

# ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT

## NORTH STAR ACADEMY 2007-2008



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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Greg Toutant, President  
Gary Ebrecht, Vice President  
Jack Noble, Treasurer  
Jackie Gonda, Secretary  
Patty Martin, Trustee  
Margaret Jajich, Trustee  
Carroll Anne Swanson, Trustee  
Kathy Heikkila, Past Trustee  
Ryan Dawson, Past Trustee

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Karen Anderson, CEO/Principal  
Stephanie Abata, Dean/Assistant Administrator

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## **GENERAL**

North Star Academy (NSA) was established in 1997 as a Public School Academy, chartered by Northern Michigan University.

NSA provides an education choice to any grade 6-12 student in the Marquette County area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Any eligible student able to access transportation to and from NSA within the appropriate daily time period, qualifies to enroll at NSA. Other than students who are under mandatory expulsion as per Michigan law, students may apply for enrollment. Currently, students travel up to approximately 25 miles to attend NSA. The facilities are modern and provide a safe environment in which students can learn and achieve their greatest potential. The staff at North Star Academy is comprised of highly-trained and caring professionals. The district has been affirmed by the Coalition for Essential Schools, and is recognized throughout the state and region as a leader in education.

Board members are appointed through a process that includes the local Board, an application and interview process, and final approval by NMU Board of Directors. The District's Charter requires parent representation on the Board of Directors.

## **VISION/MISSION STATEMENT:**

North Star Academy is a public school where a caring and innovative environment ensures **each student** will attain high academic achievement and a positive sense of self worth. NSA understands that for individuals to flourish it is necessary to have a positive collaboration among students, school personnel, parents and community. It is with EXCITEMENT that we, the collaborative team, prepare every student to shape our changing world!

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' FOCUS:**

North Star Academy –A public school where a *caring* and *innovative* environment promotes:

- ☆High academic standards
- ☆Positive student self-concept
- ☆Leadership

## **BELIEF STATEMENTS:**

- ☆Education is about the students.
- ☆Every student is a gift.
- ☆Learning is a collaborative effort.
- ☆Communication is key.
- ☆Academic success is attainable.
- ☆We can all be safe, respectful, and responsible.

## 2007-2008 POINTS OF PRIDE

- ☆ Updated entire curriculum to correspond with Michigan Merit Curriculum
- ☆ Added grade 6
- ☆ Achieved enrollment goal of 95 students
- ☆ Implemented GEAR Up Program with NMU, MDE and USDoE
- ☆ Secured 2 grant-funded AmeriCorps volunteers, both of whom were certificated teachers
  - Provided extended-day services to students
- ☆ Implemented In-School Suspension Program
- ☆ Achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- ☆ Worked closely with MARESA consultants in the areas of instruction, technology, and leadership
- ☆ Completed the School Improvement Process through the collaboration of teachers, administrators, MARESA consultants, Board members, students and parents
- ☆ Created an updated School Improvement Plan
- ☆ Sponsored extra-curricular Snowboard/Ski Club, Lego Robotics, Dance and Driver Education Classes
- ☆ Developed an updated Technology Plan
- ☆ With the Parent Organization, hosted several potluck dinners for parents, staff, Board members and students
- ☆ Enjoyed a significant amount of positive media coverage
- ☆ Graduated 9 students
- ☆ Hosted internationally-recognized motivational speakers Jerry Mills and Danny Peterson
- ☆ Secured outside funding from:
  - Sault Ste. Marie Tribe
  - Parent Organization
  - Waste Management
  - Board of Directors
  - Private Individuals
  - School Improvement Grant
  - GEAR UP Program
  - NMU Charter School Office
- ☆ Maintained financial stability, increasing district's Fund Balance
- ☆ Received positive NMU Monitoring Report

### **Unique features:**

- North Star Academy is an independently run public charter school with freedom to innovate and treat students like the creative individuals they are
- Grades 6-12
- Small class size
- Small learning community with fewer than 100 students
- Multi-aged classrooms -- students of mixed ages are in the same class
- Students demonstrate knowledge through performances and demonstrations as well as traditional tests
- Project Term is a graduation requirement instituted in 2006-07 that provides students the opportunity to learn new skills at the end of each school year
- Learning is active...students work to know and understand a concept in depth
- Senior Exploratory as a graduation requirement demonstrates this concept
- Learning is authentic and applied by dealing with real world problems in local, regional, national and global communities
- Service in the community is required
  - NSA has over 40 partnership agreements with non-profit agencies where students serve 3 hours every week
  - Each high school student's Community Service participation is a graduation requirement
- There is an active democratic process when making decisions...students, staff, parents, Board members and Administration collaborate
- Every student is issued a laptop computer and has Internet access
  - HS students keep their laptops for home and school use
  - MS students use their laptops during the school day

