



NORTHSTAR

Parent Information Handbook Expectations and Procedures

2024-25

NorthStar Program Handbook

This handbook is designed to give parents/guardians helpful insights into the programs offered by NorthStar. It includes NorthStar's after-school program and summer camp procedures that support a safe and purposeful experience. Please read this handbook carefully and keep it available for reference during the year.

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Welcome Letter

NorthStar Parents/ Guardians,

On behalf of the entire NorthStar team, we welcome you and your family! Thank you for trusting NorthStar as your choice for after-school and/or summer camp programming. We pride ourselves in offering dynamic opportunities to each student through our three pillars of focus- Academics, Adventure, and Athletics.

NorthStar strives to provide the best experience for each student. To achieve this goal, family engagement and communication is encouraged. Any concerns brought to staff will be addressed promptly. We ask that families offer the same timely response when concerns are expressed by staff.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of your students age-group's team. We look forward to building relationships with you and your student!

How to contact us: NorthStar Foundation- 402-614-6360

Contact Information

Academics

Administration

Jim Stevens, Director of Education
jim@northstar360.org
402.614.6360 x 207

High School

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Middle School

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Elementary School

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Da'Von George, Elementary School Lead
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Student Resources

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Contact Information

Enrollment

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Samantha Chloupek, Director of Data Systems and Engagement
samantha@northstar360.org
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Athletics and Adventure

Rod Olden, Director of Adventure and Athletics
rod@northstar360.org
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James Ahern, Adventure Program Manager
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402.614.6360 x 205

Mac McCroy, Athletics Coordinator
mac@northstar360.org
402.614.6360 x 215

Operations

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ld@northstar360.org
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Office Hours

Academic Year Hours

Mon. - Fri. 11 am-7 pm

Summer Hours

Mon. - Thurs. 9 am-4 pm

Friday 8 am-12 pm

Mission Statement & Overview

NorthStar Mission

To change young men's lives through programming that supports, challenges, inspires, and instills a life rooted in education, self-discipline, and service to the community.

NorthStar Vision

NorthStar's founding vision is to dramatically increase the proportion of male students in North Omaha who graduate high school on time, positioned to begin post-secondary education or immediately enter the workforce.

By employing a model of high-touch, multi-year extended learning, we focus on accelerating core academic and social-skill competencies of every young man we serve.

Academics

NorthStar academics provide opportunities for young men to achieve academic success and self growth promoted through individual support, character development cultivation, and life skill development curriculum.

Athletics

NorthStar athletics provide opportunities for young men to develop values of respect, responsibility, reliability, teamwork and character. NorthStar Athletics offers three sports for young men: basketball, lacrosse, and soccer.

Adventure

NorthStar adventure provide opportunities for young men to develop transferable skills in leadership, collaboration and communication.

Post High School Readiness

NorthStar works closely with local professionals and postsecondary education institutions to provide young men with valuable experiences to help them set future goals. On-site presentations and off-site exposure help NorthStar students envision themselves in classrooms and workplaces beyond their high school experiences.

Enrollment

Student enrollment is renewed annually at the beginning of the school year. Parents must complete the enrollment process through our website and complete all required forms, along with a \$50 enrollment fee for each student enrolled. The enrollment process requires account creation through PowerSchool and verification of your account. Please allow 3 days processing time with the Enrollment office.

Students can enroll year-round. However, once a grade-level group reaches capacity, the enrollment office may close that group's registration. If that happens, the student can go onto a waiting list until a spot opens in that class. Once a student is enrolled, the parent/guardian is responsible for keeping all student information up to date. Information can be updated at any time by logging into the Parent Portal with NorthStar- PowerSchool.

High School Program

Students enrolling in the high school program are exempt from the \$50 enrollment fee. Prior to acceptance into the program all high school students and their parent/guardian must meet with a member of the high school team.

Daily Schedule

After School Program Hours: Monday –Friday 3:00–7:00 pm

Camp NorthStar (Summer) Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am- 3:30 pm

The after-school daily schedule follows the same structure each night; however, if your child's schedule changes because of a special activity or field trip we will communicate via the Remind System. Camp schedules vary in program activities, and weekly schedules with events, programming, and field trips are sent weekly.

