



2017-2018

Annual Report

1800 Pleasure Island Road

Eagle River, WI 54521

www.npsd.k12.wi.us



The School of Options and Applied Research High School (SOAR HS) opened its doors in the Fall of 2015. SOAR HS was created following the creation of SOAR Middle School two years previous by a committee of over 30 members made up of school staff, community members and parents looking at ways to improve student learning within the Northland Pines School District. The work of the committee, the success of SOAR MS, and the support of the Northland Pines School District and its Board have made the dream of SOAR HS

come true. 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 Carie Brock, SOAR HS Principal, at cbrock@npsd.k12.wi.us or 715-891-0136. The best way to learn more about SOAR HS is to come and visit, we welcome you all!

MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

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 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.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

SOAR HS opened in the Fall of 2017 with 17 students. We went up and down during the year and ended with 31 students accessing SOAR HS for at least 1 hour or more per week. SOAR HS is comprised of students in grades 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. At the time of this publication we are expecting to open in the Fall of 2018 with nearly 30 students. The following chart summarizes the demographics of the students attending SOAR HS as of June 2018:

Grade	Number of students	Females	Males	Students that transferred to SOAR HS during the school year:

8	5	2	3	We started the year with 1 eighth grader. We gained 1 girl from SOAR MS in October, 2 boys from NPMS in November, and 1 girl from Three Lakes in January.
9	8	5	3	
10	10	8	2	We started the year with 7 tenth graders. We supported 3 additional girls during the year on a very limited basis from NPHS (started in October), the foreign exchange program, and the Phoenix Center .
11	8	5	3	We started the year with 5 eleventh graders. During the year we gained 2 females in January (1 was very limited support) and 1 male in February.
TOTAL	31	20	11	(8 students transferred in to SOAR HS during the year)

Charter schools often get characterized for taking all the “leaders” or the “high achieving” students of the district. SOAR HS’s goal was to have similar demographics reflective of the NPSD district and avoid a homogenous student pool. While SOAR HS population does not precisely mirror Northland Pines High School, we are close in achieving that goal in terms of students with disabilities, those who qualify for free and reduced lunch, and attendance rates (see chart). Even though there is not a category for at risk students, SOAR HS would have a higher population of students that fit that category than NPHS. In the end SOAR HS had no set template of what a SOAR HS student is except they all have one thing in common, they all wanted to be at SOAR HS. Coming to SOAR HS by choice is something they all accept and feel makes them unique and part of the SOAR HS family!

School	% of Students with Disabilities	% of Students with Free and Reduced Lunch Status	Rate of Attendance
SOAR HS	11%	44%	94%
NPHS	13%	37%	94%

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is a huge part of having a 21st century learner and growing young students into young adults. At SOAR HS students were required to complete 20 hours of community service every

semester and 15 hours over the summer. Many of the students found a passion for service completing many more hours than required. Some key places students donated time were, the Vilas County Animal Shelter, Relay for Life, elementary classrooms, churches, neighbors and other civic organizations.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

SOAR HS is a public charter school and all students are open and have the ability to enroll. All students at SOAR HS participate in some form of state required testing (see chart below). Only some of the results from these tests were available at the time of this report. All data will be shared publicly on the NPSD Website.

Grade	Wisconsin State Exam	Expected Exam Results
8	Forward Exam: ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies	Summer 2018
9	ACT Aspire Early High School Assessment (summative assessment that measures English, Reading, Math, Science, and Writing)	June 2018
10	Forward Exam: Social Studies ACT Aspire Early High School Assessment (summative assessment that measures English, Reading, Math, Science, and Writing)	Summer 2018 June 2018
11	ACT with writing (summative assessment that measures Reading, Math, English, Science, Writing) ACT Workkeys (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents)	June 2018 June 2018

The following charts represent the summative results we have received so far for the 11th grade ACT Assessment and the 9th/10th grade ACT Aspire Assessments:

% Percent of 11th Grade Students Who Met Benchmarks on ACT Assessment						
	# of	English	Math	Reading	Science	Met All

	Students Tested					Four
SOAR HS	6	50	17	50	17	17
State	63,872	52	37	36	33	22

Average ACT Scores for 11th Grade Students						
	# of Students Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Met All Four
SOAR HS	6	19.8	17.0	20.0	18.5	19.0
State	63,872	18.8	19.9	19.9	20.2	19.8

Subject Proficiency by Grade Level for ACT Aspire Assessment					
	# of Students Tested	English	Reading	Science	Math
Grade 9	7	86%	43%	43%	28%
Grade 10	7	58%	57%	28%	14%



FIELD STUDIES

Field Studies play a very important role in SOAR HS's vision/mission. If SOAR HS truly believes that learning can and should take place outside our school walls then that needs to be modeled. One distinction that needs to be made is that a field study is quite different than your average field trip. A field study almost always has an expert involved from outside of the SOAR HS staff. Field Studies typically require prep by the students, work while at the study and reflection upon return or shortly after. We have a goal of attending at least one college campus per year and we were able to do that this year. Below is a list of some of the field studies attended in 2017/18:

Kich-iti-kipi

Northern Michigan University

Eagle Bluff

Bay Beach

NPSD School Forest

If would like to see pictures of these trips please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NPSDSOARHS/>

The trip to Eagle Bluff was probably the biggest highlight of the year for students and staff. The trip was about learning; however it was done in the Fall to really set the school up for a good year as many of the activities also emphasized teamwork. The students did have to fundraise as the trip cost more to stay overnight, drive to Minnesota, and the activities. Students shared their experiences with the Northland Pines Charter School Governance Board and all want to go back next school year!