### **Pupil Assignment:**

As a Public School Academy, students who reside in Michigan may enroll in the school. North Star Academy is chartered to serve middle and high school students, whose number is only limited by building capacity. The September, 2007 membership count was 94 FTE students; February, 2008 enrollment was 97 FTE students. The district was notified by its financial advisors that enrollment must be increased to 95 FTE by September, 2007 to provide a balanced 2007-2008 budget, which was achieved. The Board of Directors set a "soft" cap of 115 students to be enrolled at North Star Academy; they have also discussed future facility expansion.

A marketing and enrollment campaign has been ongoing since February, 2007. Board members, students, teaching staff and administrators worked collaboratively by hosting public meetings, and facilitating positive media coverage of the district.

The Board authorizes the CEO to deny admission to any student who has a record of behavior that she believes would constitute a threat to the safety and well-being of fellow students and staff. Additionally, no charter school may enroll a student who has been accused of or expelled from a district for weapons, arson, or sexual assault.

### **Specialized Schools:**

There were no Specialized Schools established in the 2007-08 school year.

### **Polaris Middle School and North Star High School:**

Polaris Middle School and North Star High School were operated in 2007-08 under one administration; served by the same staff; and governed by a single Board of Directors. Since each building retained its own state identification number, state reporting and accounting reflect figures for two separate buildings. In recognition of the fact that both schools are under the umbrella of *North Star Academy*, the building identification code for Polaris Middle School was eliminated on July 1, 2008 to increase efficiency.

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## **STUDENT DATA**

### **Fall 2007 Count Date Enrollment (SRSB Audit Report)**

#### **94 Students**

69 High School Students (27 Females, 42 Males) 73.4% of school population  
25 Middle School Students (10 Females, 15 Males) 26.6% of school population  
  
39.4% female population, 60.6% male population

#### **Spring 2007 Students Present on Count Day Who Did Not Return for Fall 2007 Count (Reported by grade they would have been enrolled in for Fall 2007)**

15 Students:  
0 Fall 2007 Seventh Graders  
0 Fall 2007 Eighth Graders  
4 Fall 2007 Ninth Graders (3 Females, 1 Male)  
2 Fall 2007 Tenth Grader (2 Females)  
4 Fall 2007 Eleventh Graders (3 Females, 1 Male)  
5 Fall 2007 Twelfth Grader (4 Males, 1 Female)

#### **Reasons for not continuing enrollment at North Star Academy:**

4 Moved out of the area (Ninth Grade, Tenth Grade, 2 Eleventh Grade)  
1 Returned to home district due to boyfriend there (Ninth Grade)  
1 Returned to home district for sports (Ninth Grade)  
1 Returned to home district to be with brother (Ninth Grade)  
1 Returned to home district, missed friends (Tenth Grade)  
1 Enrolled in out-of-state private school (Eleventh Grade)  
1 Enrolled in alternative school to be with boyfriend (Eleventh Grade)  
1 Enrolled in adult ed. to finish one class for graduation (Twelfth Grade)  
1 Enrolled in home district, issue with instructor (Twelfth Grade)  
1 Expelled (Twelfth Grade)  
1 Enrolled in alternative school, issue with school intern (Twelfth Grade)  
1 Enrolled in home district to graduate with friends (Twelfth Grade)

**Membership Breakdown by Grade:**

- 05 Sixth Graders (2 Females, 3 Males) – 20% of PMS population
- 07 Seventh Graders (5 Females, 2 Males) – 28 % of PMS population
- 13 Eighth Graders (3 Females, 10 Males) – 52% of PMS population
- 14 Ninth Graders (7 Females, 7 Males) – 20.3% of NSAHS population
- 26 Tenth Graders (8 Females, 18 Males) – 37.7% of the NSAHS population
- 10 Eleventh Graders (4 Females, 6 Males) – 14.5% of the NSAHS population
- 19 Twelfth Graders (8 Females, 11 Males) – 27.5% of the NSAHS population

