



**Giving a Hope and a Future
Through Christ**

**New Generation Christian School
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STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Vision: The vision of New Generation School is to reach the spiritual, educational and emotional needs of the diverse student population of Columbia and the surrounding counties. We will accomplish this by providing sound Biblical counsel, individualized education and emotional interventions in a caring and accepting environment.

Foundational Scripture: "Every scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV)

Spiritual Life: New Generation School is not affiliated with any church organization. Our staff are all Christian and attend various Bible believing churches. We have chosen to refrain from any specific denominational teachings, but instead, we teach the basic tenants of the Old and New Testament. As a part of our spiritual life, we have daily prayer time and reflections on the Proverbs. In addition, the middle and high school students participate in chapel services weekly where pastors from a variety of churches are engaged to speak.

Introduction to the Director: Dr. Paula Gorman has spent the past 20 years working with youth. Her first occupation was in mental health, where she provided in home services such as parenting classes, and case management. Later she received her Masters in Special Education and worked as teacher and administrator in various educational settings, both public and private. Dr. Gorman received her Doctorate in Educational Psychology in 2011. In addition to Dr. Gorman's educational experience, she is also the mother of a student that had Aspergers Disorder. Her son was always bright but needed different techniques to ensure that he succeeded. After trying both public and private schools, Dr. Gorman decided to home-school her son. When pulling him to be home-schooled, he was functioning at a 3rd and 4th grade level in his core subjects but was a 7th grader. Under Dr. Gorman's tutelage, her son graduated high school and college with his A.A. at the same time. Many of the techniques used at New Generation came out of this experience, as well as her vast educational background.

School information: In 2004, Dr. Gorman founded New Generation, using the principals that she had discovered to be universally beneficial to students in the various settings of her experience. New Generation started as a small one room school house, with 12 students and one teacher. Each year, thereafter, it has grown by one classroom (12 students). The vision of New Generation to maintain the small school atmosphere in which the teachers can better know and

therefore, better serve their students. The school, therefore, maintains an average class size of 13 students. It is the belief of the school staff that by preserving the small class atmosphere, the student population is better served. Students who are served in a smaller setting are better bonded to the school staff, have increased accountability between teacher and parents and overall do better.

Educational Philosophy: Dr. Gorman believes that every student can and will succeed if offered the right educational environment. There are several key elements that are essential to the New Generation Educational Philosophy. The environment should be structured and demonstrate a care and concern for the student population. Teachers do this by clearly articulating that the academic and behavioral expectations. They also do this by creating an environment where the student know that the teacher is there to help them with educational, spiritual and emotional issues as well. The New Generation Educational Philosophy also believes that each child is unique in their educational needs. Therefore students should be met at their individual levels and advanced through the core courses in a progressive manner. A manner that builds upon earlier obtained information in small incremental steps. We begin this process by assessing each child upon entry and placing the students into curriculum that meets the child at their individual levels and progresses them to the next level. Always requiring that the student demonstrate an 80% mastery of the skill prior to progression.

Staff:	Degree	Position/Subject	Years
<i>Administrative:</i>			
Paula Gorman, PhD.	Doctorate	Exec. Director	11
Jessica Talbott	Bachelor	Principal	5
<i>Teaching:</i>			
Sari Holcombe	Bachelor	Dept Head/Reading	10
Rick Gorman	Bachelor	H.S. English	8
Heather Crosier	Bachelor	H.S. SS/Science	8
Daniel Hartman	Bachelor	Electives	3
Sandra Hartman	Bachelor	Dept Head/Elementary	7
Tamatha Haight	Associate	Elementary	2
Barbara McKeon	Bachelor	Elementary	4
Annette Simpson	Bachelor	Elementary	1
Lori Perry	Bachelor	Elementary	1
Michael Childs	Associate/Bachelor in prog	Dept Head/History	3
Linda Thompson	Bachelor	M.S. Math	5

