family members, parents, and bus driver) to CVHS students 1 chaperone :9 students (All chaperones on the trip will have their clearances)

Cost of Retreat: PIYM registration fee per participant is \$185 (Check payable to Princeton Institute Youth Ministries). Students and chaperones will each pay this individual fee to the Focus Club account at CVHS. The check to PIYM will then be submitted from this account.. The School District will incur no expense for this retreat.

Transportation Details:

The transportation/gas fee of \$60 per person will be added to the PIYM retreat cost of the trip (which includes gas money for vans and additional supplies for the trip).

Due to the size of the Focus Club (80+ CVHS Students attend the club before school on Friday mornings, which includes 17 student leaders), we wanted to procure enough transportation to include both Focus Club members as well as friends of Focus Club members at CVHS in grades 9-12 for this retreat experience.

- 1) **School Vans:** We have our three CVHS vans reserved for this weekend. There is no cost for van rental, but students will contribute funds to cover gas expenses for the 360 mile round trip. School vans will be driven by CVHS staff members or approved community members. All drivers/chaperones will have their required clearances. (Student capacity for school vans=27 students @ 9 per van plus driver)
- 2) **Church Van:** We have a van donated from Christ Community Church along with a CDL certified bus driver, who is donating her time to drive for this weekend event. Dendra

Newhouse is a bus driver through Rohrer Bus service, and will also be serving as a chaperone for the weekend. We will limit the student capacity for this van to 9 students.

Our total capacity for transporting students is the following: 27 students by our 3 school vans and 9 students by our CCC church van for a total of 36 students plus 4+ adult chaperones.

We will have a 1:9 staff to student ratio minimum of chaperones for the trip to accompany the students as follows: 1 driver of each school van (total 3 chaperones), 1 driver plus a staff member on the CCC van. That would amount to 27 students plus four adult chaperones.

Each additional church van with a certified CDL driver would allow for an additional adult chaperone and 9 additional students to attend the retreat.

Weekend Schedule:

Friday: Departure from CVHS at 3pm. (Fast Food stop/bathroom break mid-way)

Arrival and Check-in/Move into Dorms (Males and Females in separate dorm buildings). Each room will have at least 1 adult chaperone and 1+ student Focus Club leader

Club #1/Cabin Time/Lights Out

Saturday: Leadership Meeting/Breakfast

Club #2/Cabin Time

Large Group Games

Lunch

Free Time (Open recreational camp activities)

Dinner

Club #3/Cabin Time

Worship Event

Snackbar/Gameroom time

Return to Dorm/Lights Out

Sunday: Room Clean Up/Group Pictures/Breakfast

Club #4/Large Group Cabin Time (with all Students & Chaperones from CVHS Focus Club)

Pack Up/Depart at 11:30am-Fast Food/Bathroom Break Mid-way

Return to CVHS at approximately 4pm

Trip Expenses Per Person: *Note: No cost to district

Item	Cost	Notes
PIYM Fee Per Person	\$185	
Gas Money Fee Per Person	\$60	(360 miles round trip x 4 vans)
Fast Food/Camp Store/Snack Bar		Amount Optional (Students/Adults will Bring Cash for individual purchases)
Total Estimated Cost	\$245	

Funding sources: No cost to school district beyond using school vans. Each person will pay for their own trip expenses.

Checks will be payable to Conestoga Valley High School and deposited into the Focus Club account. Gas expenses will be reimbursed from Focus Club account with submission of receipts. Check provided for bus rental and camp fees from CVHS via Focus Account.

Medical Protocols for the Trip:

After we have a list of students who are signed up for this retreat, Erica Whitley will review any student medical concerns with Nancy Lopez. Parents/Guardians will complete emergency forms required by both CVHS and those required by the camp directors. If students need to take medication, the parent/guardian will give the medicine to Mrs. Whitley to be transported to the camp in a locked box provided by Mrs. Lopez. This box will be handed to the medical staff member that will be on duty for the weekend. The camp director informed me that a NY certified PA will be on the premises for the weekend and will provide any needed medical care for students. Mrs. Whitley will collect the lockbox of medicine from the medical staff member at the camp and transport back to CVHS to be given to parents/guardians at pick up.

CVHS Field Trip Forms/PIYM Young Life Forms, Medical and Consent Forms will be completed by each participant

Request for Board Approval

I respectfully request that the Board approve:

1. The Wintercamp weekend event for the Focus Club on January 22-24, 2027, at Young Life's Lake Champion Camp through Princeton Institute Youth Ministries.
2. Use of school vans, and approval of CCC Church van and any additional church vans with certified CDL drivers transporting students to and from Lake Champion from CVHS.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I am available to answer any questions and provide more detailed planning documents or budget breakdowns as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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