



School of Options and Applied Research

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

Mrs. Ann Perry, Advisor  
Mr. David Strong, Advisor



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



SOAR HS will:

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 PBL, 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.



SOAR HS is a member school of the Northland Pines School District and therefore students are expected to abide by all district policies. With this understanding and with the unique opportunity of participating in classes at Northland Pines HS, SOAR HS students are also bound to the NPHS Student Handbook. In an effort to simplify this handbook, only information and requirements that pertain directly to SOAR HS will be included.



## SCHEDULES & CLASSES

Students at SOAR HS may have a unique schedule. SOAR HS allows for a measure of flexibility and will work with the schedules of those students taking classes at NPHS in order to build our daily schedule with little to no disruption of the NPHS classes. SOAR HS will also set aside time daily for Advisory as well as Mathematics, with the remaining time in the day for students to work on projects, online coursework, participate in seminars, or work on other approved tasks. This means that each semester, although Advisory and Mathematics are “set” for SOAR HS, the remaining time in the day may have students coming and going from their NPHS classes in a fairly random fashion. As a result, there is not a common time planned as project time or as book study time, requiring students to manage their own time and be fairly self directed in their work, remembering that there is always an advisor to assist when necessary. ***Full commitment and participation is expected in all SOAR related activities including, but not limited to, the X-Blog, X-pedition Thursdays and Advisory.***

### ADVISORY

Students will have a class period per day set aside for Advisory. Depending on the activities of SOAR HS as a whole, Advisory may be held in individual Advisor groups or with the entire SOAR HS student body. Generally, Advisory follows a loose weekly schedule of X-Blog Updates on Mondays, Today's Topics & Broadcasts on Tuesdays and Team-Building on Fridays. The block day for Advisory is left open for addressing current needs, prepping for field studies, STEM work, and Seminars as well as accessing classroom teachers during Eagle Time at NPHS.

### MATHEMATICS

Students will have a class period per day set aside for approved mathematics curriculum. When working in any online program, it is expected that students log 5 hours of work time with the program each week beginning Monday morning and ending the following Sunday evening and maintain adequate pace - pacing guides will be provided to all students.

### PROJECT WORK

Students will be encouraged to stretch their projects to include multiple disciplines as well as pushing the boundaries from many typical research projects to the application of that research. For example, in order to earn life science credit, a student may choose a project on animal behavior and tracking during the winter months. To apply the research, students could partake in a DNR seminar to learn tracking skills and collect data. Another application (maybe a final product) could be to write and teach a winter ecology lesson to younger Pines students.

These extensions to the in-class research are what builds the interdisciplinary nature of project-based learning. In the short term, students can “get credit” in many areas at once. Again using the above example, if the students were to snowshoe or cross country ski to and from their tracking locations, they could log physical education hours for credit. They could also consider all of the time as part of their required volunteer hours as they are contributing to a state-wide survey for the DNR.

In the long run, these extensions are the building blocks for making connections in the community. This can be useful to help plan future job shadows, make discoveries about potential careers and network within our community.

## SEMINARS

Advisors will offer students the ability to earn additional credit through seminars. Seminar options will be made available periodically throughout the year and students may vote on which seminar(s) they would most like to see offered. Voting for and participation in seminars is completely optional, however if you agree to participate in a seminar, you must commit to all sessions.

The seminars will be offered at a time when a majority of interested students are able to meet, working around Mathematics and NPHS classes when possible. Depending on the content and instructor, seminars schedules are varied - some may run daily for 3 weeks, while others may meet only once a week but run for 9 weeks.

## LUNCH

SOAR HS students have a few lunch options.

- Students may get food from the NPHS cafeteria or they can bring/prepare food from home. There is a refrigerator and stove in the SOAR HS Union for this purpose.
- Students may choose to eat in the NPHS cafeteria or the SOAR HS Union. This choice can change daily, however once a student chooses to eat in one location, they should remain there for the duration of the lunch period.
- The lunch period is flexible (1st or 2nd lunch) depending on an individual's classes at NPHS. A student taking a NPHS course 5th hour (or 6th hour on the even block day) will have their lunch hour determined by the course instructor. Students may **not** elect to take two lunch periods per day!



## FIELD STUDIES

At SOAR HS, students will continue to participate in field studies organized/initiated by advisors including annual college/university campus visits. At the beginning of each year, students will be asked to take a "Annual Field Study Consent Form" as well as a "Transportation by Teacher Consent Form" home to be signed by a parent/guardian. These forms will replace individual permission forms for each field study but advisors will be sure to share information for field studies in a timely manner. Aside from teacher initiated field studies, students are highly encouraged to plan for and incorporate individual field studies as they pertain to project work.



