

PARENTS-STUDENTS GUIDE

STAGE (6-8) SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

























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WELCOMING ADDRESS – HEAD OF STAGE

Dear Parents,

Raising, guiding and caring for our children are some of our mutual objectives and responsibilities; we aim to nurture the seeds of good values that you have already instilled in your children. With a systematic pedagogical vision, we continuously work to encourage positive behaviours and improve the negative ones.

At this stage, we are dedicated to preparing responsible learners, who can confidently make academic choices at later stages in their educational journey, and we do this by providing quality education across a variety of subjects and programmes. We also support our students physically, socially and emotionally so that they can become better learners and continue to shape their distinctive personalities.

We understand that school is a second home to our dear students; therefore, to ensure and facilitate communication between parents and Stage (6-8) administration and teachers, I am pleased to provide you with the stage policy and rules for the new 2023/2024 school year.

Head of Stage (6-8)

Najwa Al Bay

VISION, MISSION AND AIMS

Our Vision

The National Orthodox School (NOS) – Shmaisani seeks to raise mindful and creative generations, loyal to their homeland, possessing elements of excellence and exemplifying noble human values.

Our Mission

NOS, a co-educational and non-profit school, endeavours to provide a safe and inspiring learning/teaching environment that stimulates creativity to enrich society with informed, patriotic generations who believe in the values of love, peace and coexistence and who are deeply rooted in their heritage. We seek to prepare generations who are well-equipped intellectually, morally and spiritually to realise their maximum potential, pursue their aspirations and actively serve their homeland and humanity at large in an inclusive environment and in partnership with a dedicated school community sharing the same values.

Our Aims

We aim to help our students:

- 1. Exhibit a high sense of ethical awareness and demonstrate a sense of belonging to their society and humanity at large.
- 2. Personify the NOS values and attributes, foremost of which are: Love, Humbleness, Honesty and Kindness.
- 3. Enjoy a sense of psychological, emotional, physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being.
- 4. Embody a cultured, civilised and open-minded identity that contributes to world civilisations.
- 5. Exemplify self-acceptance, self-control and the ability to positively express themselves.
- 6. Respect diversity in all of its forms and deal with it tolerantly and wisely.
- 7. Abide by the school's regulations; protect private and public property and the natural environment and its ecosystem.
- 8. Use their free time constructively to nurture their sense of aesthetic appreciation and their various artistic, athletic and intellectual interests and passion.
- 9. Participate in voluntary work and be role models for social solidarity and responsibility.
- 10. Embrace inquiry-based learning, communication, reflection, critical thinking, social skills and the use of state-of-the-art technologies.
- 11. Unravel their maximum creative potential and innovative energy.
- 12. Benefit from best on-campus, online, hybrid teaching and learning strategies and practices, while acquiring digital citizenship skills.

DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS Stage (6-8) Students

Students of this stage are in their early adolescent years, and this is an important stage in their development as their personalities continue to be shaped. This stage is distinguished by the following:

- 1. Rapid and continuous growth in all developmental aspects.
- 2. Adolescents prefer to be treated as adults as they seek their independence and autonomy.
- 3. Students of this stage are more sensitive, react quickly and are provoked by trivial matters.
- 4. Students need to make friends with those they feel comfortable around.
- 5. They are constantly confused, and they start to explore who they really are. They start to search for their roles in society and their status.
- 6. Parents of these children usually hear them saying "We are no longer children."

The focus in this stage is on developing students' independence and providing them with necessary tools to organise and manage their learning while continuing to develop their ethics, values, and sense of belonging to their homeland and to humanity at large.

AIMS OF STAGE (6-8)

In this stage, we aim to develop our students' capacities to:

- 1. Become more independent and organise and manage their own learning.
- 2. Challenge themselves and develop their critical thinking, reflection and creativity skills.
- 3. Learn new concepts and connect new knowledge with the concepts that they already know.
- 4. Possess a solid knowledge base in the key fields of learning.
- 5. Possess the ability to actively and confidently communicate in both Arabic and English.
- 6. Embrace their roles and responsibilities as members of a family, community, nation and common world.
- 7. Participate in community service activities.
- 8. Practise good health, nutritional, environmental and study habits.

Teaching in Grades (6-8) depends on specialised instruction by subject teachers. Students learn a set of subjects according to the academic programme they choose.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

National Programme

Arabic Language, English Language, Mathematics in Arabic, Science in Arabic, Social Studies in Arabic, Science in English, Mathematics in English, students' choice of French or German Language, Studies of Finance, Christian and Islamic Religious Studies in Arabic, Vocational Studies, ICT, Physical Education (P.E.), Art, Music, Drama and Global Perspectives.

