



Northstar Weekly Home of the *Polars*

Main Office: 715.852.5100
Student Services: 715.852.5103
Partnership Coordinator: 715.852.5107

January 19, 2023

Northstar Middle School Calendar

January

- 19 Band Concerts cancelled due to weather
- 20 Quarter 3 Athletics Begin
- 20 End of Quarter 2
- 20 After-School Ski Trip
- 23 No School
- 23 Grade 8 High School Preview Night, 6pm @ NHS
- 26 Orchestra Grades 6 & 7 Concert, 7pm @ NHS
- 27 Grades 7 & 8 Registration, Science Class

February

- 3 After-School Ski Trip
- 7 PTSA Dairy Queen Fundraiser, 4-9pm
- 7 PTSA Executive Board Meeting, 6:30
- 10 Polar Party, 2:45-4:15pm
- 11 Fill the Polar Pantry Food Drive, 9am-12pm
- 16 No School, Family Conferences
- 17 No School
- 20 No School, PD/IP Day for Staff
- 21 PTSA Burracho's Benefit Night, 4-8pm

Important Links

[Northstar Middle School Website](#)

[ECASD 2022-23 School Year Calendar](#)

[ECASD Community Events and Resources](#)

[ECASD & Community Resources](#)

[January Lunch Menu](#)

[Virtual Learning Information](#)

[Tech Support and Resources](#)

Technical Support for all ECASD families
is available from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday through Friday by calling 715-
852-3411

Lus Hmoob

Yog koj xav tau tus neeg Hmoob txhais daim ntwv no ua lus Hmoob rau koj los yog koj muaj lus nug txog daim ntwv no, hu rau Annie (715-852-6577).

En Espanol

Spanish: Si desea que alguien le traduzca esta carta o si tiene preguntas, llame a Irene Salazar al (715) 852-4943.

PENCILS NEEDED!

It's that time of year . . . student and teacher pencil supplies are running low. Please send your child to school equipped with new pencils! Donations are also appreciated. Send donated pencils to Attn: Jenn Junker.



Find us on Facebook [HERE](#)

News and Announcements

TAKING A VACATION? EXTENDED ABSENSE SLIP MUST BE COMPLETED IN ADVANCE

Taking a vacation while school is in session? Make sure to send a note to the main office IN ADVANCE of trip, excusing your student. The office will give your student the extended absence slip to have all teachers sign prior to leaving. This helps our teachers in planning lessons and organizing the necessary make up work. Thank you!

SCHOOL ISSUED DEVICE CARE

Please remember to take good care of your school issued computers and iPads. These devices are important learning tools and need to last for many years to come.

CHARGE LAPTOPS AT HOME

Remind your student to charge laptop in the evening at home so it is ready to go and able to be used during the school day. Thank you for your help in ensuring your student is prepared and ready to learn.

1ST SEMESTER GRADES

Report cards will be mailed out the week of Jan 30th. Be sure to contact your child's teacher should you have any questions regarding your child's academic standing.

VIRTUAL LEARNING INFORMATION

For the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, in the event of inclement winter weather, students will have a virtual learning day in place of in-person classes. For more information about virtual learning days, click [here](#). Going forward, a link will be posted on front page of Northstar Notes newsletters under Important Links.

HELP NEEDED @ UPCOMING FORENSICS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

On Feb 23, Northstar will host students from area middle schools for our annual forensics competition. This means we will have MANY students who are working hard and very hungry! This is a fantastic opportunity for our PTSA to come alongside, sell concessions, and raise money for Northstar! Consider helping us by volunteering to work a shift (3:15 – 5:30; 5:30-7:00) or by baking cookies/bars for concessions. Watch Skyward email and Feb 2 newsletter to sign up! You may also contact Jenn Junker @ jjunker@ecasd.us/715-852-5107.

WINTER WEATHER PLAN

Families, please see [Winter Weather School Closing Guidelines](#) for details regarding the ECASD options for the 2022-23 school year. Please let us know if you have any questions.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Check out the [January newsletter](#) from our ECASD Special Education Department.



\$2,500 GRANT AWARDED TO NORTHSTAR

An enormous thank you to
Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation
for the recent grant awarded to Northstar's Library Media Center. This donation will assist with Northstar's library needs, programming, and events. We are grateful!