Remind App: Alert and Communication App

Once a student is enrolled for NorthStar, parents/guardians are sent an invite to our Remind Communication system. Accept NorthStar's invite to receive texts and/or emails about safety/ health notifications, upcoming events, and closures.

Transportation

Transportation from School

During the 2024-2025 school year, NorthStar will provide transportation from targeted schools to NorthStar on days that Omaha Public Schools is in session. Students may not walk from school to NorthStar unless prior arrangements have been made. **Parents, please note that when OPS students are not in session, NorthStar programming is not in session.**

Students Early Arrival

The staff that work with programming for the after-school program are also involved in transporting/supervising students from various schools to NorthStar each afternoon. Students are not allowed to arrive at NorthStar until after Omaha Public Schools' students have been dismissed (secondary schools dismiss at 3:05 p.m. and elementary schools dismiss at 4:05 p.m.).

Student Pick-Up Options

Not all families have the same needs when transitioning their students from NorthStar each evening. To better help with this process, we provide three options that we believe will cover most parents' needs:

Option 1: **Required:** PikMyKid Parent Dismissal App

Option 2: Walk up to the building to check out their student.

Option 3: Permission to walk home. **Required:** guardian waiver in enrollment forms.

Before leaving the building, everyone must sign out at the front desk.

Late Pick-Up

If a late pickup cannot be avoided, please notify staff at 402-614-6360 ext. 210. In the case that we are unable to contact the primary parent/guardian, we will attempt to contact the other listed emergency contacts on the student's profile. If we are unable to reach anyone, and the student is still on-site by 8:00 PM, then we will contact the authorities to ensure the safety of the student. Repeated late pick-ups may result in a student suspension that requires a meeting with the parent/guardian before the student is allowed to return.

Communication

Communicating with families is crucial; we use a variety of tools to keep parents informed about what is going on at NorthStar and to find out what parents are interested in or concerned about. Our most common means of communication include:

1. Remind Communication System: notifications by text or email (see pg. 6 for details)
2. Telephone calls and voicemail
3. Parent meetings
4. Social Media (primarily Facebook, X, and Instagram)
5. E-mail
6. NorthStar's website (northstar360.org)

Staff Concerns & Complaint Procedures

We desire that staff have open communication with parents of NorthStar students. If you or your student has a concern, please directly notify your student's program manager. If you do not feel the issue has been resolved, please contact the Director of Education for further assistance.

Emergency Procedures & General Policies

Severe Weather and School Cancellations

When Omaha Public Schools cancels school or evening activities because of weather concerns, all NorthStar activities will also be canceled for that evening.

If severe weather forces the closing of school, an announcement will also be made on local radio/TV stations informing parents that NorthStar programming will also be canceled. Parents will also receive notification via Remind.

Emergency Procedures

NorthStar staff and students are trained to respond to emergencies by following the "I Love U Guys" Foundation Standard Response Protocol. This protocol has been adopted by most after-school programs and law enforcement agencies in Douglas and Sarpy Counties to develop common terminology and procedures to maximize the effectiveness of our response to school emergencies. Students and staff practice these responses throughout the year to ensure that all students and staff know what to do and identify plan elements that may need attention. Except for drills, parents are notified any time conditions warrant the activation of these protocols.

This protocol involves five responses:

Escape is called when there is an active threat inside the building and all persons need to get out of the building.

Hold is called when there is a situation where we need all persons to stay in place.

Secure is called when there is a situation outside the building that could pose a potential threat.

Emergency Procedures & General Policies

Evacuation occurs when conditions inside the building require all students be moved out of it. The most common form of evacuation drill is a fire drill, but students might be evacuated for other reasons, such as a gas leak or damage to the building. If students are unable to be in the building for an extended period or due to extreme weather, students will be moved to a designated temporary evacuation site or to a reunification site where they can be safely released to a parent or guardian.

Shelter requires that all students go to a designated location inside the building designed to withstand severe thunderstorms or tornados.

******Please note during any of these responses NorthStar reserves the right to pause the release of students depending on the severity of the situation******

Visitors

The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. Visitors are welcome to NorthStar and will be greeted in the vestibule and escorted to their destination when we have students in the building.