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SOAR HS students will need 26 credits and meet other requirements listed below to earn a SOAR HS Diploma from the Northland Pines School District. Students will be able to participate in the Northland Pines School District High School Graduation Ceremony.

### EARNING CREDIT

Credits are the recognized method throughout the country to show proficiency in certain topics. At SOAR HS, students will earn a majority of their credits by completing approved projects.

- Each time a student earns a **Proficient** or **Advanced** mark on two Standards or one Learning Target in the same subject area, they earn  $\frac{1}{4}$  credit in that subject. Alternately, a student who earns Basic + in standards may earn credit with a mark of **Complete**<sup>1</sup>.
- Early on, individual projects may not meet all aspects of a particular Standard or Learning Target and therefore not count towards credit *initially*. However, seminars and additional projects completed at a later time may help a student meet that in a cumulative effect. Therefore, students can expect to “snowball” their credit acquisition; laying the groundwork and foundation of evidence of learning targets in their 9th and 10th grade years to build up momentum in their 11th and 12th grade years. ***It will typically take multiple projects to complete one credit.***

If a college requires letter grades, students will earn a B for Proficient and an A for Advanced. If a student has only earned a Complete mark on standards for a class, the equivalent letter grade will be a C. A student earning a Pass in a Pass/Fail scale will earn a Complete score.

### REQUIRED CREDITS

The 26 credits required can be earned through projects, advisory, NPHS classes (up to 2 credits per year), seminars, online coursework, field studies and college classes. Students need:

Credits To Graduate:	
Language Arts	4 credits
Reading	2 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
Health	0.5 credit
Technology	1 credit
Electives	6.5 credits
School To Work Shadow	1 credit
Senior Capstone Project	1 credit
	<b>26 credits</b>

<sup>1</sup> New change beginning with the 2016-2017 School Year.

Minimum credits outside of projects expected to be earned each year (for a total 3½ credits) include:

- Mathematics: 1 credit
- Language Arts: Writing & Oration: 1 credit
- Reading: Reading & Research: ½ credit
- Technology: ¼ credit
- Job Shadow/School To Work: ¼ credit
- Electives: Advisory: ¼ credit
- Physical Education: ¼ credit (*High School athletics can be used to meet this requirement: 1 sport season will equal ¼ credit.*)

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Students will complete two full day job shadows each year for grades 9, 10 and 11.
- Student will complete 20 hours of community service each year for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.
- Students will complete a minimum of 1 online course.
- Students will apply to and show acceptance at a college, post high school program or the military (need not attend).
- Students will pass the National Civics Test.

### **SCOPE AND SEQUENCE**

Students and advisors will work together to maintain an updated scope and sequence documenting student progress towards standard acquisition and credit completion. The student may choose to update a paper document which would be kept in the student binder. The advisor will keep a digital copy updated. This digital copy will be available to students and parents at all times and will be used as a reporting tool for report cards.



## **BASE CAMP**

This location is the primary setting and workspace for students at SOAR HS. Each underclassmen has a workspace in Base Camp as well as two lockers for storage. One should hold a change of clothes and outdoor wear/gear for inclement weather as well as tennis shoes, socks, shorts and a t-shirt for physical education opportunities. Students are expected to keep areas they've used cleaned up and to refrain from using the common areas and classrooms as a storage location for class or project materials.

## **VOYAGUER CAMP / RESEARCH RETREAT**

This room contains the workspaces for our seniors and a small group classroom space in the front of the room. This back of the room houses our library of reference materials as well as a discussion area.

## **STEM LAB & CRITTERS**

This area is a classroom and laboratory space dedicated to STEM studies. It will also house all of our school animals. Please do not feed any of the animals unless asked to be in charge of this task. Please do not handle the critters at SOAR HS unless you've received permission and have a release form (signed by a parent/guardian) on file.

## **SOAR HS UNION**

The Union is a community location and receives the most use of any of our rooms. Students may bring in food/snacks to be stored in the Union in their cabinet bins but should label items with their name if going in the refrigerator. Students should not consume any food/drink items from the Union area unless they brought the item or the item was offered by the owner. There is a full kitchen for student use in preparation of food and each student is responsible for washing their own dishes and utensils ***IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE***.

## **ART OUTPOST**

The Art Outpost is a location for products to be created and stored. Students not cleaning up after themselves and returning materials to their proper locations will not be allowed to utilize this room. Higher quality art supplies will be available on a check out basis.

## **STUDENT SUMMIT & SOAR HS OFFICE**

These areas house a conference room and an office space. The Student Summit can be used as a quiet location for recording as needed but will not be open at all times. Student Led Conferences will be held in this location as well.

School of Options  
and  
Applied Research



# STUDENT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

2018-2019 School Year Review of Handbook

Print Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_