



POLAR EXPRESS

MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER EDITION

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FREE

Dear NSA Community,

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer. Despite the majority of the students being gone, NSA continues to be busy. Currently we have elementary, middle and high school summer school in session. In addition the Child and Family Services summer program is housed at NSA and a free summer food lunch program open to all area k-12 students.

Those of you driving by have noticed the digging that has been occurring. We are expecting our new module to be in place during the first week of August. Everyone is excited about this and we are looking forward to having the 6th, 7th and 8th graders in our new facility. Please make sure to stop by Aug. 29th, 4:00 – 7:00 pm for our open house to see this as well as our current resources, meet the staff, and enjoy some refreshments.

Enclosed you will find the student's schedule for the upcoming school year. The schedule may be slightly modified if we must open additional sections of classes to ensure 20 or less students per class; student participated in summer school courses, or is accepted into special programs such as JAG or at NMU. Students will receive an additional schedule at open house and the first day of school. If there are any questions regarding the schedule, prior to school starting please contact me (sabata@nsacd.com or 226-0156 ext. 15 – best way to contact me is email). Once school has started, if you have any questions, please contact your student's advisor.

If you move out-of-the-area or for some other reason your student will not be attending NSA, please notify us immediately so we may allow others to enroll.

Please continue to enjoy the summer and the staff looks forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Abata

Middle School Curriculum / Class Information Quick Bits:

- Middle school students will have either art with Joy Bender-Hadley or music with Courtney Saberniak everyday next year.
- 7th-12th afterschool band
- Middle school students will continue to be taught in self-contained classrooms, with some additional switching of teachers:
 1. 7th grade math will be taught by Mariann Fedrizzi
 2. 7th grade science will be taught by Natalie Wiersbecki
 3. 8th grade social studies will be taught by Luke Erickson
 4. 8th grade science will be taught by Michele Talsma
 5. 7th and 8th traditional students will continue to be taught English Lang Arts by Mariann Fedrizzi
 6. 7th and 8th CEEP students will continue to be taught social studies by Luke Erickson
 7. 7th-12th grade afterschool band

High School Curriculum / Class Information Quick Bits:

- Students will now have advisory everyday, rather than just once a week. In advisory, students will have assigned days where they will have academic support and other days where they will be taught skills such as: study skills, test taking skills, time management, team builders, career planning, etc... Since students will be with their advisor daily, the advisor will constantly monitor the student's academic progress and their credits.
- NSAHS will now be offering Spanish class
- NSAHS will now be offering voice/chorus class
- 7th-12th grade

Gear-Up at NSA

NSA is the only area school involved in the Gear-Up program (through NMU). Gear-up is a federal program that is designed to prepare students for college success. This program worked with last year's 8th grade students and will follow these students throughout their NSA high school career. Students newly enrolling, as a 9th grade student this year, will also be allowed to participate in the program.

NSA Officially Changes Community Service to Service Learning

NSA has always believed students learn best by doing and that students also need to be good citizens and serve in their community. Therefore, on Wednesday afternoons from 12:40 – 3:40 pm, high school students have been going to individual community sites to serve. They have learned valuable skills and helped a variety of agencies. NSA is taking the next step and changing community service to service learning. Community service is when a student provides work/services to an individual or agency. Service learning is when a student/class provides work/services to an individual or agency and also learns content that is directly aligned to the curriculum. The community benefits from the service and the students benefit from learning the curriculum in a “real-world” approach. Studies have shown that students learn better with this approach and they also learn to be leaders by taking ownership of their projects.

The staff participated in professional development in the winter of 2012, being taught by an expert from Grand Valley State University, on this approach. On July 9th, staff again participated in professional development to begin putting the pieces in place, so we may begin using this approach in the fall.

Therefore, students will no longer be individually placed and leaving on Wednesday afternoons. Rather, they will be working on projects with community partners during their regular classes.

Students k-12 will participate in service learning. As students get older the projects will become more intense and students will learn to identify a community need and setup projects. This will all culminate when a student reaches their senior exploratory/project class in which they will be in total charge of a project.

Stay tuned for more information on this, as well as project information.



JAG at NSA-We are very pleased to announce that NSA has again been awarded the JAG program through a partnership with Michigan Works! JAG is a career preparation and leadership development program for Juniors and Seniors. Students gain leadership and employability skills through resume writing, interviewing, public speaking, job shadowing, mentoring and service projects. JAG is student-led and lessons, projects, and guest speakers are tailored by the JAG class' interests. Students must meet eligibility requirements. To find out if your student is eligible, please contact Sarah Johnson at sjohnson@nsacd.com or 228-3075 x 401

Calling all Coaches

NSA is looking at forming new teams this year in the sports of golf, tennis, bowling and cheer. We are looking for volunteer coaches. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie Abata at sabata@nsacd.com or 226-015 ext. 15

Welcome and Goodbyes:

- Welcome to Milton Braga, he will be our 9th-12th grade Spanish and physical education teacher
- Welcome to Tania Lajimodiére who will be one of our k-12 special education teachers
- Goodbye and good luck to Alison McCormick who will be getting married and moving to North Carolina
- A huge goodbye to Alexia Kroll who came out of retirement to be the k-12 counselor at NSA. She has been at NSA since 2009 and helped many, many students. She plans on still being involved at NSA by getting her substitute teaching license and being a regular sub for us ☺

Lastly, Congratulations to our June Graduates:

Derek Auston, Jr. - Derek will be attending NMU in the fall, majoring in psychology

Savannah Berthiaume – Savannah is currently in Japan and will be attending NMU in the fall, majoring in social work

Vizma Loos – Vizma will be attending NMU in the fall, majoring in social work

Kathleen Ray – Kathy will be attending the Marquette School of Massage Therapy, in the fall

Madison Royea- Madison will be entering the work force, while she decides what course of study to pursue

Alexander Winkler – Alexander will be moving out of the area with his family. He plans on working for a year and then attending college studying a computer related field.