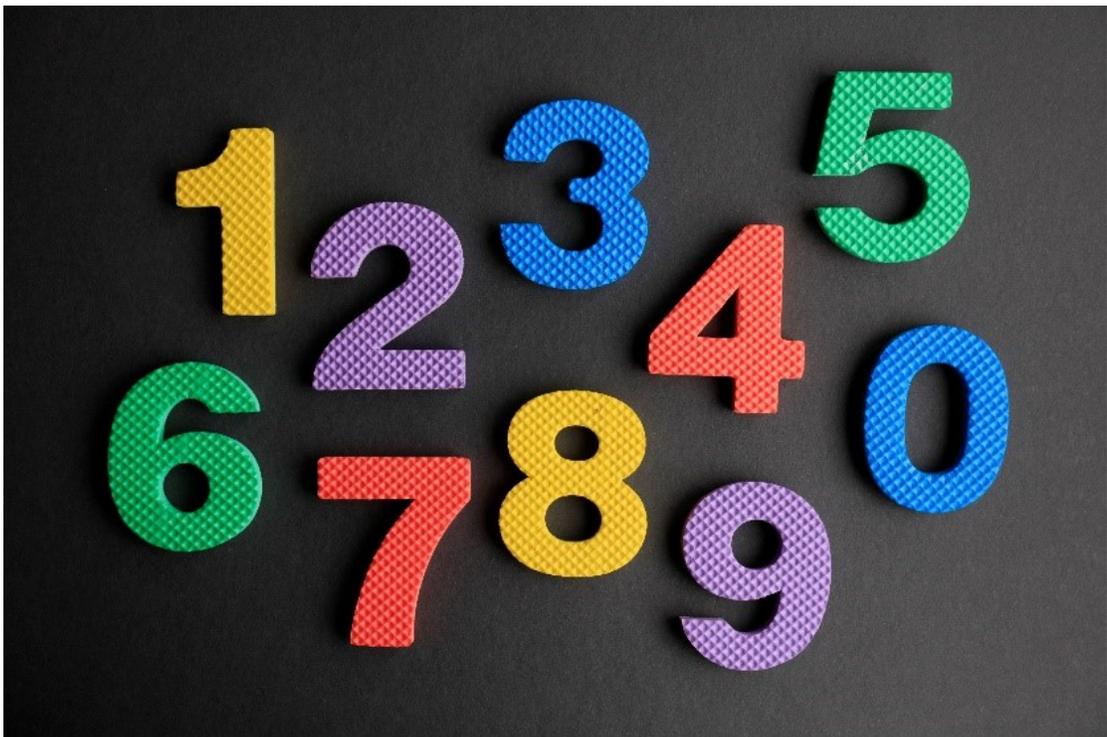




Handbook

2023-2024



“To build, educate, and train those within our reach, working together, to advance the Kingdom as we pursue the plans and purposes God has for our lives.”

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! Your participation and involvement continue to make this vision a reality. Thank you! With your committed support, Next Level Nation Academy will move forward to another successful year. We invite you to become an integral part of our school through volunteerism and mentoring opportunities.

Below is the student and parent handbook for *Next Level Nation Academy* for the 2023-2024 school year. Please take a moment to read through the pages. You will find them informative and helpful.

After you have read the handbook with your student, please return the signature pages with yours and your student's signature. This lets us know that you have read and understand what is required from you and your student to have a successful year at the Academy. If you have any questions about the contents of the handbook, please feel at liberty to contact the school office or come by the office and our staff will be delighted to help you.

Operating in Jesus class, the next level above first class.

Dr. Waynette Samuel, Ed.D.
Head of School/Administrator
Next Level Nation Academy & Preparatory

Pastor Earnell Samuel, MBA
CVO, Next Level Nation

Parent and Student Acknowledgement

It is important that you are aware of and understand our student engagement and discipline rules so that we can partner together to help your student achieve his best level of success. It is the responsibility of the parent to help the student comply with school rules and regulations from the home as we help the student during school. Please sign this page as acknowledgement of reading the information contained in this handbook. If you do not return the signed page of the handbook, you are still responsible for knowing and abiding by its content.

I have read:

- The Directory Information Response sheet
- Pledge of Allegiance Page
- Pledge of Allegiance Notice
- Extracurricular Activities Notification
- Anti-Bullying policy

I have reviewed the Handbook, including the Student Conduct. Additionally, it is acceptable to display my child's good work.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

(PRINT) Student's Name and
Grade _____

PLEASE DETACH AND HAVE YOUR CHILD RETURN THIS PAGE TO SCHOOL AFTER SIGNING THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT or YOU MAY SIGN A COPY AT OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.

