



NEXT LEVEL

***Leaning* into Growth**

— in High School —



**EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

NEXT LEVEL

The high school years are essential to future success. Stewarding this time well is about so much more than passing tests, earning a certain GPA, or competing on a team. It's about a transformation — a gradual process of becoming the best version of yourself. We believe there is always room for growth, and we believe in our students to rise to the challenge.

At Eastern Christian, striving for the next level is a way of life.

When our students get out of bed in the morning, they are on a mission. They're keenly aware of their God-given gifts, and have a desire to hone these skills and share them with the world. They have a game plan to grow — a shared vision crafted by the student, their family, their mentors, and their creator. Knowing they are uniquely created in the Lord's image, they don't compare themselves to others. They visualize their personal best and strive for excellence, day after day. As a result, they soar, making the most of the high school experience and preparing to impact the world.

We invite you to learn more about how our students embrace a lifestyle of constant growth, a mentality of motivation, and a spirit of inspiration. This is what "next level" means to us.

Next Level Living In Action

Using Self-Assessment

Define your passions, motivations, strengths, and weaknesses. Keeping these in mind as you pursue growth opportunities fosters high achievement and personal fulfillment.

Trying New Things

Leveling up means stepping outside the box. It's not always about taking the path that feels safe and familiar; it's about pushing yourself out of your comfort zone to explore.

Putting Faith Over Fear

Embracing a lifestyle of growth might not come naturally to all, and that's OK! By letting your faith be bigger than your fear, you will experience the power of a sky's-the-limit mentality.

Being an Encourager

Regularly offering up encouragement, to yourself and others, is a game changer. After all, scripture tells us to "stir up one another to love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24).

Developing Healthy Boundaries

High school is full of opportunities, but knowing when to say yes and when to say no is vital. Healthy, confident limit setting is a life skill required for success.

Focusing on the Future

Never lose sight of the opportunities ahead. While living in the moment is exciting, the rewards of preparing diligently to meet long-term goals are many.

Finding Your Passion

Leveling up looks different for everyone, and growth is meaningless unless fueled by passion. Discover your God-given calling and work at it every single day.



Now that you know what next level living means to us, we want to show you what it looks like in action. The following pages feature real high school students who have embraced a lifestyle of personal growth since walking through the doors at Eastern Christian School. It wasn't always easy; their accomplishments often required them to step out their comfort zones, work harder than they ever imagined, and rely on the Lord for help.

While their interests and skills are vastly different, their stories share some common themes — the importance of community, the value of positive leadership, and the rewards of diligence, to name a few. As you flip through this book and get to know each high schooler, we hope their quirky caricatures won't be the only thing to catch your eye. We hope you'll see how their time at Eastern Christian allowed them to take their unique talents to the next level.



Michael Steinginga

Grade Level: Sophomore

Personal Passion: STEAM

Your Why: Helping others through tangible skills

Biggest Encouragers: My teachers at EC

Future Plans: Attending college and later entering the science field



Michael first became interested in science when he was in sixth grade after being introduced to topics such as chemistry and electricity, both of which fascinated him. Eastern Christian School's STEAM program gave him the resources to conduct research in these areas and cultivated in him a passion for helping other people.

"At times, every student wonders how the information that they are learning will benefit them in the real world; the STEAM program provides students with the ability to apply virtually anything that interests them. These applications are always pointed in the direction of benefitting the world."

Michael says it's the passion of the faculty in the STEAM program that makes this pursuit of knowledge possible for EC students. *"Frequently, I will be stopped while I am walking in the hallway by a STEAM mentor to ask me a question that can guide my research, consider a new angle of the problem I am seeking to solve, or just ask what I am currently doing with my research."*



What next level means to me:

Community Outreach | Finding Joy in Learning | Building Connections

Emily Candela

Grade Level: Junior

Personal Passion: Soccer

Your Why: Being part of a team

Biggest Encouragers: My coaches at EC

Future Plans: Attending college and playing soccer at the D2 or D3 level



Emily's parents introduced her to soccer at the young age of four. Little did she know then, it would become her passion. However, as Emily progressed to high school she began to see the pitfalls of being involved with an extremely competitive sport. She often sat on the bench, knowing there was more to being part of a team. This is when Emily transferred to Eastern Christian, leaving behind a very large high school with very little community.

"I came from a school that was extremely competitive; I felt like if I wasn't the best of the best, then I wasn't anything at all. Now, being a part of the Eastern Christian community, I not only get to be part of a team on the athletics level, I get to be part of a spiritual team. Transferring was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I went from having nobody to talk to, to hugging about 16 people every time I step into the hallway. Allowing myself to dive into my faith, I feel that I am finally connected with God; I now have faith that he truly DOES have a plan for me. Eastern Christian is part of that plan."



What next level means to me:

Teamwork | Embracing Community | Deepening Faith



Angela Mo



Grade Level: Senior

Personal Passion: Orchestra

Your Why: Having a role in something bigger than myself

Biggest Encouragers: My parents, Mrs. Clark at EC, and my out-of-school music teacher

Future Plans: Attending college, minoring in music, and joining ensembles throughout life

Angela's passion for music was fostered in elementary school. She learned to play both the piano and the violin at an early age. Taught by Mrs. Clark at EC, she recalls her younger days when squeaking out "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" was a huge accomplishment, and how quickly those days passed. Before she knew it, she was playing pieces from renowned composers, such as Vivaldi and Mozart. Joining the orchestra allowed her to hone her skills, participate in competitions, and experience the joy of being a part of something truly magical.