**Special Education Program Participation:**

- North Star Academy High School = 15 Students (21.7%) = .45 Total Special Ed Student Count
- Polaris Middle School = 6 Students (24%) = .18 Total Special Ed Student Count

**Spring 2008 Count Date Enrollment (SRSD Audit Report)**

- 97 Students
- 73 High School Students (33 Females, 40 Males) 75.3% of the school population
- 24 Middle School Students (11 Females, 13 Males) 24.7% of the school population
  
- 45.4% Female, 54.6% Male

**Fall 2007 Students Present on Count Day Who Did Not Return for Spring 2008 Count**

22 Students:

- 1 Discipline issue, back to home schooling (Sixth Grader)
- 3 Moved out of area (Seventh Grader, Eleventh Grader, Twelfth Grade)
- 1 Truancy filed, returned to home district (Eighth Grader)
- 1 Returned to home district, discipline problem (Eighth Grader)
- 3 Moved in with other parent, transportation issue (Eight Grader, Ninth Grader, Tenth Grader)
- 3 Resigned due to discipline issue (Ninth Grader, 2 Tenth Graders)
- 5 Transferred to alternative program due to hours / online program (Tenth Grader, Eleventh Grader, 3 Twelfth Graders)
- 1 Quit school to work (Eleventh Grader)
- 2 Quit school, attendance problem (2 Twelfth Graders)
- 1 Quit school, attendance problem – back to home schooling (Twelfth Grader)
- 1 Resigned due to attendance, went to alternative school (Twelfth Grader)

**Breakdown by Grade:**

- 01 Sixth Grader (1 Males)
- 01 Seventh Graders (1 Male)
- 03 Eighth Graders (1 Female, 2 Males)
- 02 Ninth Graders (2 Males)
- 04 Tenth Graders (1 Female, 3 Males)
- 03 Eleventh Graders (2 Females, 1 Male)
- 08 Twelfth Graders (2 Females, 6 Males)

**Special Education Program Participation:**

North Star Academy High School = 14 Students (19.2%) = .12 Total Special Education Student Count

Polaris Middle School = 4 Students (16%) = .46 Total Special Education Student Count

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION:**

North Star Academy High School

31 Students not eligible for free / reduced lunch (45.6%)

6 Student eligible for reduced lunch (8.8%)

31 Student eligible for free lunch (45.6%)

Polaris Middle School

5 Students not eligible for free / reduced lunch (19.2%)

5 Student eligible for reduced lunch (19.2%)

16 Students eligible for free lunch (61.6%)

**RESIDENCY DATA:**

Fall 2007:

Marquette Area	43 Students = 45.7%
Gwinn Area	27 Students = 28.7%
Ishpeming Area	10 Students = 10.6%
Negaunee	10 Students = 10.6%
AuTrain	2 Students = 2.1%
Republic - Michigamme	2 Students = 2.1%

Spring 2008:

Marquette Area	49 Students = 50.5%
Gwinn Area	25 Students = 25.8%
Negaunee	15 Students = 15.5%
Ishpeming	4 Students = 4.1%
Republic	2 Students = 2.1%
Autrain	1 Student = 1.0%
Powell	1 Student = 1.0%

**Total 2007-2008 Graduates:**

9 Graduates:

4 Females

5 Males

## ACCREDITATION

North Star was accredited by the state of Michigan in 2002 by the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES). CES is the only accreditation process used by the MI Department of Education besides the traditional North Central process. (CES) is a growing network of over 1,200 schools and 25 regional support centers that promotes higher student achievement and develops more nurturing and humane school communities.

The Coalition arose out of “The Study of American High Schools” led by Theodore R.Sizer. It began with 12 schools in 1984 and has grown in a grassroots fashion, as teachers and community members learned about the Coalition and sought to implement its ideals. Today, CES membership includes elementary, middle and high schools in 39 states. Ninety-seven percent of CES schools are public; 42 % are urban; 31 % are suburban; and 27 percent are rural.

North Star Academy selected the Coalition of Essential Schools accreditation process because research has shown that when the 10 Principles are fully implemented both inside the classroom and in the school as a whole, the impact on student achievement is consistent, beneficial and significant. CES schools have high student achievement as well as parent, teacher and student satisfaction; they have had a positive effect on student behavior and promote equity in achievement among different groups of students, regardless of race or class. CES is a principle-based approach to comprehensive school reform, with the principles coming from educational research.