Notice of Right to not Participate in Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag shall be rendered daily. Those students not wishing to participate should maintain a respectful silence, refraining from any act that would interfere with such observance.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION August 2023-May 2024

Some of the information in your student’s school records is not confidential and may be released without your consent. This information is known as directory information. Please complete and return this form to the office if you do not want directory information released concerning your child. Please place a check mark in front of the directory information below that you **do not** want released.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Student’s name

Photograph (e.g., yearbook, field trip pictures, etc.)

Grade level

Enrollment status

Dates of attendance

Participation in officially recognized activities and sports

The most recent educational agency or institution attended

Subsequent educational agency or institution attended

Academic work used for publication or display

Student Name _____ Grade _____

(Please Print)

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

Standards of Ethical Conduct

Next Level Nation Academy and Next Level Nation Preparatory

(Adapted from the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession in Florida and Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida)

- 1.** Our school values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- 2.** Our primary concern is the student and the development of the student's potential. Employees will therefore strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- 3.** Concern for the student requires that our instructional personnel:
 - a. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
 - b. Shall not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.
 - c. Shall not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.
 - d. Shall not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.
 - e. Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
 - f. Shall not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.

- h. Shall not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
 - i. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
- 4.** Aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of colleagues, of students, of parents, and of the community, employees of our school must display the highest degree of ethical conduct. This commitment requires that our employees:
- a. Shall maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
 - b. Shall not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.
 - c. Shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.
 - d. Shall not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable effort to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
 - e. Shall not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.

Training Requirement All instructional personnel and administrators are required as a condition of employment to complete training on these standards of ethical conduct.

Reporting Misconduct by Instructional Personnel and Administrators All employees and administrators have an obligation to report misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Examples of misconduct include obscene language, drug and alcohol use, disparaging comments, prejudice or bigotry, sexual innuendo, cheating or testing violations, physical aggression, and accepting or offering favors. Reports of misconduct of employees should be made to our director/administrator, **Dr. Waynette Samuel by email at (drsamueledd@gmail.com) or telephone at 813-431-2282 or 727-239-7016.**

Reports of misconduct committed by administrators should be made to
_ **Pastor Earnell Samuel.** (esamuel@nextlevelnation.net or 727-462-9015).

Legally sufficient allegations of misconduct by Florida certified educators will be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services. Policies and procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student are posted in **the lunch area** and on our Web site at **www.nextlevelnation.net.**

Reporting Child Abuse, Abandonment or Neglect. All employees and agents have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Call 1-800-96-ABUSE or report on line at:

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>.

Signs of Physical Abuse: The child may have unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries; broken bones; or burns. A child experiencing physical abuse may seem withdrawn or depressed, seem afraid to go home or may run away, shy away from physical contact, be aggressive, or wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries.

Signs of Sexual Abuse: The child may have torn, stained or bloody underwear, trouble walking or sitting, pain or itching in genital area, or a sexually transmitted disease. A child

experiencing sexual abuse may have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively, fear a particular person or seem withdrawn or depressed, gain or lose weight suddenly, shy away from physical contact, or run away from home.

Signs of Neglect: The child may have unattended medical needs, little or no supervision at home, poor hygiene, or appear underweight. A child experiencing neglect may be frequently tired or hungry, steal food, or appear overly needy for adult attention.

Patterns of Abuse: Serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.

Liability Protections: Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by law, or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any law enforcement agency, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action. (F.S. 39.203)

An employer who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective employer of the former or current employee upon request of the prospective employer or of the former or current employee is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the former or current employer was knowingly false or violated any civil right of the former or current employee protected under F.S. Chapter 760. (F.S. 768.095)

Next Level Nation Academy

School Philosophy

Our philosophy of education is that we are partners with parents in the education of their children using biblical principles and best practices for academic excellence. We strongly encourage parents and family members to become involved with the education process through mentoring and volunteerism.

Our philosophy of teaching encompasses certified, highly qualified licensed teachers with a love for children, a love for teaching academics and the Bible. We teach accountability and godly character with respect for self, others, authority, and God.

Our Mission Statement

To build, educate, and train those within our reach, working together, to advance the Kingdom of God as we pursue the plans and purposes God has for our lives.

Purpose

To prepare students to live ethically, morally, and biblically as global leaders and citizens in society.

Enrollment Policy

Next Level Nation Academy and *Next Level Nation Preparatory* accepts students without respect to race, religion, national origin, or gender. *Next Level Nation Academy* and *Next Level Nation Preparatory* has an open enrollment policy. Students who are children of active members of a local church may receive a discounted amount that can be applied towards attending the school. The parents must provide a document, signed by their pastor, affirming their status as an active member of the congregation.

