

2017-2018 Annual Report



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School Mission:

“Rekindling our hope, exploring our world, seeking our path, while building our community.”

Vision Statement:

Students enrolled at Northwest Passage High School develop self-confidence and academic skills through participation in a small learning community, where instructors are lifelong learners who model integrity, responsibility and respect. Varied projects, field studies and inquiry-based methods give students the opportunity to develop a greater sense of the world by engaging in challenging academics, structured real-world experiences, and service learning. Students take responsibility for their own educational plans, and graduate with the tools to make informed decisions about their future.

Authorizer Information:

Bethel University
3900 Bethel Drive
St. Paul, MN 55112-6999
Liaison: Heather Johnson-Ross
Email: heather-ross@bethel.edu

Bethel University became the authorizer for Northwest Passage High School in 1999. In 2015 Bethel University renewed our contract for 5 more years. Bethel University continues to support the school and its mission in many ways including: providing a liaison to the school board, technical support, student volunteers, and on-site reviews.

Governance:

Board Elections: The school held its annual election on October 17, 2017 at the annual meeting.

Name	Attend %	Email	Position	Start of Term	Training Requirement
Sara Anderson	89%	sanderson@nwphs.org	Chair/ Teacher	11/16	Y
Charlotte Elva	77%	cacelva@nwphs.org	Member/Parent	11/17	Y
Lisa Heille	89%	lisahohahe@gmail.com	Community Member	11/16	Y
Kurtis Heerema	100%	kheerema@nwphs.org	Vice-Chair/ Teacher	10/16	Y
Vashti Pearson	89%	vpearson@nwphs.org	Community Expert	3/18 Completing Robin Clarkson's Term (11/19)	Y
Jason Olson	100%	jolson@nwphs.org	Treasurer/ Teacher	11/16	Y
Robin Clarkson	100%	rclarkson@nwphs.org	Member/Teacher	11/17 Resigned 3/18	Y
Deborah Theisen	89%	dtheisen@usfamily.net	Member/Parent	11/17	Y
Jenny Braun	100%	jbrown@nwphs.org	Secretary/Teacher	10/16	Y
Heather Johnson-Ross	77%	heather-ross@bethel.edu	Ex-Officio/ Authorizer Liaison	N/A	N/A

Management:

The management team at the school consists of a Chief Financial Officer, Julie Peterson, who has a Bachelors Degree in Business, and a Director, Peter Wieczorek, who holds a Master's Degree from Goddard College in Education and a B.S. in Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies from the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development, and a 7-12 Teaching License in Life Science.

Staff Information:

The school continues to enjoy a great retention rate of professional teachers, with an average tenure of 9 years since our start 19 years ago. Staff continues to receive competitive compensation and benefits that are typical of the geographic norms, however discussions continue on how to maintain competitive wages with little increase in state aid.

Licensed Teachers

Name	File #	Assignment	# Years	Returning
Sara Anderson	420486	Social Studies	12	No
Theresa Boisjolie	425581	Special Education EBD	19	Yes
Jenny Braun	487700	English/ESL	3	Yes
Brandi Greer	460779	Art	16	Yes
Kurtis Heerema	485526	Social Studies	3	Yes
Chuck Hoppe	442179	Life Science	10	Yes
Deb Howard	290512	Social Work, Social Studies	12	Yes
Valerie Miller	409413	EBD/SLD/MMI	15	Yes
Robin Clarkson	455167	Special Education	3	No
Jason Olson	458823	Mathematics	13	Yes
David Olson	475056	Special Education EBD/LD	3	Yes
Peter Wieczorek	425983	Life Science	14	Yes
Jennifer Atterberry	453652	Communications Arts	3	Yes
Vashti Pearson	474954	Mathematics	3	Yes
Megan Fredrickson	490325	Academic & Behavioral Specialist	3	Yes
Anna Dupay	504840	Physics	1	No

