



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOOL OF OPTIONS AND APPLIED RESEARCH HS

MISSION AND VALUES

MISSION: To cultivate independent lifelong learners through customized learning experiences and strong personal relationships.



VALUES:

Promote student, family, and community engagement.

Develop students that are college/career and life ready by preparing them academically and socially to make positive contributions to an ever changing global society.

Demonstrate student ownership and choice in learning pathways which may include Project Based Learning, seminars, online classes, NPHS courses & field studies.

Encourage students to take risks in a safe environment and accept failure as a part of the learning experience.

NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION:

The Northland Pines Community guarantees rigor, relevance, and relationships to prepare all learners for life.

NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION:

All learners will thrive in inclusive and welcoming environments.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| BACKGROUND | 3 |
| YEAR IN REVIEW | 4 |
| ANNUAL ENROLLMENT | |
| STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS | |
| ALTERNATE ACCOUNTABILITY | |
| STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT | |
| GRADUATION 2024 | |
| FINANCIALS | 10 |
| ANNUAL BUDGET | |
| FUNDRAISING & GRANTS | |
| LEARNING EXPERIENCES | 12 |
| LEARNING CYCLES & SEMINARS | |
| ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, EXTRACURRICULARS & COMPETITIONS | |
| EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING | |

BACKGROUND

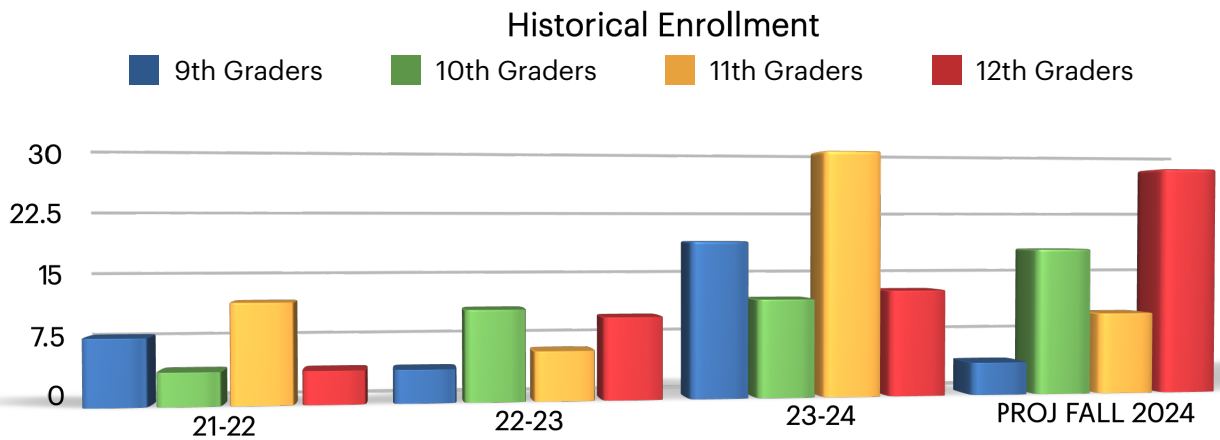
The School of Options and Applied Research (SOAR) High School was established in the fall of 2015 partly to provide an optional continuum for students from SOAR MS and partly to ensure all Northland Pines students have an alternative option to the traditional high school format. Enrollment is open to students entering grades 9 through 12. The School of Options and Applied Research HS is led by a Principal and supported by additional staff from the district, and is located on the Eagle River campus in a building shared with the Eagle River Elementary School. Because high school offers many opportunities for students to set goals and achieve their dreams and because the combination of academic classes, extracurricular activities and social interactions play crucial roles in helping them define who they are and what they want to be, the close proximity to Northland Pines HS ensures student access to all of these important aspects of the high school experience. This annual report is an attempt to share what the year at SOAR HS was like. If you have any questions or comments about this report or SOAR HS please feel free to contact Harlan Leusink, the School of Options and Applied Research Principal at hleusink@npsd.k12.wi.us. The best way to learn more about The School of Options and Applied Research HS is to come and visit, we welcome you all!