To enroll a student in the school, the parent or guardian will complete an application for admission for each child. Parents are encouraged to participate in available scholarships. If enrollment exceeds our capacity, potential students will be placed on a waiting list and parents will be notified as space becomes available.

Dress Code

PARENTS: PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE DRESS CODE BEGINNING WITH THE AUGUST 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE MISPLACED YOUR INFORMATIONAL FLYER.

Next Level Nation Academy students will be required to wear a uniform consisting of the following:

Kindergarten through Twelfth : All students are required to be in uniform daily. Parents are requested to order uniforms through the school office as soon as possible to avoid a delay in receiving your students' uniform.

Uniforms will consist of shirts for boys and blouses for girls. Both boys and girls may wear shorts or pants. Girls may wear skirts or skorts as well. All students must wear clothing that fits appropriately and modestly with skirts and skorts no more than 3 inches above the knee.

Student's shoes will be black shoes. Sparkling or lighted shoes are discouraged due to some students' health issues. Shoes must be clean, polished, or shined, and have laces that are not tattered or worn out. Socks are required to be worn each day. All shoes and clothing must fit appropriately and be free from holes and stains (permanent or temporary).

Jackets: Students may wear dark colored jackets or sweaters when weather requires.

If a student arrives at school and he or she is not in uniform, *Next Level Nation Academy and Next Level Nation Preparatory* reserves the right to contact the parent/guardian/emergency contact. The parent or guardian will need to make arrangements to bring the appropriate attire for the student to the school or to have the student picked up from school until the appropriate attire can be worn. Continued infraction of the requirement may result in administrative intervention.

Behavior

Students are taught about respect for self, others, authority and God. Using biblical principles (Proverbs 22:6; Deut. 6:5-7) the expectations for our students are to follow instructions that are necessary for safety and for an atmosphere conducive to learning. Students, parents, faculty, and staff are greatly encouraged to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the Christian attitude and atmosphere of the school. Fighting, profanity, swearing, bullying, cyber bullying and other forms of intimidation are not tolerated on school property or at school functions and is grounds for administrative action, including immediate suspension and/or expulsion. *Next Level Nation Academy and Next Level Nation Preparatory* is a Christian school and adheres to biblically held Christian standards, beliefs, and behaviors.

Any infraction of expected behaviors such as disruption to learning, refusal to immediately obey a teacher's or administrator's instruction can and may lead to suspension or expulsion.

Bullying/Cyber-bullying

Bullying and cyber-bullying are a crime in the state of Florida (s.1006.147, F.S.).

For additional information regarding bullying and cyber-bullying please refer to http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1006/Sections/1006.147.html.

A bully is defined as: a person who purposely tries to hurt others by:

- Making them feel uncomfortable.
- Hurting them by kicking, hitting, pushing, tripping, etc.
- Name-calling.
- Spreading nasty rumors.

The bully hurts the other person over and over. The person being bullied feels that he or she can do nothing to stop it:

- He or she might feel smaller or weaker than the bully.
- He or she might feel outnumbered by the bully and the bully's friends.
- He or she might feel there is no help:
- No one to talk to.
- No one is standing up for him or her
- He or she often feels very sad, but does not know how to change the situation

Bullies can be BOYS or GIRLS!!

(http://www.kzoo.edu/psych/stop_bullying/for_kids/what_is_a_bully.html)

A **Cyber-bully** is someone who does the same types of things in an online setting as a bully does in person. An online setting can be Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter or any of the other social media outlets.

ANY student or parent participating in, initiating, or provoking bullying or cyber-bullying will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion. The Administration Team is the final authority regarding the consequences for bullying at the school. ALL bullying will be reported to the authorities if it is continued after corrective action has been taken by Administration.

Please refer to the school policy on bullying included with this handbook. You are required to read and sign the non-bullying agreement. Your rights and course of action should your student feel that he or she is the victim of bullying, are outlined in the school policy on bullying and cyber-bullying.

Profanity

Profanity “offensive language or an offensive word” (<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/profanity>).

Profanity is prohibited and is unacceptable on school property or at school events. Any student or parent using profanity at school events or on school property is subject to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion. The Administration Team is the final authority regarding the consequences for profanity while on school property or at school events.

Smoking / Vaping and the Use of Alcohol or other Controlled Substances

Smoking of any substance including but not limited to: tobacco, marijuana and any substance that is illegal or prohibited by law or by the rules and regulations of the school is not permitted on school grounds or at any function or activity involving *Next Level Nation Academy or Next Level Nation Preparatory*.

State law prohibits the use of any tobacco products within 1,000 feet of a school, private or public between the hours of 6am and midnight. For more information please go to the following website: [http://sb.flleg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm\\$vid=html:cur](http://sb.flleg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm$vid=html:cur).