Debbie Jackson	Bachelor	M.S. Reading	2
Ana Dryden	Bachelor	Phys Ed.	1
Lissette Rivera	Bachelor	M.S. Lang Arts	1

Support:

Brenda Overby		Office Manager	7
Linda Wolf		Receptionist	1

Para Professional:

John Rivera		Substitute	1
Heather Jackson		Elem Aide	1
Jessica Schultz		Elem Aide	1

School hours: School starts at 8:10 and ends at 2:00. The doors are open from 7:30 and students are expected to be picked up no later than 2:30. Any events, requiring alterations in this, should be approved through the Front Office. Students are provided direct supervision during the hours of 7:30 to 2:30 and during club activities. Students can only be picked up by individuals listed on the "approved pick-up sheet" filled out by the parent at the beginning of the year. Only the parent registering the child is allowed to modify this list during the school year.

School year: Attached you will find a copy of the current school year calendar. New Generation is a year- round school that offers breaks about every 6 weeks during the school year and two, two-week summer sessions. New Generation believes that this is the best way to ensure students do not have too much time off to forget the material. In addition, our students love coming year round as New Generation is seen as a positive place and is often viewed as their second home. It is not unheard of to have students complain about breaks and having to go home.

Enrollment: Not all students that apply to attend New Generation School are accepted, and becoming a student of New Generation is a process. Students and parents that are interested should apply as early as possible as enrollment is limited. The entire process is as follows:

1. Application fee, application and release of records is received by school
2. New Generation requests and receives prior school records including: Grades, attendance, testing results, discipline records, psychological and IEP/504 if indicated.

3. Records are reviewed by admissions staff (administrator or designated appointee) and an interview appointment is scheduled. In some cases, a prospective student may be denied at this point.
4. An interview is held with administrator or appointee, student and parent.
5. Final admission decision is made.

Students may not be accepted into New Generation for several different reasons. Specifically, if the student does not appear to want to become a student, or if after reviewing the records it is indicated that the student's needs are beyond the scope of the school's ability. If students are not accepted, additional services and/or referrals may be made to help the parents find the best, appropriate, educational setting for the student.

Equal opportunity: New Generation School does not discriminate due to race, religion, and/or physical limitations.

Assessments: Upon entrance into New Generation School, all students are formally evaluated using a nationally normed academic achievement test, as well as other assessments, including assessments for placement in specific Math, English and Reading coursework. Based upon the findings of these tests, students are assigned specific curriculum to assist them in meeting identified educational goals. In addition, all students are re-evaluated, using the nationally normed test, in the middle of the school year and again at the end of school year. These tests assist us in communicating to the parent their student's academic functioning upon entry into the school year as well as their academic progress at the end of school year. All students that graduate from New Generation School with a standard high school diploma must pass the 12th grade assessment at a 30% ranking, or a 10th grade score in math, reading and language arts.

Grading: Student grades are sent home every nine weeks. In addition, progress reports are sent home in the middle of the nine weeks during the first grading period, and thereafter, if the student is falling below a C in any class. It is the policy of New Generation to communicate to the parent, if the student is falling below a C in any class in order to determine what interventions can be put in place both at the school and at home to help the student improve their learning performance.

Grading scale is:

90 - 100	A	Excellent
80 - 89	B	Very Good

70 - 79	C	Average
60 - 69	D	Below Average
0 - 59	F	Failed

Curriculum: All of the curriculum used in Math, Reading and Language Arts is research based; research has been conducted on it to demonstrate that it is effective. Science, Social Studies, and Electives are chosen based upon their agreement with Biblical foundations. In the core subject areas, a score of 80% or higher is required prior to advancement in the curriculum. This rule has been established as the research on brain development indicates that without meeting the 80% mastery requirement there is little retention of newer information.