YEAR IN REVIEW

ENROLLMENT

SOAR HS had an enrollment of approximately 80 students during the 23/24 school year. Throughout the year we had some fluctuations in and out as students moved from the district to other locations/states. The introduction of Personalized Learning Plans(PLP) as well as credit recovery pathways at SOAR HS makes enrollment a constantly changing figure. The number of in-person SOAR HS students stayed around 55 student for the school year. Projected enrollment for Fall 2024 is currently 60 students. This includes 4 Freshman, 18 Sophomores, 10 Juniors, and 28 Seniors. These numbers will likely increase as we get closer to the school year with new families enrolling and current NPHS students choosing SOAR HS as an option.



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

One of the of School of Options and Applied Research HS’s original goals was to have demographics reflective of the NPSD district and avoid a homogenous student pool. While our population does not precisely mirror Northland Pines High School, we have historically been very close in many regards. Two areas where we see considerable difference between the two schools is the percentage of students with disabilities as well as the number of students who come from low income households. SOAR HS has a large percentage of students from both of those categories. The attendance rate at SOAR HS is also an area where see a significant difference from the rest of the district. While there was improvement this year, SOAR HS students still have an attendance rate that is significantly lower than the rest of the district.

| School | % of Students with Disabilities | Rate of Attendance | Low Socioeconomic Status |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| School of Options and Applied Research HS | 17% | 89.6% | 59% |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Northland Pines HS | 10% | 93.3% | 42% |
|--------------------|-----|-------|-----|

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

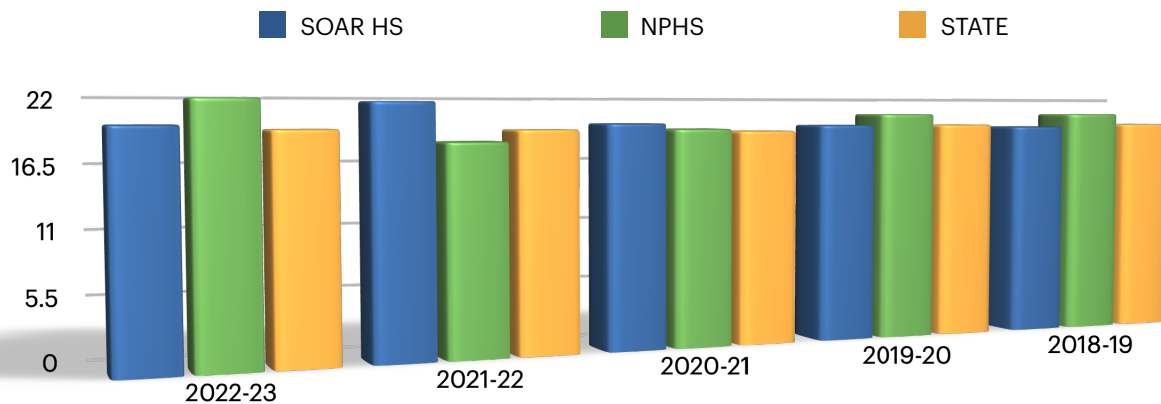
The School of Options and Applied Research HS is a public charter school in which all students have the ability to enroll.

State Testing: All students at the School of Options and Applied Research HS participate in state required testing. Only some of the results from these tests are available at the time of this report and all data will be shared publicly on the NPSD Website when released. At the 9th grade level, students must complete PreACT Secure (a change from the previous ACT Aspire). In the 10th grade students complete the preACT Secure and the Forward Social Studies. At the 11th grade level, students complete the ACT.