## CURRICULUM

Through the 2007-08 school year graduates were required to earn 20 credits in Math, Science, Social Studies, Science, Physical Fitness, Technology and the Arts to be eligible for an NSA diploma. They earned the credits through the comprehensive standards based curriculum that North Star developed over 10 years. It is based on the students’ knowledge of the Standards & Benchmarks in the Michigan Core Curriculum. Students study the core content areas of Social Studies, Math, Science, and Language Arts in individual traditional courses like Algebra, Biology and Government.

### **Graduation Requirements:**

To earn a high school diploma, NSA students are required to:

- Pass 20 Credit Hours of content coursework
- Complete 400 hours of Service Learning activities (pro-rated by years of HS enrollment)
- Pass the Senior Exploratory, a rigorous 18 week course
- Receive an ACT score of 21 in English, Math and Science and a score of 22 in Reading or a Composite score of 21 OR
- Receive WorkKeys scores of Level 4 in Locating Information, Level 5 in Reading for Information, Level 3 in Writing, and Level 5 in Math
- All 2008 graduates met the requirements as outlined above.

The Michigan State Board of Education's Michigan Merit Curriculum with mandated graduation requirements for students who entered high school in 2007-08 was adopted by North Star Academy.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

During the 2007-08 school year a 15-member School Improvement Team was formed and created a new School Improvement Plan for 2007-2012. The Team consisted of administrators, teachers, Board members, community leaders, parents, students and MARESA consultants.

### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN GOALS:**

#### Curriculum Goal 1: English Language Arts

To improve the academic performance of all students in English Language Arts with a particular emphasis on reducing the number of students receiving below a C- by 4% per year or to see a year's grade level growth for a year's instruction.

#### Curriculum Goal 2: Math

To improve the academic performance of all students in Math with a particular emphasis on reducing the number of students receiving below a C- by 4% per year or to see a year's grade level growth for a year's instruction.

#### Curriculum Goal 3: Science

To improve the academic performance of all students in Science with a particular emphasis on reducing the number of students receiving below a C- by 4% per year or to see a year's grade level growth for a year's instruction.

#### Curriculum Goal 4: Social Studies

To improve the academic performance of all students in Social Studies with a particular emphasis on reducing the number of students receiving below a C- by 4% per year or to see a year's grade level growth for a year's instruction.

#### Technology Goal:

All students will have access to increased use of technology as an effective tool for learning and for the demonstration of learning in their coursework.

#### Safety Goal:

The students and families will attend a safe school and will be assured that teachers, administrators, and all other staff members can and will undertake reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline that provides an environment conducive to learning.

#### Maintain Stable Student Population Goal:

Maintaining a stable student population is expected to grow and strengthen parent/school relationships, increasing family support for improved student achievement.

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT

### MEAP Fall 2007 Results

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall 2007 Test Results 3 Students Tested

# of Students Tested	ELA Score / Level	Reading / Level	Writing	Mathematics	Social Studies	Time at NSA
Student #1	615 / 2	639 / 1	568 / 4	622 / 1	645 / 1	1 Month
Student #2	585 / 3	625 / 2	504 / 4	569 / 4	584 / 4	1 Month
Student #3	609 / 2	629 / 2	568 / 4	650 / 1	645 / 1	1 Month
Avg.	1809 / 2.3	1893 / 1.7	1640 / 4	1841 / 2	1874 / 2	

**Disaggregated Data** – NA, only 3 students

**Percentage of Students Tested** - 3 Students Tested / 3 6<sup>th</sup> Graders eligible for testing = 100% students tested

**Two Year Trend** – NA, Fall 2007 first year of 6<sup>th</sup> grade

#### \*Performance Level

- 1 & 2 - Advanced and Proficient
- 1 – Advanced
- 2 – Proficient
- 3 – Partially Proficient
- 4 – Not Proficient

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall 2007 Test Results 7 Students Tested