International Programme; Cambridge Secondary (CS1)

Arabic Language, English Language, Mathematics in English, Chemistry, Biology and Physics in English, Business Studies in English, Social Studies in Arabic, students' choice of French or German Language, Christian and Islamic Religious Studies in Arabic, Vocational Studies, ICT, Physical Education (P.E), Art, Music, Drama and Global Perspectives.

There are 8 classes a day; each class is 45 minutes long. Students have a 30-minute break after the 3^{rd} period and another 15-minute break after the 6^{th} period.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Curricular Activities and Co-Curricular Activities

School activities are very important in further strengthening the educational process, exploring students' talents and developing their skills and capacities, which is highly stressed by pedagogical specialists. Activities have become an important part of the curricula and adequate time has been allocated for them to achieve social, scientific, cultural and pedagogical aims.

The Stage offers a variety of activities and competitions such as: Spelling Bee, Arab Child Day, Michel Sindaha Arabic Language Literary Creativity Competition, Telematch, Fuad Farraj Scientific Innovation Award, Community services (Himmeh w Lammeh Innitiative, Go Green School Initiative...etc), Career Day, Run for Life, Students' Projects Day, Talent Show, English Creative Writing Competition, Poetry recitation Competition in Arabic and Handicraft Competition.

Stage (6-8) Homeroom Teachers & Subject Teachers

Grade	Homeroom Teachers
6A	Wisam Al-Mashni
6B	Rula Kafati + Qusai al-Fakhouri
6C	Lydia Halaseh
6D	Rozana Saman + Reem Mazahreh
6E	Mais Hamam
6F	Wa'ed Biqaeen+ Islam Rasheed
6G	Sara Ghattas + Yousef Hijazeen
7A	Raad Hijazeen
7B	Doris Nari + Sevetana Far'ouni
7C	Tania Na'was + Rasha Bilbiesi
7D	Mirna Kifaya
7E	Yasmine Qaddoumi + Khaled Rizqllah
7F	Aya El Salim + Preskella Zananiri
8A	Rita Bqaieen
8B	Shadi Al Khrisha + Maha Thabet
8C	Evelyn Samaneh + Faten al-Farah
8D	Abdul Khaliq Abu Dawwas

Stage (6-8) National Programme Subject Teachers

Name	Subject	Grade
Faten Al-Farah	Christian Religion	7(A)/8(A)
Marlen Halaby	Christian Religion	6(A)
Suha Barhoumeh	Christian Religion	6(B)
Rasha Bilbiesi	Islamic Religion	6 (A, B) / 7(A) / 8 (A)
Rula Kafati	Arabic	6 (A, B)
Raad Hijazeen	Arabic	7 (A) / 8 (A)
Lubna Mriesh	English	6 (A, B) /8 (A)
Mais Hamam	English	7 (A)
Samer Isead	ICT	6 (A, B)/ 7 (A)
Eva Karadsheh	ICT	8 (A)
Wisam al-Mashni	Mathematics in English	6 (A, B) / 8 (A)
Wisdiii di-Widsiiiii	Mathematics in Arabic	6 (A)
Pita Pigagon	Mathematics in Arabic	6 (B) / 7 (A)/8 (A)
Rita Biqaeen	Mathematics in English	7 (A)
Azam Al Alrifai	Financial Educational	7 (A)/8 (A)
Wa'ed Biqaeen	Science in English	7 (A)
Farah Alshaer	Science in English	6 (A, B)
Natalia Kawar	Science in English	8 (A)
Wisam al-Mashni	Science in Arabic	6 (A, B) / 7 (A)/8 (A)
Qusai al-Fakhouri	Hymns	All Grades of the Stage
Ala' Al Saraf	PE (Males)	8 (A)
Islam Rasheed	PE (Males)	6 (A, B)/ 7(A)
Prescella Zananiri	PE (Females)	7 (A)/8 (A)
Reem Mazahreh	PE (Females)	6 (A, B)
Dima Qaqish	Arts	6 (A, B) / 7 (A)
Rima Ba'ara	Arts	8 (A)
Khalil Nasser	Vocational Education (Males)	6 (A, B)
Salim al-Bandak	Vocational Education (Males)	7 (A)/8 (A)
Lilian Qashoua	Vocational Education (Females)	7 (A)/8 (A)
Sarah Dahabreh	Vocational Education (Females)	6 (A, B)
Hala Alhmoud	Global Perspectives	6 (A, B) /7 (A)/8 (A)
Aya El Salim Salim	German	6 (A, B) / 7(A)
Shadi Al Khrisha	German	8 (A)
Maha Thabet	French	6(B) /8(A)