Graduation requirements: All students that wish to receive a High School Diploma awarded by New Generation School, will have to have a minimum of 18 credits for a standard diploma vocational emphasis and 21 credits for a standard diploma college emphasis, and pass the 12th grade nationally normed test at the 30th percentile ranking. These diploma options are comparable to that of the diploma requirements for the State of Florida. Students must, in addition, have the following coursework:

- 4 English
- 4 Math (minimum of one credit in Algebra 1 and one credit in Geometry)
- 3 Sciences
- 1 American History
- 1 World History
- .5 American Government
- .5 Economics
- 1 HOPE Credit
- 3 or 6 electives depending upon the diploma track chosen

Matriculation: Students that are in attendance at New Generation school for elementary and middle and are in good standing shall be given priority in the admission to the subsequent grade levels. Students that are in High School and have demonstrated academic ability, as evidenced by testing measures may take coursework at Florida Gateway College as a part of the dual enrollment program.

Parent communication: New Generation School realizes that parent communication is important. Therefore, it is our policy to communicate with the parents at a minimum of twice per week. The first communication is on the first day of the school week, to give the parent information about the curriculum plans for the week. The second communication comes out on Thursday to inform the

parent of student's progress towards the curriculum goals for that week. Both of these communications are done with planners provided at the beginning of the school year. In addition, to these mandatory communications by teachers, it is also the policy of New Generation to inform the parent if the students grades drop below a C at any time during the grading period. The purpose of this contact is to elicit the parents' support in remediating any barriers to the students success. It is the parents' responsibility to check the planners *nightly*, as well as to contact the school and/or teacher if there are any concerns being noted. New Generation is committed to the success of the student, but needs full cooperation from the parents as well.

Homework Policy: New Generation's homework policy has been developed with cognitive process in mind. We are well aware that, frequently, homework sent home may not be something with which the parents are familiar and/or with which the student has already reached mastery. Therefore, homework is often seen as a task thrust on parents that often has little to no real benefit to the student. As a result, New Generation has limited its homework expectation to that which requires only memorization of facts, writing Spelling words, silent reading, and or study for a test.

Discipline and Uniform Policy: New Generation does not have a school uniform, but does adhere to a school dress code. We believe that uniforms are not, in most cases, the expectation later in life and, therefore, should not be the expectation now. We instead have a dress code that is functional to our setting. We expect our students to come dressed comfortable and moderately. Girls outfits should be no shorter than fingertip length, no midriffs nor cleavage should be exposed. Boys should wear their pants fitted at the waist. Graphics on the shirts should be appropriate to the school environment (no emblems and/or words promoting nudity, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco).

Discipline is conducted in a manner that breeds respect for the student, staff, and educational environment. Therefore, much of the discipline is done from the perspective of teaching. We first teach the expectations and then teach the reasons for the expectation. Later, if the student is not complying, teaching is done by offering minor consequences that reinforce the reasons for the rules. Examples of consequences may include: cleaning of common areas, fixing broken items, apologizing, losing free time. Only if the infractions are major will the consequences include suspension. Students can and will be expelled from New Generation for fighting, bringing contraband, or bullying to the school.

Meals: New Generation does not have a cafeteria or lunch program; however, we offer for purchase from the School Office Store items such as Hotpockets, muffins, Gatorade, etc.. Therefore, students are able to choose from bringing their lunch to school each day or to purchase items from the School Office Store. There are microwaves and refrigerators in class for storage and heating of meals. We ask that parents try to keep microwavable items to a minimum of 2 minutes. One day per week, lunches will be brought in from local restaurants and parents are informed each Monday which restaurant, the cost, and day.

Parent involvement: New Generation fosters parental involvement through various events and activities throughout the year, such as the October Fest, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, etc. Involvement is also enhanced with planners and other communications. Parents are also encouraged to contact any teacher if they have questions or concerns. New Generation has an "open-door" policy in which we will welcome any parent to observe a class in progress.

School closure: In the event that Columbia County suspends school due to an emergency or inclement weather, New Generation will also be closed.

Student records: Student records are the property of New Generation, however, we share this information with parents as needed. However, transcripts will be held if there is a balance of any sort outstanding. We ask that parents keep the front office informed if there is any change in important contact information such as address and or phone number changes.