# of Students Tested	ELA Score / Level	Reading / Level	Writing	Mathematics	Time at NSA
Student #1	670 / 4	673 / 4	664 / 4	687 / 3	1 Month
Student #2	699 / 3	694 / 3	708 / 2	700 / 2	1 Month
Student #3	706 / 2	705 / 2	709 / 2	715 / 2	1 Month
Student #4	673 / 4	673 / 4	674 / 4	676 / 3	4 Months
Student #5	684 / 3	668 / 4	717 / 2	695 / 3	1 Month
Student #6	689 / 3	690 / 3	687 / 3	693 / 3	1 Month
Student #7	674 / 4	682 / 4	657 / 4	666 / 4	1 Month
Avg.	685 / 3.3	684 / 3.4	688 / 3	690 / 2.9	

**Disaggregated Data** – NA, only 7 students

**Percentage of Students Tested** – 7 Students Tested / 7 7<sup>th</sup> Graders eligible for testing = 100% students tested

**Two Year Trend** – Fall 2006 Students Tested = 06

Avg. Time at NSA = All had been at NSA for two months

ELA Avg. Avg. Score / Level = 702 / 2.7

Reading Avg. Score / Level = 709 / 2.3

Writing Avg. Score / Level = 688 / 3.2

Mathematics Avg. Score / Level = 693 / 2.7

Trend: All scores were higher in the Fall 2006, students tested had been at NSA for a longer period of time

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Fall 2007 Test Results

#### 13 Students Tested

# of Students Tested	ELA Score / Level	Reading / Level	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Time at NSA
Student #1	809 / 2	814 / 2	798 / 3	797 / 3	Excused	1 Month
Student #2	751 / 4	757 / 4	739 / 4	779 / 4	786 / 3	1 Month
Student #3	788 / 3	792 / 3	781 / 4	790 / 3	796 / 3	1 Month
Student #4	783 / 3	780 / 3	789 / 3	809 / 2	844 / 1	1 Month
Student #5	772 / 4	772 / 4	772 / 4	797 / 3	793 / 3	1 Month
Student #6	784 / 3	800 / 2	753 / 4	776 / 4	791 / 3	1 Year, 1 Month
Student #7	792 / 3	800 / 2	777 / 4	795 / 3	802 / 2	1 Month
Student #8	827 / 2	832 / 2	817 / 2	801 / 2	842 / 1	3 Years
Student #9	788 / 3	780 / 3	803 / 2	781 / 4	786 / 3	1 Month
Student #10	799 / 3	807 / 2	783 / 3	788 / 3	793 / 3	1 Year, 1 Month
Student #11	763 / 4	757 / 4	776 / 4	784 / 3	778 / 4	1 Year, 1 Month
Student #12	757 / 4	767 / 4	738 / 4	773 / 4	769 / 4	1 Month
Student #13	784 / 3	788 / 3	777 / 4	784 / 3	791 / 3	6 Months
Avg.	784 / 3.2	788 / 2.9	777 / 3.5	789 / 3.2	736 / 1.9	

**Disaggregated Data** – NA, only 13 students tested

**Percentage of Students Tested** – 13 Students Tested / 13 8<sup>th</sup> Graders eligible for testing = 100% students tested (note 8<sup>th</sup> grader excused by state, for not taking the science)

**Two Year Trend** – Fall 2006 Students Tested = 10

Avg. Time at NSA = 1 year

ELA Avg. Avg. Score / Level = 817 / 2.3

Reading Avg. Score / Level = 824 / 1.9

Writing Avg. Score / Level = 802 / 2.5

Mathematics Avg. Score / Level = 799 / 2.6

Science Avg. Score / Level = 818 / 2.1

Trend: All scores were higher in the Fall 2006, students tested had been at NSA for a longer period of time.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Fall 2007 Test Results**

**15 Students Tested**

# of Students Tested	SS Score / Level	Time at NSA
Student #1	942 / 1	1 month
Student #2	896 / 3	6 months
Student #3	876 / 4	6 months
Student #4	918 / 2	1 month
Student #5	894 / 3	1 month
Student #6	891 / 3	1 month
Student #7	906 / 2	2 years
Student #8	876 / 4	1 month
Student #9	932 / 1	1 month
Student #10	913 / 2	1 month
Student #11	879 / 4	1 month
Student #12	950 / 1	2 years
Student #13	935 / 1	4 months
Student #14	950 / 1	1 month
Student #15	981 / 1	1 month
Student #16	881 / 3	1 month
Avg.	914 / 2.3	