Support Staff

Name	Assignment	# of Years	Returning
Julie Petersen	Finance Director	1	No
Joyce Nolan	Administrative Assistant	14	Yes
Sue Shimshock	Registrar	4	Yes
Elise Nyenhuis	Paraprofessional	4	No
Rejeana Hill	Paraprofessional	2	Yes
Cate Carlis	Paraprofessional	2	No
Ella Rausch	Paraprofessional	1	Yes
Matt Goeltl	Paraprofessional	2	Yes
Ruth Hein	Paraprofessional	2	Yes
Suzanne Taylor	Paraprofessional	1	Yes
Jannika Gutske	Paraprofessional	1	Yes
Nicole Ketcham	Paraprofessional	1	No



Operational Performance, Program Successes and Best Practices:

Innovative Practices

Northwest Passage High School was the recipient of the 2017 Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Innovation Award for our expedition programs.

Staff Development - Staff development continues to be a strength of the school. NWPHS staff participated in a summer staff planning retreat at Audubon of the Northwoods. For the 2016-17 school year the staff focus will be on the transition to all day project based learning. Staff participated in a book share to explore options to move in that direction. Staff also participated in video conferences with staff from other all day PBL charter schools. In addition, all teaching staff attend and present at the annual Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs conference.

Advisory Programs – NWPHS has an extensive advisory program. Each student is assigned an advisor when they enter our school, which they retain for their entire time at NWPHS. Ratios in advisory are kept to a maximum of 16:1. Advisors track performance and perform project management for student's individual projects. All students now have a Personal Learning Plan, as well as Digital Portfolios.

Cohort Groups - On the first Friday of every month students meet with Cohort Advisors from their grade level to work on grade specific post-secondary planning in order to meet the requirements of the Minnesota World's Best Workforce initiative.

Project Based Learning - Beginning the 2017-18 school year NWPHS moved to an all day Project Based Learning Model. NWPHS will continue to use Project Foundry for students to propose and complete self-directed learning projects that meet the State of Minnesota's graduation standards.

Multi-disciplinary Team-Based Teaching - In the afternoon block of instruction, teachers team-teach 60% of courses in a Multidisciplinary approach to learning. Using Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligence and Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning, students engage in extensive field studies with authentic assessment. This part of the program is rich in its use of community experts and local resources

Expeditions – NWPHS provides students the opportunity to complete four expeditions before graduating. The program is fully funded and in 2017-18 NWPHS allocated over \$60,000 for this component of our program. NWPHS ran more than 20 extended overnight expeditions and multiple day-long field experiences. Over 150 unique individuals participated in expeditions this year including: Guatemala, Washington D.C., Youth in Government, Grand Isle in Louisiana, backpacking in Northern Minnesota, and the Boundary Water Canoe Area.

Service Learning – This year the school continued to implement advisory service learning with more than 878 hours provided to 6 different community organizations. Over 223 students participated in service learning activities.