News and Announcements



Northstar PTSA has a tradition of treating our staff to a meal during Family Conferences!

If you would like to donate food or funds towards this meal, please click the following link:

[Northstar Staff Lunch 2/16/2023](#)

Please bring your donations to Northstar's main office labeled "conference meal" by 10 am on Thursday, February 16.

Northstar Spirit Wear for Sale!

- Hoodie sweatshirt \$25
- Short sleeve t-shirt \$15
- Long sleeve t-shirt \$20



* All payment must be in cash or check to Northstar MS
 Contact Jessica Szymanski
 jszymanski@ecasd.us
 715-852-5154

Quarter 3 Clubs Begin January 24!

Be sure to check the schedule below for meeting times and dates as they vary from club to club.

Club Title	Meeting Days	Leader	Leader's Email
Garden Club	Tuesday, & Thursday	Ms. Sarah Redford	sredford@ecasd.us
Board Game Club	Tuesday	Ms. Mary Rettke	mrettke@ecasd.us
D & D Club	Thursday	Ms. Mary Rettke	mrettke@ecasd.us
Equity Club	Monday	Ms. Jenni Berg	jberg@ecasd.us
E-Sports/Gaming Club	Tuesday	Mr. Andy Brown	abrown@ecasd.us

News and Announcements



Congratulations **Mrs. Peplinski** on receiving the 2023 Golden Apple Award!

A “forever Polar,” Mrs. Peplinski (aka. Ms. Pep) began her teaching career 27 years ago. In fact, she began at Northstar when it opened in 1995! Always teaching 6th grade, Ms. Pep has taught EVERY subject except Social Studies. She now teaches Math!

Prior to obtaining her teaching degree, Ms. Pep studied Child Psychology as an undergraduate at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD and was accepted into an Occupational Therapy program at the U of MN. During her time there, she had a clinical experience with the University Hospital’s Pediatric Oncology department and discovered she loved working with kids. Because working with kids was only a small portion of the OT professions she could apply to, she changed course and transferred to Viterbo University for Elementary & Middle School Education. As Ms. Pep put it, “I wanted to work with kids every day of my career! I have never regretted my decision, best job in the world!”

When asked what she loves most about teaching Ms. Pep said, “Recently I have been fortunate to be able to have children/nieces/nephews of former students! That means I have been here a long time, but it’s also one of the BEST parts of this position – I get to see “all grown up” versions of 11- & 12-year-olds I knew before! I also feel very blessed to have spent my entire career at a great school like Northstar with an AMAZING staff of people I consider my friends! Tim Camlek, Andrew Holle and I have literally raised our families side by side, so that longevity of working with two great humans has been incredible!

Congratulations, Ms. Pep! Northstar is so lucky to have YOU!



The Golden Apple recognizes one outstanding educator in each of our ECASD schools. Honorees are awarded \$500 in grant funding to use in their buildings as they choose to impact students. In addition, each school is awarded a \$500 grant which the principal can use for the school’s greatest needs. Wowza! Thank you to the **Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation** for their generous support and thank you to **WEAU** for covering this special award.

Share the Love! & Fill the Polar Pantry Food Drive



Items will be collected at Northstar's Door #5 using the South parking lot. We will have signs pointing to the drop off location.

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 11
9AM - 12PM



DRIVE UP, DROP OFF
& DONATE!

Share the Love! & Fill the Polar Pantry Food Drive



ITEMS NEEDED

- Laundry Detergent
- Body Wash
- Shampoo/ Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Feminine Products
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Pasta & Rice Based Boxed Meals
- Shelf Stable Protein (Tuna, Chicken, SPAM, Peanut butter, Beans)
- Canned Stew/Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Seasonings/Seasoning Packets
- Taco Seasoning, Taco Shells, Olives, Cornbread, Refried Beans, Salsa
- Crackers/Pretzels Individual Serving Size
- Spaghetti Sauce/Pasta
- Granola Bars
- Instant Mac and Cheese
- Instant Oatmeal

Cash donations are also appreciated and will be matched up to \$200 by W.I.N.G.S., Mr. Brown's Family's Charity

Thank you for helping to support Northstar families!!

After School Ski Trip #2

Friday, March 3

Christie Mountain

Open to all grades

Pick up and drop off forms with
Ms. Alger – Room 860 by Feb 17th



ECASD Hmong PTA General Meeting Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:00 PM via Zoom



Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/ECASDHmongPTA>

Mark your calendar for upcoming meeting dates: March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14

The ECASD Hmong PTA's **mission** and **vision** is to collaboratively partner with the Eau Claire School District to advocate and create educational opportunities and resources to inclusively educate and develop the identities of Hmong learners because it is the responsibility of all to educate, nurture and guide our next generation. Join us to learn more!



COVID-19 Testing Opportunities At Schools

Free Drive-Up COVID-19 Testing for ECASD Students and Staff Offered

Testing is recommended for individuals if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.

Beginning **Monday, December 5, 2022**, through a partnership with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, free drive-up testing for COVID-19 for ECASD students and staff will be offered Monday-Thursday at the following locations:

Locust Lane Elementary, 3:30-6:30 pm

Putnam Heights Elementary, 4:30-7:30 pm

Sherman Elementary, 4:30-7:30 pm

*Drive-up testing will only take place on days when school is in session.

Please see [English registration flyer](#) or [Spanish registration flyer](#) for more information.

Upcoming PTSA Fundraiser

**Tuesday, February 7
4-9pm**

Pinehurst Dairy Queen

STUDENT SERVICES . . .

Student Registration

Throughout the month of January, we will complete the 2023-2024 registration for all 5th-8th grade students. We value parent/guardian input, so we ask that you sign your student's registration card after reviewing the information with them. Additionally, if you have questions about registration, please contact Student Services at 715-852-5103.

Each grade level will receive registration materials on the following dates:

Current 5th graders- the week of January 3rd depending on the elementary school

Current 6th graders- January 7th

Current 7th graders- January 21st

Current 6th and 7th grade Arctic Zone- January 13th

Current 8th graders (all)- January 19th



THE STUDY CLUB

Polar Club (Study Club)

The purpose of Polar Club (Study Club) is to provide students with an opportunity to study after school in a structured area with staff who can assist with their study skills and homework. Polar Club is held on Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays right after school until 4:00pm in Room #850– 8th grade computer lab. A snack will be provided. A permission slip to attend can be picked up in Student Services. Please feel free to email kanderson1@ecasd.us for further information.

Student Information Update

We want to help your child be as successful as possible here at Northstar. We are aware that changes/events outside of school can have a substantial impact on a student's ability to focus and learn in school. Some of these impactful changes/events include parents separating or divorcing, death of a family member or friend, significant change in socio-economic status, welcoming a new sibling, parent re-marrying, including new stepsiblings, etc. If your child is experiencing such an occurrence, please consider sharing this information with our school counselors, so we can best meet your child's needs.

Interested in helping your teenager experience more mindfulness?
Check out the Mindfulness Tools for Teens class on Saturday,
January 21 at 1:30pm.

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library · 400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire

Mindfulness Tools

for Teens
GRADES 6-12



Saturday, January 21
1:30 p.m. - Carnegie Room

Registration is required.



MINDFULNESS

is a tool to help counterbalance stress in our lives. In this hands-on program, you will learn about mindfulness and explore different techniques that you can use every day to help cope with stress in your school or personal life.

Mindfulness can help you:

- Reduce anxiety
- Increase focus and attention
- Improve your overall sense of well-being.

Each registrant will receive a free gratitude journal! Snacks served.

To register, visit ecpubliclibrary.info/teens
or contact Youth Services at 715-839-5007.

Winter Blues

It's not uncommon to feel down or unmotivated in the winter. Decreased social activities, time outdoors, and sunlight exposure can affect mental health. While feeling down can be normal, sometimes it can turn into something more serious.

Watch for symptoms such as:

- Feeling sad or down most of the time
- Losing interest in activities once enjoyed
- Having low energy or difficulty concentrating
- Changes in eating and sleeping patterns

If you or someone you know are experiencing any of these symptoms, help is available. Call or text the 988 Lifeline for support 24/7 or go to 988lifeline.org.



This information is provided by The Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention coalition, which works to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse. For more information or to sign up for the Alliance's Parent/Guardian Newsletter, visit www.GetInvolvedAsap.org

Food & Nutrition Workers Needed!

Are you or is someone you know looking for a job with daytime hours only? Weekends and Holidays off? Summer break, winter break, and spring break off and the ability to earn some extra income while still being home with your school age children? If yes, please consider applying to the Eau Claire Area School District Food and Nutrition program as a substitute or regular employee! Some positions are benefit eligible. Food service experience preferred, but not required. Interested candidates should submit an online application. For open positions and application instructions visit our Employment Opportunities section at <http://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Human-Resources/Employment-Opportunities>. Please contact Josh Guckenberger, Food and Nutrition Director, at 715-852-3021, with questions.



January 9 was **National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day!** We are so grateful for our Eau Claire Police Department School Resource Officers and all they do for our students, staff, and families. We appreciate the ECPD and all law enforcement for their support of our schools and community! Special thanks to Officer Xiong for all that you do for Northstar students and staff!



Open Enrollment Begins February 6



What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows students and families who don't live in our district to open enroll into the Eau Claire Area School District.

Who May Participate?

Wisconsin residents in grades K-12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call the Executive Director of Administration's Office at 715-852-3003 to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify.

How and When May Parents Apply?

The regular open enrollment application window will be February 6, 2023, through April 28, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year. Parents may submit online applications beginning February 6, 2023, at the Wisconsin Department of Instruction website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Please call 715-852-3003 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for more information.

Have you moved out of the district during the 2022-2023 school year?

If so, you must apply for a Tuition Waiver to continue attending the Eau Claire Area School District for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Contact the Executive Director of Administration's Office at 715-852-3003 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for an application.

Students Currently Attending the ECASD Through a Tuition Waiver

Students who have moved outside of the district during the 2022-2023 school year and are currently attending school under a Tuition Waiver must apply for open enrollment during the regular application window, February 6, 2023, through April 28, 2023, to continue attending during the 2023-2024 school year.

Current Open Enrollment Students

Students currently attending the Eau Claire Area School District under the open enrollment law do not need to reapply.

Other Information

Students that move into the district after January 2023 and anticipate moving out of the district before the 2023-2024 school year will not be eligible for a Tuition Waiver. Students must apply for open enrollment during either the regular open enrollment or alternative open enrollment period to be eligible to attend the Eau Claire Area School District during the 2023-2024 school year.

School Placement

By completing an open enrollment application, you are applying to attend the Eau Claire Area School District. You can indicate which school your child would prefer to attend; however, the district will determine placement based on space availability.

Questions?

If you have any questions about open enrollment or the application process, please contact the Executive Director of Administration's Office at 715-852-3003 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us.



EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

TECH TIPS FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING 6TH - 12TH

TECH SUPPORT

There are several ways to get technology help. Scan the QR code to go to our ECASD Tech Support Website.

Other Resources
Email: helpdesk@ecasd.us
Phone: (715) 852-3411

[Click for Tech support](#)



TEAMS SUPPORT

Microsoft Teams is our virtual meeting application. If your student is having trouble with Teams or needs a refresher, please scan the QR Code.

[Click for Teams support](#)



DEVICE UPDATES

Keeping your student's device updated is an easy way to avoid many tech issues. Scan the QR code to get information on how to update your student's laptop.

[Click for laptop updates](#)



MS OUTLOOK

Communication is key for your student to be successful in any educational setting. MS Outlook (email) is the primary means of communication for our district.

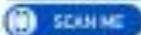
[Click for email support](#)



CANVAS

Canvas is our Learning Management System (LMS) for for 3rd-12th grade students. Scan the QR code to get more information and troubleshooting information on Canvas.

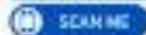
[Click for Canvas Support](#)



CLEVER

Clever, our Single-Sign-On service, is located on our ECASD Start Page. This app allows access to many of the programs your student will use for their classes. Scan the QR code for access.

[Click for Clever Access](#)



IT SUPPORT: (715) 852-3411

News and Announcements

Polar Students! Check out Northstar's EQUITY CLUB

Mondays 3:00-4:30pm

Club Goals / Objectives

- Promote student empowerment
- Make a positive impact in our community
- Enhance the school climate by ensuring that all students are accepted and can have a place to be themselves
- Learn about other cultures and communities, in an effort to enhance empathy
- Join our club and try new foods, listen to guest speakers share their experiences, and work on equity-related projects at Northstar

Contact Mrs. Berg (715.852.5119 or jberg@ecasd.us) to learn more



Adult Crossing Guards: We Appreciate You!

We are so appreciative of all our crossing guards and everything they do to keep students safe! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our students and schools.



Need some extra groceries?



Northstar's



can help!



To place an order, go to link:
[Kitchen Cupboard Order Form.](#)

Upcoming Orders Due by 8 am on:

Jan 23, Jan 30

Pick up food:

Tuesday – Friday of the week order is placed
7:00 am – 3:30 pm, main office



**RCU TOMORROW
MORNING,
7:00 – 7:30AM**

Polars! Don't forget to stop by Northstar's RCU tomorrow morning before school! Thank you to RCU and Northstar's student workers for providing this opportunity every Friday morning!

Family Advisory Council

Next FAC Meeting is Tuesday, February 7

Please contact our FAC representatives with any district-wide concerns or comments.

Brook Berg: towers_b@yahoo.com

Rob Geske: rgeske@me.com

Jessica Schinke:

schinke4552@outlook.com

Ways to Help Northstar: Year-Round Scrip



Purchase Scrip Cards for Your Everyday Expenses! Gas, Groceries, and Much More!

All you need to do is:

1. Download the RaiseRight app on your phone
2. Set up Scrip Account
3. Email our Scrip Coordinator, Ashley, at ashley.sinette@hotmail.com for directions and code. She gets back to people quickly, and it only takes a few minutes to set up.
4. Once you have an account, you can purchase Egift cards to be used when you check out at the grocery store, gas station and other daily spots. You can also purchase Egift cards for friends and family AND you can order physical gift cards to be sent to your home!

Questions? Contact Ashley at Ashley.sinette@hotmail.com.

***Shipping a card to your home? Be sure to click "ship to home" option. Do not ship to coordinator as this charges Northstar \$10/order.



NORTHSTAR MENTORS

Northstar currently has 4 community volunteers who spend 30 minutes each week mentoring students in our building. Mentors provide a consistent positive connection for students. Northstar staff and students are so grateful to our mentors for the valuable gift of their time! If you or someone you know is interested in mentoring, please reach out to Jenni Berg @ jberg@ecasd.us to learn more.



THANK YOU
TO ALL OF OUR
OUTSTANDING
MENTORS.
YOU'RE TIME
AND WARM
HEARTS ARE
APPRECIATED!

Polar Highlights

8th Grade Boys Basketball

The 8th grade boys basketball team enjoyed a great season. Both teams have spent a large part of the season working on fundamentals and improving how they play as a team. The hard work has been evident in the many close games the boys had this season. Check out some action shots below!



Polar Highlights

7th Grade Curriculum Field Trip

Northstar 7th graders attended the play *Holes* at the Eau Claire Children's Theatre last week! Both the play and the award-winning novel highlight **the themes of perseverance, kindness, and the consequences of choices**. It was an excellent performance and enriching experience to see literature come alive on the stage! Students were able to attend at no cost, and we thank the Northstar PTSA and the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation for funding this field trip.



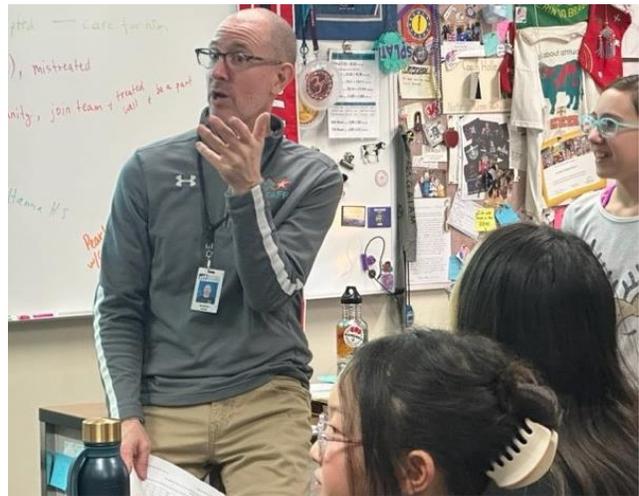
Field Trips are the Best!
Thank you PTSA and Eau
Claire Public Schools
Foundation!



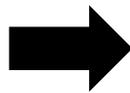
Polar Highlights

6th Grade Social Studies: Population Growth

6th Grade Social Studies students participated in a population growth demonstration called “the Stork v. the Grim Reaper”. This highlighted the difference between a higher birth rate versus death rate and the possible reasons for it as well as the potential impact on our “carrying capacity” within the United States.



Polars stick together!
Students collaborate on the library sticker poster.
Hmmm....what will the final picture be?



Polar Highlights

ART PAINTING

Polar art students put the finishing touches on their clay animals. They began with a block of clay! Look at them now!



INTERIOR DESIGN: FACS 8

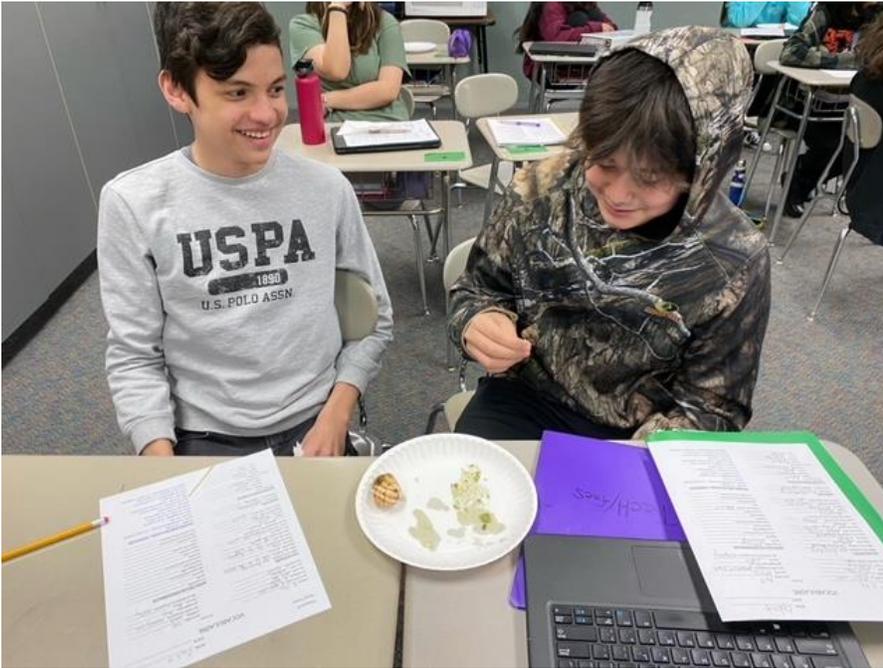
Students in FACS 8 are in the interior design unit. They have learned all about color schemes and used their knowledge to make marbled coasters and complete interior design coloring pages.



Polar Highlights

ESCARGOTS IN French Class

Escargot anyone? French students tried something new... eating an escargot (baked snail)! Afterwards, they received cool badges saying "J'ai mangé un escargot dans la classe de français!" (I ate a snail in French class!)



Polar Highlights

NORTHSTAR DANCE TEAM

The Northstar Dance Team consisted of 11 dancers this year. We performed at the December Polar Party and two middle school basketball games. Our favorite performance this season was performing with the North High School dance team at one of their varsity basketball games. We ended our season performing our pom routine at the End of Season Showcase at Memorial High School, featuring routines from all three middle school dance teams along with the two high school teams!



Polar Highlights

BRAVE Activity

Check out Northstar's latest school-wide BRAVE activity! After watching a video called **Labels We Carry**, students jotted down negative messages and labels they've experienced on scratch pieces of paper. Step two: they wrote positive words and messages on post-it notes and then headed outside to the fire pits where they burned the negative messaging. Final step: they stuck their positive post-it notes on the cutouts on the wall. A tangible exercise to practice positive messaging. Well done, Polars!