**Disaggregated Data** – NA, only 16 students tested

**Percentage of Students Tested** – 16 students tested / 16 students eligible to test = 100% students tested

**Two Year Trend** – Fall 2006 Students Tested = 13

Avg. Time at NSA – 1 year 2 months

Avg. Score / Level = 922 / 1.8

Trend – SS scores were higher in Fall 2006, students who participated this testing round had been at NSA for an average of 1 year and 2 months

**ACT**  
**SPRING 2008 Test Results**  
**16 Students Tested**

# of Students Tested	Yr.	ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE	ENGLISH-WRITING	COMPOSITE	Yrs. At NSA
Student #1	Jr.	16	18	11	16	16	15	4 Months
Student #2	Jr.	12	17	13	15	11	14	2 Months
Student #3	Jr.	13	16	16	18	12	16	8 Months
Student #4	Sr.	15	16	23	19	15	18	1 Yr. 8 Months
Student #5	Jr.	20	16	20	19	21	19	8 Months
Student #6	Jr.	14	16	12	14	13	14	3 Months
Student #7	Jr.	17	16	20	17	17	18	5 Months
Student #8	Jr.	22	21	26	25	18	24	2 Yrs. 8 Months
Student #9	Jr.	11	15	15	16	12	14	8 Months
Student #10	Sr.	14	16	26	20	14	19	2 Yrs. 8 Months
Student #11	Jr.	12	21	18	24	12	19	5 Months
Student #12	Jr.	15	16	12	19	15	16	8 Months
Student #13	Jr.	9	16	9	15	10	12	8 Months
Student #14	Sr.	29	23	33	25	25	28	1 Year 8 Months
Student #15	Sr.	16	22	19	20	NA	19	NA
Student #16	Jr.	16	17	24	23	17	20	1 Year 8 Months
Avg.		15.7	17.6	18.6	19.1	15.2	17.8	

**Disaggregated Data** – NA, only 16 students tested

**Trend Data – ACT Spring 2008**

<b>Length of Time at NSA</b>	<b>English Avg.</b>	<b>Math Avg.</b>	<b>Reading Avg.</b>	<b>Science Avg.</b>	<b>Eng. Writing Ave</b>	<b>Composite</b>
6 Months or less	14.2	17.6	14.8	17.2	13.8	16
7 months – 1 Yr.	13.6	15.8	14.4	17.4	14	15.4
1 Yr. – 2 Yrs	20	18.7	26.7	22.3	19	22
Over 2 Yrs	18	18.5	26	22.5	16	21.5
Difference 6 months to over 2 Yrs at NSA	+ 3.8	+9	+11.2	+5.3	+2.2	+5.5

**Highest Average ACT Test Score – Reading**

**Lowest Average ACT Test Score – English / Writing**

**Largest Area of Increase as Student at NSA – Reading**

**Lowest Area of Increase as Student at NSA - Math**

**MME**

**SPRING 2008 Test Results**

**15 Students Tested**

<b># of Students Tested</b>	<b>Yr.</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATH</b>	<b>READING</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>ENGLISH-WRITING</b>	<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>Yrs. At NSA</b>
Student #1	Jr.	3	4	4	3	3	3	4 Months
Student #2	Jr.	3	4	4	4	3	4	2 Months
Student #3	Jr.	3	4	3	4	4	2	8 Months
Student #4	Sr.	3	3	2	2	3	1	1 Yr. 8 Months
Student #5	Jr.	2	3	2	3	2	2	8 Months
Student #6	Jr.	3	4	3	4	3	3	3 Months
Student #7	Jr.	3	4	2	3	3	2	5 Months
Student #8	Jr.	2	2	2	1	2	1	2 Yrs. 8 Months
Student #9	Jr.	4	4	4	4	3	4	8 Months
Student #10	Sr.	2	4	2	2	3	2	2 Yrs. 8

								Months
Student #11	Jr.	3	2	3	2	3	1	5 Months
Student #12	Jr.	4	4	4	4	3	3	8 Months
Student #13	Jr.	4	4	4	4	4	3	8 Months
Student #14	Sr.	1	2	1	2	2	1	1 Year 8 Months
Student #15	Sr.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Student #16	Jr.	2	3	2	2	3	2	1 Year 8 Months
Avg.		2.8	3.4	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.3	