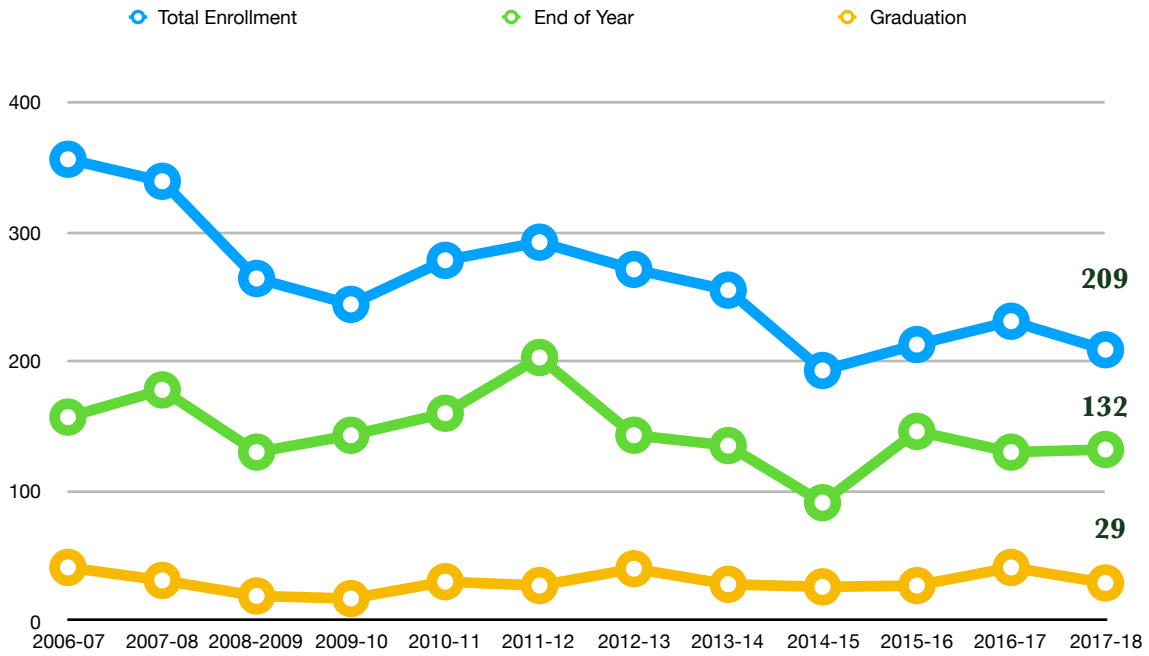
PSEO – 10% of seniors that graduated in May participated in PostSecondary Education Options.

M-Term - 2017-18 saw the continuation of a two-week M-term including: Art Tour, Fisheries, Theater & Cinematography, Personal Wellness, Backyard Adventures, Service Learning, Rockets, Art in Bloom and Senior Transition.

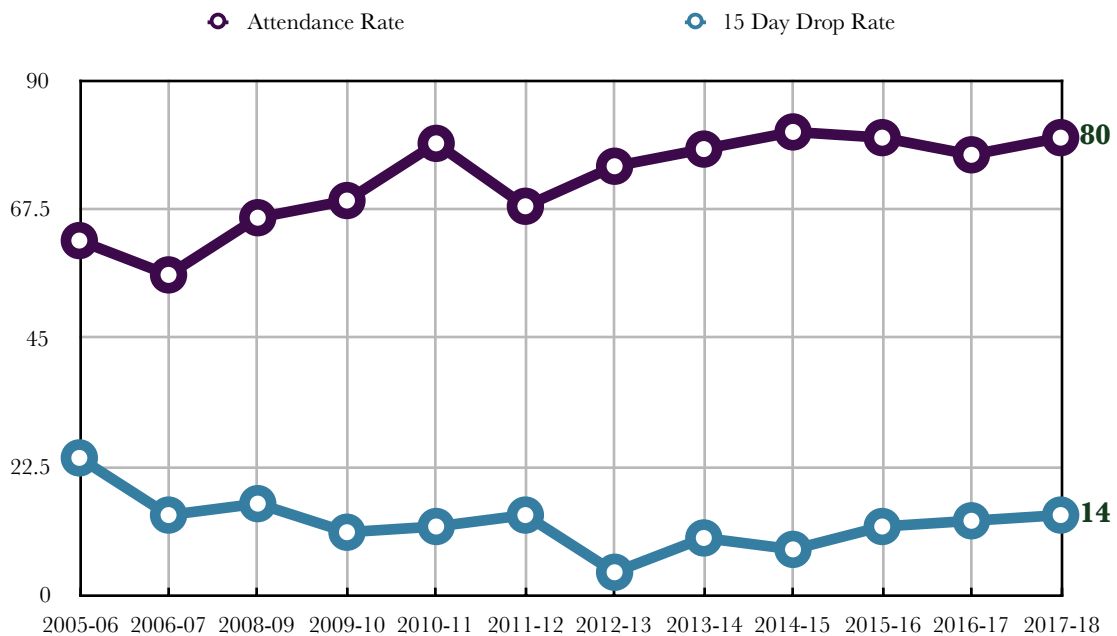
Community Partnerships -Wildlife Science Center, MN Bonsai Association, Alexandra House, Grand Isle Elementary School, Homestead Nursing Home, 3 Rivers Parks, Emma B. Howe YMCA, Home At Last Animal Rescue, HealthyWay Anoka