Field Trips

At the time of enrollment, parents/ guardians are required to complete a general consent form, including field trip waivers. You may be asked to sign a specific field trip waiver based on the provider's requirements.

Student Valuables

NorthStar is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items brought to NorthStar by students. Students are encouraged to leave items of value at home.

General Policies

Lost and Found

NorthStar maintains a collection of Lost and Found items. Students who lose items, must go to the Welcome Center and fill out a form describing their items, where it was lost, and their name and date.

Accidents at NorthStar

NorthStar does not provide health insurance coverage for students, as that is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide.

NorthStar Property Searches

Student lockers, desks and other such property are owned by NorthStar. NorthStar exercises exclusive control over this property, and students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in this property because it is subject to search at any time by NorthStar staff. Students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks, lockers, and electronics issued by NorthStar.

Private Property Searches

Students and their personal effects are subject to being searched by NorthStar staff if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student is in possession of contraband or evidence indicating that the student has otherwise violated the Student Code of Conduct. This includes person belongings such as backpacks and other kinds of carrying devices, and any personal computing, communication, and data storage devices. If the student does not allow the search, Law Enforcement may be called.

Technology Policies

Network, Email, and Other Computer Rules

NorthStar technology, including network and internet access, is the property of NorthStar and is provided as a tool for students' educational use. Use of NorthStar technology, including email, is not private. Under the Children's Internet Protection Act, NorthStar will monitor computer usage and employ technology protection measures. NorthStar may inspect, copy, review, transfer, and store, at any time and without notice, any usage of NorthStar computers, computer networks, internet access, and all information transmitted or received.

Parents and guardians shall inform the Director of Education in writing if they do not want their student to have access.

Adventure Programming

NorthStar Adventure Offerings

Leadership, collaboration, and communication are key program outcomes for all participants in NorthStar Adventure Programming. Through participation in NorthStar Adventure programs, NorthStar students develop leadership and team-building skills that challenge them to learn more about themselves and do more than they ever thought possible! NorthStar students have the opportunity to participate in onsite and offsite experiences including:

- Hitchcock High Ropes Challenge Course
- Hitchcock Indoor Rock Wall
- Outdoor Expeditions
- Team-building activities
- Biking
- Hiking
- Camping
- Mindfulness

Athletics

Programming

NorthStar Athletics Offerings

NorthStar Athletics offers a variety of sports opportunities. Basketball is offered to all students grades 3-12, lacrosse is offered to students grades 6-12, and soccer is offered to students grades 3-8.

Parents must complete the registration process through our website and complete all required forms, along with a \$50 registration fee for each student participating. The registration process requires account creation through PowerSchool and verification of your account. Please allow 3 days processing time with the Enrollment office.

NorthStar Athletics Audience Guidelines

NorthStar Athletic team asks that parents keep the following guidelines in mind when attending student games:

- Always hold your child accountable to the NorthStar Code of Conduct.
- Support your student by attending games whenever possible. Embrace that this is your student's journey, not yours. Do not live vicariously through them and focus on being a supportive parent/guardian.
- Be supportive of the coaches and all other players; exhibit a positive attitude around the players and other parents/guardians
- Be respectful of officials and other teams' fans.
- NorthStar has a zero-tolerance policy for abusive language, vulgarity, and constant negative remarks to game officials, students, or opposing team parents
- If you have any concerns with a coach, your student, or another student, we ask that you speak privately with the coach or Athletic Team AFTER games or practices.

Stay Connected with NorthStar

Website

Visit our website (www.northstar360.org) to learn about our events, read our most up-to-date news releases, or download documents. Visit the FAQ (www.northstar360.org/faq) page for specific program resources and information that help your student be successful here at NorthStar.

Facebook

Follow us at: <http://www.facebook.com/northstar360> Learn more about day-to-day programs, see pictures of the boys, leave comments, and hit the "Like" button if you like what you see.

Remind

Communication App- stay up to date on safety/ health notifications, events, closures, and more!

X

You can also follow NorthStar activities on X at @nstar360.

Instagram

We are now on Instagram! You can follow us @nstar360.

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 402.614.6360

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 northstar360.org