ACT

The ACT contains four multiple-choice tests in English, mathematics, reading, and science in addition to a writing test. These tests are designed to measure skills that are most important for success in post-secondary education and that are acquired in secondary education. In writing the highest score is a 12 and in all areas the highest score is a 36. Data for the 2023-2024 school year is still embargoed but data for the previous years has been included. Please note that the small size of the School of Options and Applied Research HS annual testing groups makes it difficult to directly compare to either the state averages or Northland Pines High School.

History of Average Composite ACT Scores for 11th Grade Students



Both 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 data redacted - only 1 student tested at SOAR HS in each of those years.

PRE ACT SECURE

Freshman and Sophomores at SOAR HS are required to take the PRE ACT Secure standardized assessment. Students at SOAR HS had an average composite score of 16.4 during the 22-23 school year. This was compared to an average composite score of 17.2 at NPHS. We use these scores as just one data point to tell us where a student is at. Some of our students do better on the state assessments while others do better with our local assessments. Taking all of these data points into account can help us determine how best to help each student.

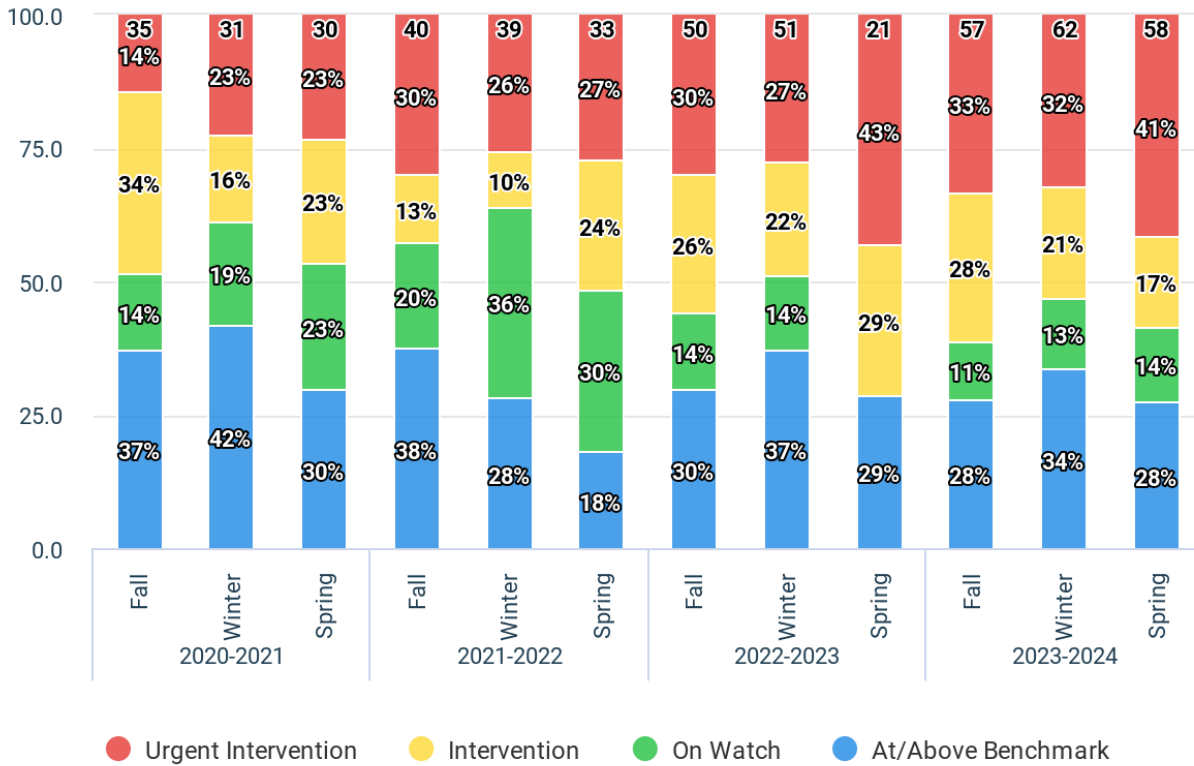
WISCONSIN FORWARD EXAM

This 10th grade only spring test is designed to gauge how well students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards in Social Studies. The test is scored in five areas (Behavioral Sciences, Economics, Political Science & Citizenship, History and Geography) and students receive proficiency ratings of Advanced, Proficient, Basic or Below Basic in each of those areas. State reporting indicates overall proficiency (the percentage of students scoring either Advanced or Proficient).