Student Expo - On the first Friday of every month students participate in peer reviewed Project Expos. Students present the project work they have been working on in advisory to their peers and the community.

Enrollment Data:



Attendance Information:



Academic Goals for 2017-18

The school focused on two value-added academic goals for the year. By using Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), we were able to tell what effect instruction had on students' math and reading skills.

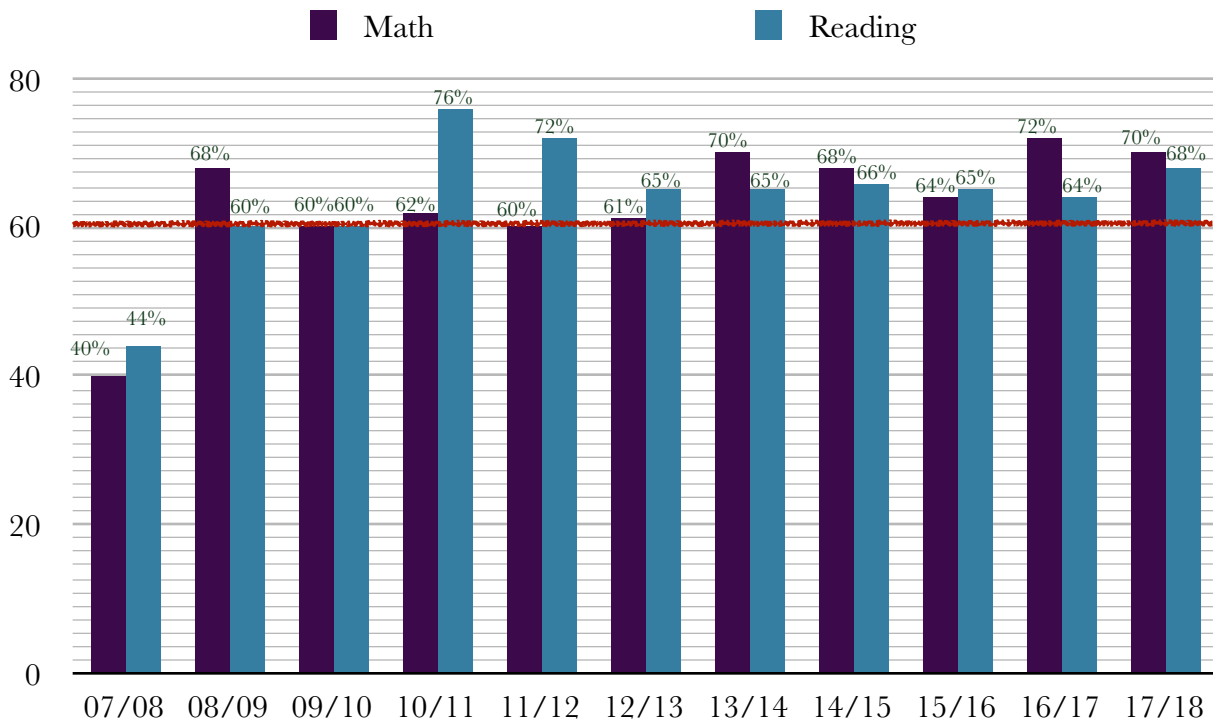
1. **Student Performance Goal:** 60% of students enrolled for the entire year will improve their NWEA MAP assessment in Math.
2. **Student Performance Goal:** 60% of students enrolled for the entire year will improve their NWEA MAP assessment in Reading.