On these field studies people gave up their businesses time and/or resources to have our students come. SOAR HS and its students owe a huge thank you to all the people who make these field studies happen.

STUDENT SURVEY

Students have played a significant role in the success of SOAR HS. Students at SOAR HS are given a lot of responsibilities and have high expectations put upon them. With this comes the ability of the SOAR HS staff to listen and create opportunities for students to give feedback. One way this was done was through student surveys. We gave a student survey this year and had 18 students respond. A survey gives staff and the governance board the ability to reflect on what has worked and what changes

we need moving forward. There is a lot to think about and look at in this survey. Here are a few answers that stand out:

- 100% of the students agree or strongly agree that the project workload at SOAR HS is manageable.
- 100% of students feel they receive feedback on all phases of project work in a timely manner.
- 89% of the students feel they are allowed to demonstrate learning in a variety of ways.
- 78% of the students agree or strongly agree that they feel challenged at SOAR HS.
- 89% of the students agree or strongly agree that they feel comfortable sharing ideas with the advisors.
- 95% of the students agree or strongly agree that they feel valued as a person at SOAR HS.



FINANCIALS

SOAR HS has relied on the support of the Northland Pines School District. As a school we need to supplement our Field Studies and this year we did a catalog fundraiser, joined SOAR MS in selling pasties, and also hosted a Book Fair for Eagle River Elementary School. The sustainability of SOAR HS is in good shape as long as the enrollment continues to grow and a high level of quality education can be sustained.

SUMMARY

Year three for SOAR HS was focused on continuing to make improvements based on challenges and successes of the first two years. Some of the areas that we focused on for improvement were: analyzing and updating how credits are issued; building relationships; and continuing to improve the project process.

SOAR HS spent quite a bit of the year focused around culture and atmosphere. One major change that positively impacted the culture was the transition to the ERES building. SOAR HS now has its own space, entrance, and student union! The students and advisors shared a noticeable improvement in the dynamics of the school and atmosphere having a unique space, separate from the traditional school setting. However, even with the new space, SOAR HS's atmosphere continues to be impacted by many variables. One challenge that we continue to struggle with is students taking classes at the NPHS or NPMS and not being together as a group during the day. SOAR HS really only had one period out of eight that all students were together. It can be challenging to address the group, maintain clear communications, and teambuild when only a portion of the students are in the school at any given hour.

Significant accomplishments happened in year three. SOAR HS positively impacted many students both academically and socially. Enrollment is higher than it's ever been! Veteran students have become proficient in Project-Based Learning (PBL) and have completed both teacher and student-designed projects. New students showed great growth and understanding in PBL as the year went on. By the end of year 3, we had a clearer vision of what SOAR HS is and where we are headed. SOAR HS has been able to participate in many outstanding field studies and has taken full advantage of the great outdoor environment in which we live. SOAR HS students successfully participated in many outside of the classroom experiences including: musicians at NPHS Music Concerts; significant roles in NPSD musicals, plays, and community performances; and members of NPSD and local sports teams.

On a final note, schools are only as successful as the staff that is in place. SOAR HS's successes can directly be tied to the fantastic staff. Becky Liu, Ann Perry and Dave Strong really took the challenges of year three and made SOAR HS better during the 2017/18 school year. Their ability to teach, hard work, passion, and also trying to better the attitudes with students, parents and community members, makes SOAR HS a special place for students!

FUTURE

As SOAR HS looks to the future and specifically the 2018/19 school year a few goals stand out.

1. Create and live by a clear mission & vision
2. Creating a school that is closer to personalized learning than PBL only
3. Prepare for our first class of SOAR HS graduates!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Any organization can only be as successful as its leadership. SOAR HS is fortunate to have a group of individuals that have the vision and passion to see SOAR HS get off the ground and move to a sustainable school that will impact students for many years to come. The NPSD Charter Governance Board is a key aspect to the success of SOAR HS and the students and families of SOAR HS owe these board members a big thank you for the job they have done and continue to do moving forward.

LIST OF MEMBERS

- President – Jessica Chuckel
- Vice President - Betty Wright
- Secretary – Stephanie Feckett
- Member – Sherrill Mayoh
- Member – Karen Weber-Mendham
- Member-- Natalie Spiess
- Member-- Jennifer Jefferson