District Testing: All 9th and 10th grade students also participate in district STAR testing in the areas of reading comprehension and mathematics up to three times per school year. Each year, the School of Options and Applied Research HS sets a goal aimed at increasing the scores of students whose baseline is in the lowest level on the fall assessment.

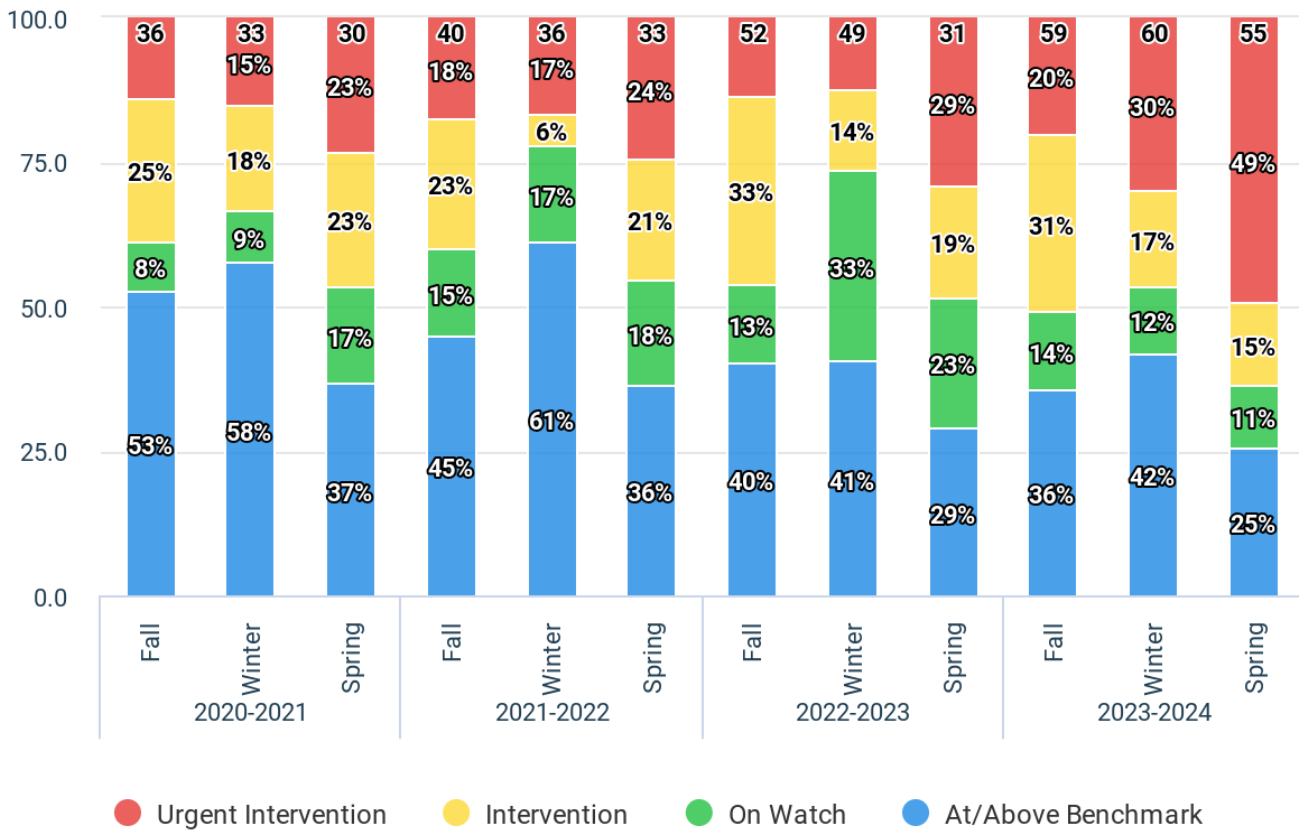
LITERACY (READING COMPREHENSION)