Data Collection:

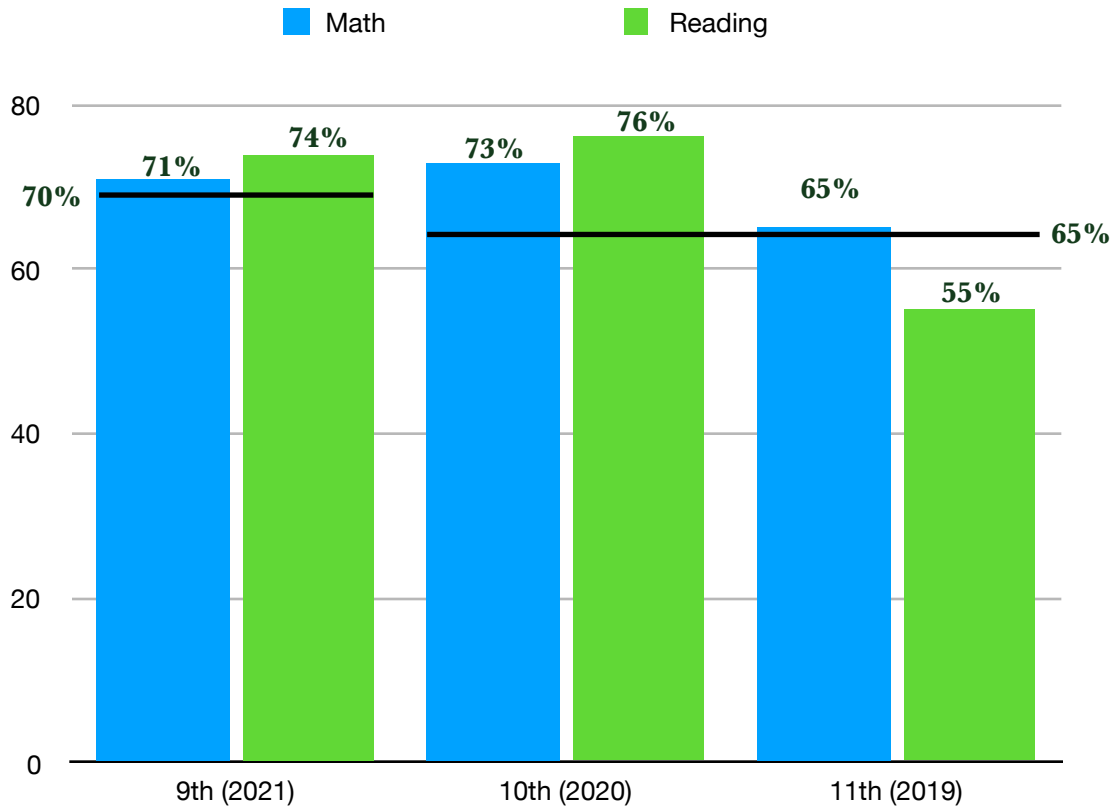
NWEA MAP testing was conducted in the fall of 2017, winter of 2018 and spring of 2018. Students included in this data set were students who started on September 5, 2017 and were still enrolled on June 1, of 2018. Any student enrolled was given the NWEA test, but for the purposes of measuring improvement, only students enrolled the entire year were analyzed.

Data Analysis:

After collecting the data, it was put into a database and sorted based on percent gains. Any student who had a positive number was counted then a percentage was calculated by dividing the number of students with a positive gain by the total number of students enrolled for the entire year. (See Below Chart)



In non-adjusted gains the school continues to maintain reading and math scores compared to the previous year, and met both of its academic goals. The school continues to implement a school-wide reading program and cooperative math-solving program. Advisors use Lexile scores to help students find reading materials to increase their reading skills.



