

What's Going on With Your 12th Grader?

Congratulations! You have a 12th grader! It is time to finish strong in the adolescent journey. In order to do that, let's take a look inside the mind and heart of your 12th grader.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ They have developed physically into their adult bodies.
- ♦ Sexual desire is awakened, and the temptation to be sexually active is common.
- ♦ Stress is a very real physical struggle as they work, perform in school, and prepare for the future.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 12th grader may:

- ♦ Begin to be very sentimental as they anticipate life change
- ♦ Experience calmer moods than in previous years
- ♦ Exhibit impulsive behavior with friends and peers
- ♦ Be more capable of taking care of others

RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ Integrating both physical and emotional intimacy into relationships begins.
- ♦ Friends that share beliefs, values, and interests are sought.
- ♦ The relationship with parents is more of a support system.
- ♦ They begin to feel freedom to express themselves as individuals.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ They can handle the responsibility of most service positions in the church.
- ♦ They have much less interest in the student ministry activities and need to be connected to adult activities in the church.
- ♦ They have a greater interest in serving others and in making a difference in the world.
- ♦ Role models are developed that inspire them either toward or away from faith.
- ♦ There is a temptation to "have their fun now" and be responsible later.