SOAR HS had a goal for 75% of students to increase their literacy composite score by the spring test. 50% of students increased their score at some point during the school year. One thing we need to work on with students is sharing the “why” and the value behind some of these assessments. There was a fair amount of assessment fatigue towards the end of the year with some students questioning the value. As a result, we saw some irregularity with some of their scores. The graph below shows the STAR Reading score over the past few years.



MATHEMATICS

In Math, we had a goal that 80% of students would increase their composite score by the spring assessment. 46% of our students showed growth at some point during the school year. However, we did see some of the same irregularities with math that we did in language with some students showing lower scores on the spring assessment. This is a trend we will have to continue to work on with students in future years. The chart below shows the history of STAR Math scores over the past few years.



ALTERNATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Because School of Options and Applied Research HS hasn't met the requirements (testing pool of at least 20 Full Academic Year students) to be considered for a DPI report card, each year an Alternate School Accountability Determination form has been submitted to the DPI detailing specific goals and outcomes in three Priority Performance Areas: Literacy, Mathematics and On-Track for Success. Our school was then categorized as "Alternate Rating - Needs Improvement" if one or more of the performance areas was rated as Declining or "Alternate Rating - Satisfactory Progress" if all three of the performance areas were rated as Maintaining or Improving. Previous ratings are summarized in the chart below.

| School Year | Alternate Rating | # FAY | Notes |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------|---|
| 2015-2016 | Satisfactory Progress | 7 | |
| 2016-2017 | Needs Improvement | 9 | Alternate Accountability form not submitted |
| 2017-2018 | Satisfactory Progress | 16 | |
| 2018-2019 | Satisfactory Progress | 13 | |
| 2019-2020 | No Accountability Reports | 24 | waived due to COVID-19 |
| 2020-2021 | Satisfactory Progress | 31 | |
| 2021-2022 | Satisfactory Progress | 28 | |
| 2022-2023 | Satisfactory Progress | | |

GRADUATION 2024

The Class of 2024 was the sixth graduating class of School of Options and Applied Research HS and included 17 members. Eleven of the seventeen completed SOAR HS graduation requirements and the final six completed GEDO2 graduation requirements to earn their diploma. The GEDO2 route is just one pathway for our students. This pathway gives students who are severely credit deficient a realistic path to a diploma through a combination of traditional credit and equivalency pathways through Nicolet College. This group of graduating seniors included those bound for college, technical schools, military, as well as those going straight into the workforce.



FINANCIALS

ANNUAL BUDGET

In each fiscal year, the School of Options and Applied Research HS is allocated an annual budget for expenditures. Below is the history of the full year activity for each of the preceding years as well as the upcoming year's planned budget. The largest change is in the account designated for PLP courses, which

we pay per course to an outside vendor. We have around 10 full time PLP students that take these courses. Some in-person SOAR HS students take these courses as well for a variety of different reasons.