Academic Goals for 2017-18: After consultation with Bethel University, the school has modified its goals and has incorporated the SMART format.

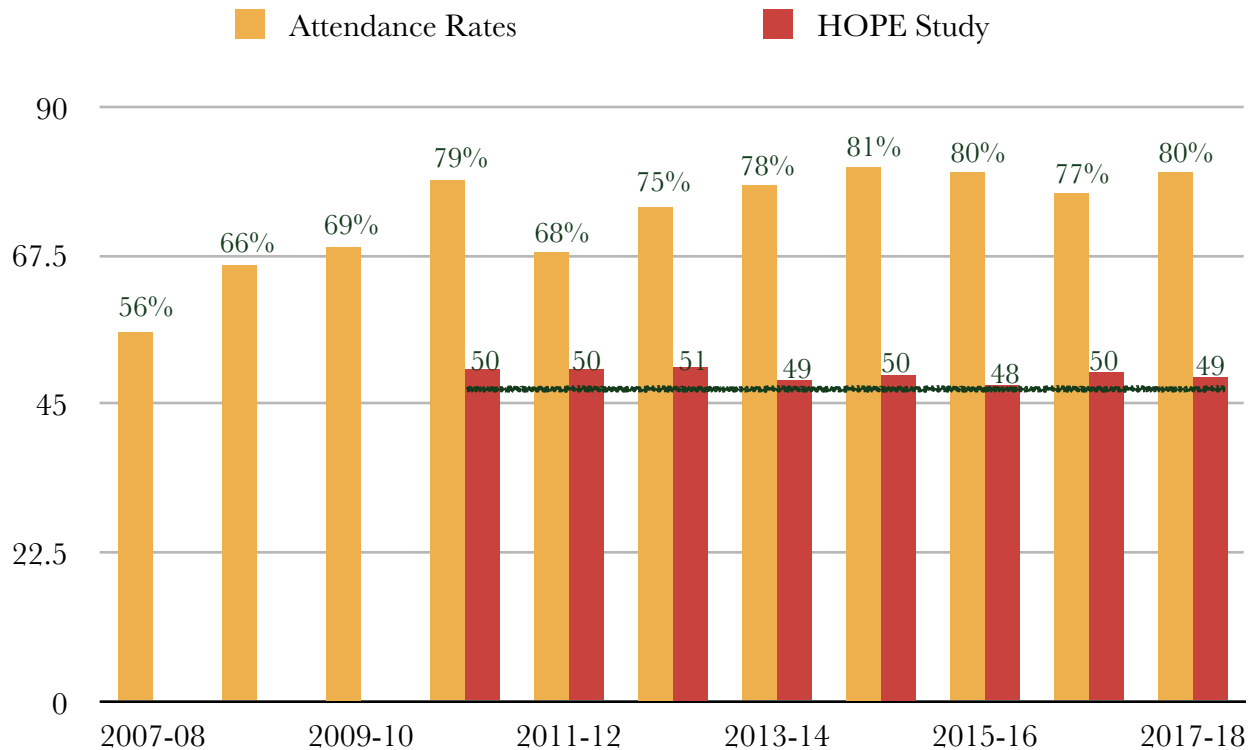
1. **StudentPerformanceGoal: 70%** of continuously enrolled students who begin at NWPHS as true freshmen will gain one year of growth for one year of academic opportunity in Math and Reading on their NWEA MAP baseline assessment.
2. **StudentPerformanceGoal** For students that begin their schooling at NWPHS after 9th Grade and who are continuously enrolled, **65%** will gain an average of one year growth based on a 3-5 year average, by capturing their highest and lowest recorded score on the NWEA MAP assessment.

The first cohort's data collection began in the 2014-15 school year. NWPHS continues to invest in training and curriculum including reading and math intervention programs to help reach these new goals.

Non-Academic Goals for 2017-18

The school will focus on attendance, the HOPE study, and showcase portfolios to measure students' affect emotions toward school.