Any infraction of the law will be reported to the law authorities for resolution.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: Drinking and/or swallowing of alcoholic beverages that are illegal or prohibited by law or by the rules and regulations of the school is not permitted on school grounds or at any function or activity involving *Next Level Nation Academy and Next Level Nation Preparatory*.

ANY student or parent participating in the use of alcoholic beverages or any smoking product will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion. The Administration Team is the final authority regarding the consequences for such actions and the legal authorities will be notified immediately.

Stealing

Stealing is defined as taking something that does not belong to you; taking something that you are not supposed to have without asking for permission; to wrongly take and use another person's idea or work. (<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/stealing>). Stealing is not tolerated on the school grounds or at school functions of *Next Level Nation Academy* and *Next Level Nation Preparatory*.

Any infraction will be reported to the lawful authority for resolution.

TUITION / REGISTRATION POLICY

(Ask about our Scholarship Programs!)

Yearly **tuition** is \$9,458.00 per student for grades K-5th and \$9,558.00 for students 6th -9th grades. Students entering Middle school grades must have and maintain a GPA of 3.0 to remain enrolled at Next Level Nation Preparatory.

Additional fees for services and supplies are applicable and can be found in the Master Fee Schedule on the last pages of this handbook and on our website.

Family discounts are available for immediate siblings (brothers and/or sisters). Family Empowerment Scholarship (formerly StepUp), AAA Scholarships, and FES/McKay scholarships are accepted at Next Level Nation Academy. Please contact the office for more information at 727.239.7016.

- We also honor those in who serve in the military by offering discounts on tuition for immediate family members (sons, daughters).

Registration is \$240.00 per student and is **non-refundable**. Sibling discounts are available for immediate family members (sisters and/or brothers).

CURRICULUM

The curriculum for *Next Level Nation Academy* is in alignment with State of Florida standards with a Christian worldview that is challenging and fun for our students. Our students have used Alpha and Omega, Abeka, and additional support from Spectrum curriculum. The textbooks are stimulating textbooks that engage the students with appropriate content for each grade level. We believe that our students must be prepared for the future of learning, including technology.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2022-2023

Next Level Nation Academy will follow Pinellas County School Board's academic calendar for the school year as closely as possible to make the year as convenient as possible for our families who may have students that have not yet entered the Academy.

August 10	First Day of School
September 4	Labor Day School Closed
September 14 September 17	No School Days
October 16	School Closed PD (Prof Dev) Day Non Student Day
November 20-November 24	Thanksgiving Holidays No School
November 28	Teachers and students return
December 19	Classroom Celebrations
December 21- January 9	Christmas Holidays
2024 January 9	Students return to school
January 15	M. L. King Jr. Day - No School
February 16	Non-Student Day
March 8	Non-student /Prof Dev Day
March 11- March 15	Spring Break
April 7 - April 10 April 11	No School. Good Friday and Monday School re-opens
May 22	Award Ceremony/Last day of School

*Please be aware that some dates may change. You will be informed as far in advance as possible through your requested means of contact.



NEXT LEVEL NATION ACADEMY

A Private Christian School

MASTER FEE SCHEDULE (K-5)

Tuition and Fees are per student

(*Tutoring is per week. Senior Field Trip may incur additional fees)

<u>SERVICE</u>	Fee(s)
<u>Tuition</u>	\$8,286.00
<u>Registration/Enrollment</u>	\$240.00
<u>Testing</u>	\$12.00
<u>Supplies</u>	\$355.00
<u>Uniforms</u>	\$40.00
<u>Tutoring*</u>	\$25.00
<u>Field Trips</u> (2 per year)	\$150.00
<u>Technology Fee</u>	\$350.00
<u>TOTAL FEES</u> <u>per student</u>	\$9,458.00

Fifth Grade students will have an opportunity to visit Kennedy Space Center as their fifth-grade end of the year trip. Additional fees will apply.



NEXT LEVEL NATION ACADEMY A Private Christian School

MASTER FEE SCHEDULE

(6-9) Tuition and Fees are per student (*Tutoring is per week.)

<u>SERVICE</u>	Fee(s)
<u>Tuition</u>	\$8,286.00
<u>Registration/Enrollment</u>	\$240.00
<u>Testing</u>	\$12.00
<u>Supplies</u>	\$355.00
<u>Uniforms</u>	\$40.00
<u>Tutoring*</u>	\$25.00
<u>Field Trips</u> (2 per year)	\$150.00
<u>Technology Fee</u>	\$450.00
<u>TOTAL FEES</u> <u>per student</u>	\$9,558.00

Eighth Grade students will have an opportunity to participate in an end of the year school trip. Additional fees will apply.