| Fd T Loc Obj Func Prj | Obj | Func | 2018-19 FY Activity | 2019-20 FY Activity | 2020-21 FY Activity | 2021-22 FY Activity | 2022-23 FY Activity | 2023-24 Budget | 2023-24 FY Activity | Budget Request |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10 E 650 310 240000 000 | PURCHASED SERVI | SCHOOL BLDG ADM | | | | | 600.00 | 750.00 | 16.00 | 250.00 |
| 10 E 650 341 256770 000 | PUPIL TRAVEL | FIELD TRIPS | | | | | | | | |
| 10 E 650 342 110000 000 | EMPLOYEE TRAVEL | UNDIFFERENT CUR | 825.55 | 151.00 | | | 310.00 | | | |
| 10 E 650 342 240000 000 | EMPLOYEE TRAVEL | SCHOOL BLDG ADM | 252.19 | | | | | 500.00 | | 500.00 |
| 10 E 650 351 231000 000 | ADVERTISING | BOARD OF EDUCAT | | | | | | 300.00 | 280.59 | 350.00 |
| 10 E 650 360 110000 000 | TECH & SOFTWARE | UNDIFFERENT CUR | | | | | | | | |
| 10 E 650 389 431000 000 | PYMTS - TECH CO | GEN TUIT-NON OE | | | | | | | 1,411.92 | |
| 10 E 650 410 110000 000 | SUPPLIES | UNDIFFERENT CUR | 2,908.20 | 1,994.09 | 1,933.24 | 1,994.36 | 2,197.28 | 2,500.00 | 1,641.81 | 2,500.00 |
| 10 E 650 410 213200 000 | SUPPLIES | GUIDANCE | | | | | | | | |
| 10 E 650 410 231000 000 | SUPPLIES | BOARD OF EDUCAT | 17.63 | | | 55.21 | | 75.00 | 23.65 | 50.00 |
| 10 E 650 410 232200 000 | SUPPLIES | COMMUNITY RELAT | 405.60 | 297.66 | 509.93 | 454.49 | 243.96 | | | 350.00 |
| 10 E 650 410 240000 000 | SUPPLIES | SCHOOL BLDG ADM | 203.14 | | | | | 500.00 | 699.37 | 1,000.00 |
| 10 E 650 415 110000 000 | FOOD | UNDIFFERENT CUR | 241.83 | 40.75 | 159.79 | 394.38 | 266.63 | 400.00 | 497.34 | 500.00 |
| 10 E 650 417 110000 000 | PAPER | UNDIFFERENT CUR | | | 49.20 | 50.62 | 125.87 | 155.00 | 155.00 | 396.00 |
| 10 E 650 551 110000 000 | EQUIP/VEH NON D | UNDIFFERENT CUR | 3,997.34 | 3,999.99 | 3,920.39 | 4,298.56 | 12,533.60 | 5,000.00 | 1,823.43 | 2,500.00 |
| 10 E 650 551 240000 000 | EQUIP/VEH NON D | SCHOOL BLDG ADM | 253.51 | | | | | 2,000.00 | 399.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 10 E 650 940 110000 000 | FEES | UNDIFFERENT CUR | 35.00 | | | | | 800.00 | 30,326.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 10 E 650 940 240000 000 | FEES | SCHOOL BLDG ADM | | | | | | | | |
| 10 E 650 389 431000 000 | PYMTS - TECH CO | GEN TUIT-NON OE | 7,327.90 | 301.74 | 249.50 | 1,417.61 | 830.16 | | 1,412.40 | 1,600.00 |
| | | | 16,467.89 | 6,483.49 | 6,572.55 | 7,247.62 | 16,277.34 | 12,980.00 | 37,274.11 | 25,996.00 |

FUNDRAISING & GRANTS

In addition to the annual district budget, SOAR HS relies on fundraising and grants to provide all students with opportunities for expeditions and additional experiences. This year, SOAR HS applied for a number of grants which we were awarded and we raised additional funds through various activities. Some of the grants awards to SOAR HS were the Great World Text Stipend, Carl Perkins, and the VINE grant. The Great World Text grant was used to send a group of students to Madison for the Great World Text conference where our students presented their projects. The Carl Perkins funds were used to purchase a laser engraver for SOAR HS. This machine is used in our innovation lab and both students and staff use it for various projects. Some of the first projects were to create signage to mark trails in the NPSD school forest.