1. **Student Performance Goal:** Average daily attendance will continue to increase. Average Daily Attendance reached **80% in 2017-18.**
2. **Student Performance Goal:** Students will score 48 or higher HOPE study scores (National average for traditional schools in 2017-18 was 48.43). Overall the results from Northwest Passage are very good. Northwest Passage is generally at the EdVisions average. Student perceptions of autonomy are good, they feel a good sense of support from teachers, perceive a high mastery goal orientation at the school, and believe that teachers are holding them to high expectations. As a result, behavioral engagement is good and emotional engagement is particularly high.
3. **Student Performance Goal:** 60% of seniors graduated with a showcase portfolio in the 2011-12 school year, 70% in year 2012-13 school year, and 80% there after. **In 2017-18 90% of the graduating seniors completed showcase portfolios.**



2017-18 Notable Accomplishments

Grants/Awards:

Ann Bancroft Foundation - 6 grants totally \$3000 - Women in Science

Ann Bancroft Foundation - 3 grants totally \$1500 - Guatemala

Donors Chose - \$1750 - Shop Tools

KARE 11 PSA Competition. \$1100 Jannika Gutzke, Advisor

MAAP STARS:

1st Place - Advertising. Sanay Brown & Cassie Thomas

1st Place - Community Service Project. Monty Olynick, Virjle Wells, Hunter Radotich

2nd Place - Career Portfolio. Rilee Kiefert

2nd Place - Advertising. Monty Olynick & Hunter Radotich

3rd Place - Career Portfolio. Ray Boeser

4th Place - Career Portfolio. Virjle Wells

8th Place - Public Speaking. Virjle Wells

Innovators of the Month

September Noah Giddings

October Natalie Erickson

November Max Glendenning

January Grace Lukkason

April Brianna Buchholz

Expeditions

137 Students participated, exploring 17 states and 1 foreign country.

Level One: Service Learning to YMCA Camp Icaghowan (x3), 9th Grade Retreat, MAAP Leadership Conference, Fiber Arts, Gamefest, Yoga/Wellness

Level Two: St. Croix River Canoe Trip (x3), Black Hills, Model U.N., Youth in Government, MAAP STARS, Chicago, Jay Cooke State Park

Level Three: Gulf Coast Louisiana, Washington D.C., Guatemala

Conferences and Special Events

Projects, Pedagogy, & Play Conference

Chili Cook-off

Explore Your World Silent Auction and Fundraiser

Northwest Passage High School #4049

In accordance with 2013 Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, Northwest Passage High School is pleased to submit this report to the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, summarizing:

- The district's comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating the world's best workforce;
- Progress toward improving teaching and learning and striving for the world's best workforce, including current rates of:
 - Students attaining career and college readiness before graduating from high school;
 - Students graduating from high school; and
- Information about best practice strategies that were implemented and that are showing evidence of improving student outcomes and working toward creating the world's best workforce in Minnesota.

Identified Needs Based on Data

Northwest Passage High School (NWPHS) uses Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments. Based on those assessments between 40-48% of students enrolling in NWPHS are behind at least one grade level in reading over the past five years and between 47-58% are behind by at least a year in math.

Northwest Passage High School enrolls students in grades 9-12+ throughout the school year from surrounding school districts including district 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 279, 286, 621, 728 and others.

In 2017-18 45% of enrolled NWPHS students received special education services.

The Northwest Passage High School Board through the 2013 Strategic Plan established the following goals:

Academic Achievement

A. *Curriculum Design*

All Seminars and Workshops will be peer reviewed and include specific guiding questions and learner outcomes. Courses will include resource lists in the areas of technology, field studies and guest speakers. Courses will have unique individual or small group end products and have rubrics and final assessments to support those end products.