Fatima AL Azazi	French	6(A)	
Doris Nari	French	7(A)	
Samer Haddad	Music	8 (A)	
Sevetana Far'ouni	Music	6 (A, B) / 7(A)	
Mirna Kifayah	Social Studies in Arabic	6(B) /7 (A)/8 (A)	
Niveen Ghatas	Social Studies in Arabic	6 (A)	
Diab Shaheen	Drama	7 (A)/8 (A)	
Maram Abu Al Hija	Drama	6 (A, B)	

Grades (6-8) International Programme Teachers

Name	Subject	Grade
Lina Haddad	Arabic	8 (E, F)
Abdul Khaliq Abu Dawwas	Arabic	8 (B, C, D)
Rula Kafati	Arabic	6 (D)
Khaled Rizqallah	Arabic	7 (B, D, E)
Yousef Hijazeen	Arabic	6 (C, G)/7 (F)
Sawsan Berro	Arabic	6 (E, F)
Raad Hijazeen	Arabic	7 (C)
Ahmad Al Jaberi	English	8 (B, D, E)
Sara Ghattas	English	6 (C, D, G)
Tala Al Zarraq	English	7(B, D, E, F)
Mais Hamam	English	6 (E, F)
Evelyn Samaneh	English	7(C) / 8 (C, F)
Tania Nawas	Mathematics	7(B, C, D, E, F)
Lydia Halaseh	Mathematics	6 (C, D, E, F, G)
Sewar Masandeh	Mathematics	8 (B, C, D, E, G)
Rozana Samaan	Biology	6 (C, D, E, F, G)
		7 (B, C, D, E, F)
Wa'ed Biqaeen	Physics	6 (C, D, E, F, G)
Natalia Kawar	Chemistry	6 (C, D, E, F, G)
Jumana Sawalha	Chemistry	7(B, C, D, E, F)/8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Mais Goususos	Biology	8(B, C, D, E, F)
Mudar Al Rawas	Physics	7(B, C, D, E, F)/8(B, C, D, E, F)
Doris Nari	French	6 (C, E) / 7 (B, C, D, E, F)/ 8 (C)
Maha Thabet	French	6 (D, F, G) / 8 (B, D, E, F)
Aya El Salim Salim	German	6(C, D, E, F, G) / 7(E, F)
Shadi Al Khrisha	German	7(B, C, D)/ 8(B, C, D, E, F)
Faten al-Farah	Christian Religion	7(C, E)/ 8 (C, E)
Lana Nino	Christian Religion	7(B, D, F)/ 8 (B, D, F)
Marlen Halabi	Christian Religion	6(C, F, G)
Suha Barhoumeh	Christian Religion	6 (D, E)

Rasha Bilbeisi	Islamic Religion	6 (C, D, E, F, G) 7 (B, C, D, E, F)/ 8 (B)
Bara' Haroun	Islamic Religion	8(C, D, E, F)
Reem Mazahrah	PE (Females)	6(C, D, E, F, G)
Prescella Zananiri	PE (Females)	7(B, C, D, E, F)/ 8(B, C, D, E, F)
Ala' Al Saraf	PE (Males)	7(B, C, D, E, F)/ 8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Islam Rasheed	PE (Males)	6(C, D, E, F, G)
Samer Haddad	Music	8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Sevetana Far'ouni	Music	6 (C, D, E, F, G) 7 (B, C, D, E, F)
Khalil Nasser	Vocational Education (Males)	6(C, D, E, F, G)/ 7(B, C, D)
Salim al-Bandak	Vocational Education (Males)	7 (E, F) /8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Lilian Qashou	Vocational Education (Females)	7(B, C, D, E, F)/ 8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Sarah Dahabreh	Vocational Education (Females)	6(C, D, E, F, G)
Dima Qaqaish	Arts	6 (C, D, E, F, G) / 7(B, C, D, E, F)
Rima Ba'ara	Arts	8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Mirna Kefayah	Social Studies in Arabic	6 (C, D, E, F, G) /7 (B, C, D, E, F) /8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Hala Alhmoud	Global Perspectives	6 (B, C, D, E, F, G)/7 (B, C, D, E, F)
Yasmine Qaddoumi	Global Perspectives Business	8 (B, C, D, E, F) 6 (C, D, E, F, G) /7 (B, C, D, E, F)
	Dusiness	/ 8(B, C, D, E, F)
Diab Shaheen	Drama	7(B, C, D, E, F)/ 8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Maram Abu haija	Drama	6 (C, D, E, F, G)
Qusai al-Fakhoury	Hymns	All Grades of the Stage
Samar Esaid	ICT	6 (C, D, E, F, G)
Eva Karadsheh	ICT	7(B, C, D, E, F)/ 8 (B, C, D, E, F)
Rajaei Haddad	Pastoral Care Leader	7(C, D, E, F, G)/8 (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)
Fadi Riziq	Pastoral Care Leader	6 (A, B, C, D, E, F)

Stage (6-8) Counsellors

Mai Hawatmeh	Counsellor	6 (All sections)
Sewar Haddad	Counsellor	7 (All sections)
Bishara Tannous	Counsellor	8 (All sections)

ASSESSMENT



Assessment is an important part of the educational process. During each semester, students undergo formative assessments, in addition to the following summative assessments:

First-month assessment exam	20%	Written exam
Second-month assessment exam	20%	Written exam
Third-month assessment exam	20%	Quizzes, performance and projects
End-of- semester assessment exam	40%	Written exam

Report cards shall be distributed 3 times during each semester:

1st Month assessment report card

2nd Month assessment report card

3rd Month and end of semester report card

STUDENTS' INCENTIVES



The stage administration is keen to give financial and moral incentives to students to motivate them to advance academically, become innovative and achieve excellence. A number of motivational honorary certificates and awards have been allocated for students who excel:

- Certificates of Congratulations for students who achieve 90% and above on school report cards.
- Certificates of appreciation for students who raise their average by 5 points or more in comparison with the previous month.
- Ideal Student Certificates are awarded at the end of each month to students based on the following criteria:

Standard	Yes	No
Leadership		
Acceptance and tolerance		
Punctuality in attending the morning assembly and classes		
Behaving politely and respecting teachers, other staff members and students		
Making academic efforts		
Preserving the school environment (class, personal hygiene, school property)		
Control reactions and behavior in school		
Commitment to school policies and rules		
Positive personality (cheerful)		

SCHOOL HOURS

Start of

the School Day:

- 1. The school doors open at 7:25 a.m. so please do not bring your children before this time as there will be no supervising teachers.
- 2. Our Morning Assembly starts at 8:00 a.m. and the first lesson starts at 8:15 a.m.
- 3. If a student arrives after 8:15 a.m., he/she shall not be allowed to enter his/her classroom without a written permission from the Pastoral Care leader.
- 4. Students are not allowed to be absent without any acceptable reason/medical report. In case of absence, parents should inform the school in writing, or call the Head of the Stage to justify their child's absence.

Classes | Recesses

1 st Period	8:15 – 9:00 a.m.
2 nd Period	9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
3 rd Period	9:45 – 10-30 a.m.
1 st Recess	10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
4 th Period	11:00 – 11:45 a.m.
5 th Period	11:45 – 12:30 p.m.
6 th Period	12:30 – 1:15 p.m.
6 th Period 2 nd Recess	12:30 – 1:15 p.m. 1:15 – 1:30 p.m.
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End of the School Day

- 1. School day ends at 2:50 p.m. after the eighth period. Students registered in the School's bus service leave school at 3:15 p.m.
- 2. Parents are kindly requested not to gather in corridors or in front of classes to avoid the disruption of the educational process.
- 3. Parents are also requested not to speak to teachers at the start or end of the school hours, so teachers can better care for their students.
- 4. Parents may pick up their children from school or request any changes with regard to the methods of transportation after informing and agreeing with the stage administration before 11:30 a.m. by sending an email or by phone.
- 5. Students registered in the bus service are not allowed to bring their friends with them or change their buses.

Leaving During School Hours

• If the student needs to leave the school during school hours, parents should inform the stage administration in advance to enable them to take the necessary procedures.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As per the NOS school policy:

- Students must wear the NOS uniform: grey pants, white polo shirt, dark blue sweater in winter and black/dark blue/grey/white and white socks only. For sports, they should wear the NOS sportswear.
- It is the responsibility of parents, teachers and administration to supervise students' strict abidance with NOS uniform instructions.