"I still remember the first day I joined Orchestra in middle school; it was an incredible first-time experience I will never forget. It was mesmerizing to feel the sounds coming in from all directions, and to know that you had a role in making that beautiful sound." As Angela has grown as a musician, she has experimented with new genres and discovered the value of being surrounded by community.

On her experience at EC, she says, "Expect to be enveloped by the community around you. No matter who you are, you will find people to call 'friends.' Also, expect to hold some incredible relationships with the wonderful staff present at our school. The teachers here will truly become your supporters, confidants, and mentors, and every student at our school has at least one teacher they have a close bond with."



Yerry Wright



Grade Level: Senior

Personal Passion: Theater

Your Why: Seeing the finished product and experiencing a cast evolve together as everyone grows into their roles

Biggest Encouragers: Mr. Intlekofer and my mom.

Future Plans: Double majoring in music and biology, along with participating in college-level theater

Yerry developed an interest in theater in middle school. During his sophomore year, he finally took the plunge and got involved. With a passion for music and acting, he quickly learned that being on stage came natural to him. Yerry has taken on a challenging course load of honors classes all four years of high school, along with being involved in many extracurricular activities. Participating in theater required him to step up more than ever, but the rewards he experienced were many.

"EC really helped to force me out of my shell! While I was never super shy, I was always somewhat afraid to pursue anything beyond academic classes, especially within the arts. I knew that I was passionate about music and theater, but EC and the community that it fosters really helped me to look at those passions seriously."



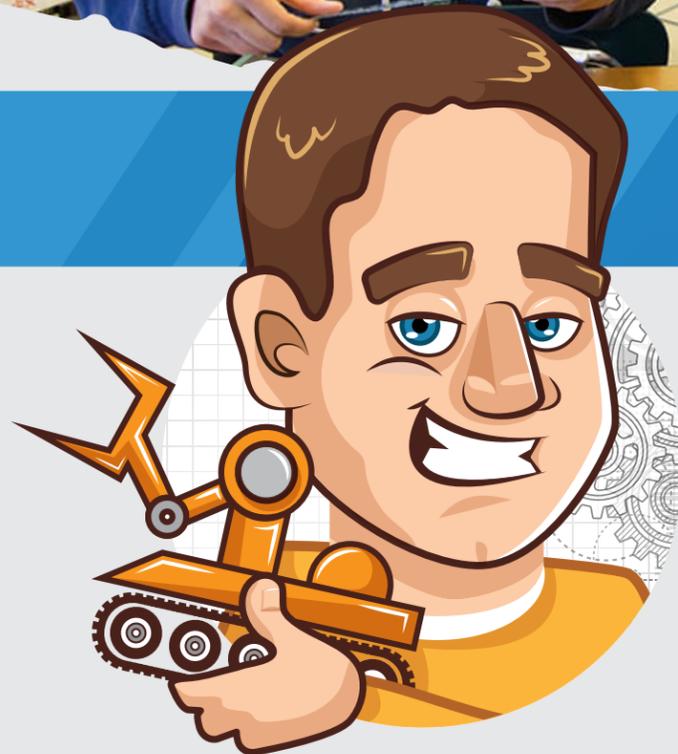
What next level means to me:

Pursuing Passions | Supporting Others | Solidifying Faith



What next level means to me:

Taking Risks | Working Together | Pursuing Dreams



Tyler Onove

Grade Level: Senior

Personal Passion: Robotics/Design

Your Why: The process of building and the rewards of completion

Biggest Encouragers: Mr. Steen and Mrs. Genuario

Future Plans: Attending Seton Hall University

After expressing an interest in robotics, one of Tyler's teachers at EC, Mr. Steen, encouraged him to dive in. He signed up for a robotics class and enrolled in the robotics club, which led to a genuine love for the process of building robots. As Tyler grew in his knowledge and skill, he had the opportunity to be the driver in school competitions, showcasing the hard work that his team had spent months on.

While robotics was an unexpected passion, he went into high school with an interest in design and a desire to hone that craft. "Many different teachers and classes encouraged me to use that skill and make it better. Most notably my journalism teacher, Mrs. Genuario, allowed me to expand this skill to the real world by letting me design and market my own logo and sweatshirts."

Beyond encouraging Tyler to develop design expertise, his teachers shared their faith with him in personal ways, allowing him to explore his own relationship with God in more profound ways.



What next level means to me:

Encouragement | Giving Your All | Staying Focused

Eastern Christian High School

Highlights

Excellent Academics

- Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and approved by the New Jersey Department of Education
- Differentiated/accelerated learning opportunities
- Strong core curriculum with 60 elective offerings
- WINGS work internship program

Thorough College Prep

- Four years of guided, intentional planning
- Early college opportunities through a partnership with Seton Hall University (students can earn up to 37 transferable college credits.)

Meaningful Relationships

- Mentorship in the classroom and beyond
- A culture of peer-to-peer support

Exciting Activities

- 24 high school athletics teams
- 13 high school music and arts electives

20+ student clubs

- Numerous leadership opportunities

Unwavering Commitment to Faith

- Regular community service initiatives
- Invested Christian teachers, coaches, and staff
- Every subject taught from a Biblical perspective



EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

Experience High School at Eastern Christian

Come visit us!

50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508

973.427.0900 | easternchristian.org