B. *Test Scores*

NWPHS will continue to administer NWEA testing in the fall and spring of each school year. 70% of incoming 9th graders will show one years growth for every one year at NWPHS. 60% of all other students will show one years growth for every one year at NWPHS. NWPHS will implement for the 2017-18 school year a program to identify and support students who are not achieving at grade level in math and reading.

C. *Project Completion*

NWPHS students are expected to earn 2.5-4.0 credits in independent Project work each year. NWPHS staff will work closely with students and parents to foster a greater sense of responsibility and understanding of the implication for not completing the minimum credit requirements. Staff will also help students better organize and manage their projects and timelines. All students have a Personal Learning Plan to help manage project work.

D. Assessments

Every project and course will include at least two assessments. A student self-assessment and an assessment from the staff member approving the project or leading the course. Assessments will be documented in Project Foundry and discussed between the student and staff member. Assessments will be primarily from the 7 skills for 21st century learners, but other approved assessments can be used.

E. Conferences/Parent Communication

Parents/Student/Advisor conferences will be held three times during the school year. Conferences are 30 minutes in duration and must include all three members of the educational team – advisor, parent and student. The conferences will progress from advisor lead to student lead during the course of the school year. In addition to conferences advisors will establish a regular communication plan with parents. Communications between advisors and parents will be a minimum of bi-monthly. In 2017-18, NWPHS had a 89% attendance rate at conferences.

F. Personal Learning Plans

All students will have a yearly PLP that includes short and long term academic, social and postsecondary goals. PLPs will be created and approved by student, parent and advisor. PLPs will be reviewed at conferences.

G. Portfolios

80% of graduating seniors will have completed a digital learning portfolio highlighting their growth and best works. Portfolios are started upon enrollment at NWPHS and have minimum yearly entries. The senior transition plan is the final entry and is required for all graduates regardless of portfolio completion. In 2017-18, 90% of graduation seniors completed a digital portfolio.

H. Post Secondary Readiness

All NWPHS graduates will have a college and career readiness plan. The planning will begin in 9th grade. Each grade cohort will be assigned three-four advisees who will meet with the cohort once a month to plan and discuss post secondary options. Events will be planned throughout the year to help students and parents make wise decisions, including college fairs, FAFSA seminars, and P.S.E.O. information. Additionally, all 11th grade students will complete a Life Skills course and all 12th graders will participate in a Senior Seminar.

I. Cohorts

Students participate in grade level Cohorts for 90 minutes once a month. Cohorts focus on grade specific content designed to help students be successful during high school and with post-secondary pursuits. 9th graders focus on study skills, career inventories and portfolio development. 10th graders worked on lifestyle choices, multiple intelligence surveys, and career panels. 11th grade investigates post-secondary pursuits such as college tours and applications, career panels and college applications. 12th is spent on senior transition plan and portfolio completion.

Finances Summary

Finances:

The 2016-17 audit conducted by Larson Allen returned a clean audit with no material weaknesses. The audit for this school year is scheduled for September and will be submitted prior to the December 31, 2016 deadline. The final unaudited financial statements for 2017-18: Total expenditures: \$2,385,381.00 Total revenue: \$2,397,272.00. See Attached Budget Summary

Staff Development Plan for NWPHS Director:

Peter Wieczorek is the current Director for NWPHS. Mr. Wieczorek took over as Director in 2012 and has taught at the school since 2004. He holds a Master's Degree from Goddard College in Education and has graduated from the St. Thomas University Leadership Development program. Mr. Wieczorek continues to participate in leadership training programs through MN Department of Education and MN Association of Charter Schools. Additionally, Mr. Wieczorek provides trainings for a number of schools through the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs and the Innovative Schools Network.

School Admissions:

DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the School Board of Charter District No. 4049 to comply with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination to the end that no person protected by such law shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program; or in employment or recruitment, consideration, or selection, thereof, whether full time or part-time, under any education program or activity operated by the district for which it received federal financial assistance.

Nonprofit Status: Active.