For fundraising, we again sold yearbook ads to businesses/organizations and held the haunted hike at the school forest for Halloween. SOAR HS students and advisors were the videographer team to capture the Chain O Dance recital this year, but also the Silver Blades ice show as well. In addition, small vinyl projects were completed which earned additional funds. We have several students interested in creating a small business for their "Senior Legacy" in the upcoming year where they will use the machines in the innovation lab to create custom products for order by students, staff, and family members. SOAR HS ended the year with \$8,590 in our fundraising account. In 24/25, we would like to expand our options for outside the wall and exploratory learning with students. Some of our demographics make it difficult for students to attend overnight trips, so we are looking for more local opportunities. These will be more cost-effective and we hope to get more student interest in attending these kind of activities.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

TRIMESTERS & HEADRUSH

The School of Options and Applied Research HS entered year two with using Headrush as our Learning Management System to gather student evidence of learning. Advisors continued to expand course offerings in Headrush. With the large growth in the number of students at SOAR, we also had a large number of students who needed to learn Headrush for the first time. Another change this year is that Trimesters were introduced at the high school level. This was a big change for both teachers and students. While the introduction of Trimesters mean more opportunities for students and longer class periods, there was also an increase to our credit requirement for graduation as well as an additional transition period for students during the school year. These were challenges we worked through during the 23/24 school year and look forward to entering 24/25 with that experience.

SEMINARS

The following is the (mostly complete) list of seminars that students took advantage of in the 2023-2024 school year.

HEALTH

ICIVICS/HAMILTON

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT - HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

GLOBAL DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL ACTION

HOLOCAUST AND OTHER GENOCIDES

FORMATION OF CIVILIZATIONS

CREATIVE WRITING 1, 2 AND 3

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - LANGUAGE 1

HAMLET

THE TIME MACHINE

THE HATE U GIVE

GREAT WORLD TEXTS: THE LOST CHILDREN ARCHIVE

ENGINEERING TOMORROW

LEADERSHIP

LIFE SCIENCE 1, 2, 3 AND 4

CHANCES/CHOICES GENETICS PORTFOLIO

HOT AIR BALLOONS AND ROLLAR COASTERS

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 1, 2, 3, AND 4

WOLVES OF ISLE ROYALE

CHAMPIONS OF THE LAND - MAN VS NATURE

WISCONSIN MARITIME HISTORY

AQUACULTURE CHALLENGE

FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA 1

ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

CREATING THE SENIOR LEGACY TED TALK

PERSONAL FINANCE

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, EXTRACURRICULARS & COMPETITIONS

Students are continuously encouraged to find additional paths and opportunities to have experiences outside of the classroom and document learning. This year was no exception as students participated in a myriad of these events. Students at SOAR HS can participate in any of the activities available to NPHS students. With our expanded population this year, we were able to see a more diverse set of activities that our students participated in.

**ONE ACT PLAY
NPHS MUSICAL
COLLEGE COMPETITION DAY
BASKETBALL
SOFTBALL
DOWNHILL SKIING**

**GNC HONORS BAND AND CHOIR FESTIVAL
ENGINEERING TOMORROW
TRAP CLUB
TRACK
FOOTBALL**

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Students and advisors were tired of desks and devices. With the challenges presented over the past two years and the transformation of access to learning all schools have faced, the momentum we built in 2019 was quickly turned into efforts to make sure our students continued to connect with their learning in new and creative ways. Now that we have a better understanding of how we can all continue to grow in this new world post-pandemic we're ready to build back the momentum and excel with expeditionary learning. Students are encouraged to include hands-on activities that also bring small and large groups to locations that will enrich their learning as well as model for them learning activities that continue outside the classroom and into their lifelong learning goals. Our primary goal for expeditionary learning this year was to work on getting out of the building whenever possible.

**SPRING GREEN
ESCANABA LAKE EXPEDITION
BLACKWELL CAREER DAY**

**GREAT WORLD TEXTS CONFERENCE
WISCONSIN RIVER CLEANUP
COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY**