

**North Star Academy
School Summary
March 2014**

Mission Statement

North Star Academy exists to *engage* and *inspire* students to achieve their highest potential through a *safe*, *challenging*, and *individualized* learning environment.

Brief description of student population

Enrollment By Grade

Enrollment 2013-2014	
Kindergarten	51
Grade 1	51
Grade 2	50
Grade 3	50
Grade 4	52
Grade 5	52
Grade 6	52
Grade 7	54
Grade 8	65
Grade 9	53
Total:	532

Demographics

Hispanic/Latino	10
American Indian	5
Asian	9
African American/Black	7
Pacific Islander	1
White	514
Female	248
Male	277
Eligible For Free Lunch	52
Eligible For Reduced Lunch	18
Special Education	39
Limited English Proficient	1

School analysis of the data points included in this report

North Star Academy's school model, professional development practices, and curriculum are key to the success displayed in the data. As a school of choice, we evaluate the retention of students as a key indicator of parent and student satisfaction. The efforts of both students and teachers to succeed are evident in our proficiency scores. We will continue to evaluate the data to identify areas for growth, we are pleased that our school programs and model have proven beneficial for our students.

Average Daily Attendance	99%
Within Year Transfer Rate	1.9%
Year to Year Retention Rate	93.8%
LA Proficiency	94%
Math Proficiency	95%
Math Proficiency	90%
School Grade	A

Provided supports

Schoolwide Enrichment Model

At North Star Academy, we use our mission statement to guide instruction. The Schoolwide Enrichment Model is key to the success of our students and teachers. We subscribe to the philosophy that "a rising tide lifts all ships". Students are given opportunities to explore interests, extend learning and engage in high end learning experiences. They evaluate their work and identify preferred methods of learning and expressing their understanding. The success generated by these "rising tide" opportunities generates further success in other academic and social areas. The Schoolwide Enrichment Model includes Total Talent Portfolios where students store and reflect upon what they consider to be their best work. Teachers and students utilize the Total Talent Portfolios to identify areas of interest, preferred learning and expression styles. Clusters are the second component of SEM. During clusters, students are grouped with other students and a facilitator who share a common interest. The students explore careers related to the topic, skills needed and ultimately identify a real world problem and solution related to the topic.

The final component of SEM is Curriculum Modification. Differentiation plays a large part in curriculum modification. Additionally, students are evaluated for mastery of objects or the potential to learn the material at an accelerated pace. Identified students are compacted out of the curriculum and given the opportunity to explore the subject through a project or other in depth learning activity.

We have found the Schoolwide Enrichment Model to be key to the success of our students. We have found that success generates success. By capitalizing on student's interests and areas of giftedness, we are better able to create opportunities for success in areas where growth is needed.

Instructional Support

North Star finds great value in providing many adults to assist in the education of our students. In addition to certified teachers, each elementary class is provided with a teacher's assistant for the core subjects. Parent volunteers are also regularly found in each classroom. This additional support to the teacher allows students to be re-taught concepts frequently as they are provided with many opportunities to work with adults individually or in small groups. Teacher's assistants are also present in some of the core classes in the middle school.

North Star has a strong intervention program. Teachers systematically review data to identify students who need additional assistance. Students are referred to one of our intervention specialists to gain study skills, review specific concepts, or for long term support. We have found that our intervention program has proven beneficial for many of our students.

Teacher Support

Professional Development is key to the success of North Star Academy. Professional Development needs are constantly reviewed and discussed. In one recent example, a need for further understanding of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model was identified. A group of eight teachers was sent to another successful SEM school in New York. The teachers gained many insights during the trip. They immediately started implementing and sharing ideas from the trip. We have found that it is critical to provide teachers with continuous opportunities to learn best practices and develop their skills as professionals.

Professional development needs are assessed at the end of each school year by the administration through assessments and teacher surveys. The administration then evaluates this information as they plan the professional development for the following year. Many of the professional development needs differ in relation to the level of experience each teacher has. Likewise, the professional development offered to the teachers is differentiated based on these needs.

Best practices

North Star Academy believes in constant evaluation and growth. We believe that as a school we should continually seek area for growth and improvement. One key to this has been our yearly planning meeting. In this meeting, stakeholders including the board of trustees, administration and parent organization are brought together to evaluate and identify the successes and needs of the school. The stakeholders then select one area of growth to focus on for the upcoming school year. A goal is set and all three groups set specific action items to help in achieving the goal. This has been a great unifying process each year that has been instrumental in the growth and success of the school.

North Star Academy recognizes that our stakeholders are our greatest asset. Excellence in education depends upon sound teaching practices from talented and highly qualified teachers. Skilled and caring teachers who work closely with parents are critical to student growth. We are fortunate to have administrative and support staff who are dedicated to our school model and willing to work as a team to achieve student success. The Board of Trustees makes every effort to make governance decisions based on our mission and the best interest of the students. The contributions of each member of North Star's team is critical to the success of the school and our students.