**Disaggregated Data – NA, only 15 students tested**

**Trend Data – MME Spring 2008**

Length of Time at NSA	English Avg.	Math Avg.	Reading Avg.	Science Avg.	Eng. Writing Ave	Social Studies Ave.
6 Months or less	3.0	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.6
7 months – 1 Yr.	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.2	2.8
1 Yr. – 2 Yrs	2.0	2.7	1.7	2.0	2.7	1.3
Over 2 Yrs	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.5	2.5	1.5
Difference 6 months to over 2 Yrs at NSA	+1.0	+6	+1.2	+1.7	+5	+1.1

**Highest Average MME Test Score – Science and Social Studies**

**Lowest Average MME Test Score – Mathematics**

**Largest Area of Increase as Student at NSA – Science**

**Lowest Area of Increase as Student at NSA – Writing and Math**

**\*Performance Level**

1 & 2 - Advanced and Proficient

1 – Advanced

2 – Proficient

3 – Partially Proficient

4 – Not Proficient

## **ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)**

AYP is one of the cornerstones of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. In Michigan, it's a measure of year-to year student achievement on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) test. According to NCLB, Michigan and other states must develop target starting goals for AYP and the state must raise the bar in gradual increments so 100 percent of the students in the state are proficient on state assessments by the 2013-14 school year. AYP applies to each district and school in the state.

The 2007-2008 School Report Cards indicate that both North Star Academy High School and Polaris Middle School students showed improvement in student assessment results, and the district successfully **made Adequate Yearly Progress. Neither school was identified as needing corrective action for improvement.**

The 2007-08 Report Card Grade is not available; 2006-07 Report Card Grades were as follows:

North Star Academy High School	C
Polaris Middle School	No Grade

The self evaluation conducted during the Education YES process complements the School Improvement process and contributes significantly to the development of the School Improvement Plan.

Due to the district's initially being reported erroneously as not making AYP in 2006-07, NSA received a School Improvement Grant that was administered through Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Services Agency. Final MDE reports acknowledged that the district had achieved AYP in 2006-07; however, the supplemental funds remained in place and greatly benefitted the ongoing curriculum update. Supplemental services and supplies were provided in the areas of curriculum and leadership development, with emphasis on aligning the NSA curriculum with the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

### **Pupil Retention:**

North Star Academy was notified by Michigan Department of Education that, "There are no schools/facilities in the selected district that have been identified to receive graduation and dropout rates."

### **Excellence in Education Award:**

One (1) Spring, 2008 graduate earned the Excellence in Education scholarship.

## **PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

### **Parent Conference Participation:**

Parents must take an active role with their child at NSA. To enroll, both must attend an “Informational Meeting” designed to profile the school curriculum and delivery, and district expectations

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held every semester. Parent participation at the Fall, 2007 conferences was 62%; at Winter, 2008 conferences participation was 73%. Conferences were scheduled to accommodate working parents/guardians, and both sessions featured the student-led format. Students and their parents met the student’s respective teachers together.

Parents were invited to numerous academic activities in the school year including: awards assemblies, motivational speaker presentations, NSA enrollment/recruitment meetings, Project Term presentation, and Senior Exploratory demonstrations. A small, but active Parent Organization formed. They hosted several parent/staff/student potluck dinners; conducted a number of fund raising activities; and made a significant financial contribution toward 2007-08 Project Term activities.

The entire student body participates in the year-end commencement ceremony and all parents are invited to attend. Attendance varies among the activities; however, a number of parents do attend every activity to which parents are invited. Teachers and administrators make a significant effort to communicate and work closely with NSA students’ parents and guardians

## **TEACHING STAFF**

### **Report on Highly Qualified Teachers:**

- One half-time teacher taught under a Temporary Endorsement for his teaching area
- 100% of classes were taught by Teachers who were ‘Highly Qualified’
- No teachers taught in the district under Emergency Certification
- No core academic subject classes were taught by non Highly Qualified teachers

### **Professional Qualifications of All Teachers in the District:**

(Headcount)

B.A.	3
B.A. + 15 Credit Hours	3
M.A.	2
M.A. + 15 Credit Hours	0
M.A. + 30 Credit Hours	0
Ph.D.	0

## **FINANCIAL**

The district was in a financial recovery mode from the severe decrease in enrollment in 2006-07. Academic focus in 2007-08 was on providing a quality basic program that emphasized the four core curricular areas. Most teachers taught all students from grades 6-12.

Due to the collaborative effort made by all employees, the district was able to slightly increase its fund balance and plan a more comprehensive academic program for the 2008-09 school year.