SCHOOL HEALTH

- NOS has a full-time doctor and two nurses. If a student needs to take medicine during school
 hours, parents should inform the Head of the Stage ahead of time in order to arrange for the
 doctor to give him/her the medicine in the clinic.
- If the student has a fever, please do not send him/her to school.
- If a student suffers from any health problem/allergies, the school doctor/Head of the Stage/homeroom teacher must be informed to deal with the problem in emergencies.
- Parents are reminded to inform the Head of the Stage by phone or in writing in case of the students' absence. It should be noted that absence is not allowed without a valid excuse/ medical report.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS WITH THE SCHOOL

Parents play an important role in their children's education by cooperating and communicating with the school to ensure their participation in the educational process, which ultimately serves students' interests.

Proper communication channels between the school and parents allow students to achieve the highest levels of success. For this reason, NOS has developed a number of communication channels.

NOS LMS platform

The school uses the NOS LMS platform. For practicality and easy access, parents and students are recommended to download the LMS NOS application available on the app store. Parents and students can also access LMS via a browser. To login LMS students should use their school email and parents should use the family email assigned by the school. The following can be accessed on LMS:

- View weekly planners
- View exam schedules
- View uploaded resources
- View answer keys
- View daily homework
- View assignments
- View student assessment marks
- Send notes directly to teachers

Individual Meetings

These meetings are dedicated for parents who need to discuss academic/behavioural issues. Parents can request for a meeting with concerned persons by calling or emailing the stage administration. Although our school adopts an open- door policy, we prefer arranging meetings in advance whenever the need arises for having an effective and fruitful results.

Grades (6-8) Weekly Planner

A planner will be sent at the end of each week containing required homework, deadlines, papers/dictation/worksheets needed.

School Email

- A Gmail account is set for every registered student and each family. Circulars, letters and important announcements are sent to students and their families on this Gmail address (We do not send emails to personal accounts).
- Teachers use Gmail to send important notifications or announcements.
- Teachers and admin staff will to reply to any inquiry sent by email within 48 hours.
- Parents can send their inquiries to the Head of the Stage/teachers on this Gmail account by entering the name of the concerned person in the "to" bar.

Parents are kindly requested to activate their own school Gmail account and check it frequently.

If you do not know/or have lost your school Gmail address please call:

• Technical Support Officer Hadi Batarseh: Mobile during working hours 0796108307, h.albatarseh@nos.edu.jo.

Text Messages

On many occasions, the school sends important announcements by text messages as a reminder of important occasions and holidays and to remind parents to check their school Gmail accounts for any important circulars sent to them by email.

- Parents are kindly requested to provide the school with their correct mobile numbers on which they want to receive text messages.
- In case you are not receiving our text messages, please contact technical Support Officer Hadi Batarseh: Mobile during working hours 0796108307, h.albatarseh@nos.edu.jo

Orientation Meetings

The school holds an orientation meeting for grade 6 during the first week of each school year. These meetings are held at the school theatre during which parents are introduced to the aims of Stage 6-8.

Additionally, during these meetings the Head of the Stage, academic assistant, the subject coordinators, and teachers are introduced to parents.

The date of the meeting is set in the school calendar sent to parents at the beginning of the school year. Again, we remind parents of the importance of checking their school Gmail account for any updates.

Parent-Teacher Conference

The school organises parents' meetings after the end of the first assessment period (usually in October and March of each year, as set in the school calendar). You will be reminded of these meetings by text messages. The Head of the Stage sends a schedule with the names of the teachers, their rooms and time allocated for meetings.

Kindly abide by the 5- minute scheduled time to give other parents the time to discuss their children's performance. In case you need more time, please arrange for personal meetings.

Parents' Letters

You can send written letters with your children to their teachers/Head of the Stage. In this case, we advise you to keep copies of your letters for follow-up. For urgent matters, please send us emails.

Phone Calls

You can contact the stage on the following numbers:

Change C Q Administration	Tel. +962-6-560 8500, Ext. 105 079 88 3 22 82 1 st Floor	Grade 6 All sections + 7 National
Stage 6-8 Administration	Tel. +962-6-560 8500, Ext. 126 079 88 3 28 22 2 nd Floor	Grade 7 + 8 All sections
Counseling	165	6 (All sections)
Counseling	197	7+8 (All sections)
Pastoral Care Leader	166	Grade 7 CS + 8 All sections
Pastoral Care Leader	195	Grade 6 All sections

You can contact the Head of the Stage/ teachers to arrange for a meeting to discuss any educational issues on the following number: 5608500/126. We apologize for not being able to attend to any visits that are not prescheduled by parents so as not to disrupt the educational process.