

Star of the North Academy Independent Charter School District #4224

2020-2021 Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement November 2021



Star of the North Academy provides a caring, structured, nurturing environment; collaborative instruction from educators skilled in best teaching practices, maintains high expectations of students and staff, and motivates and engages students and staff in a safe environment of continuous learning and celebration of success.

SNA Mission Statement

Special Note on the 2020-2021 School Year

Due to the continued COVID 19 Pandemic and the Governor's orders to have plans to shift learning from in person to hybrid to distance as COVID infection numbers necessitated, we experienced another year of disruption to the typical learning and teaching that takes place at SNA. We started the year in hybrid, moved to distance in October and returned to in person in April. Student, families and teachers did their best to maintain structured learning routines and school traditions, but it was a very challenging year. The results of student growth, proficiency and instructional productivity must be viewed in the context of a school year like no other. We laughed, cried, learned, instructed and most importantly persevered. We have become a stronger school community because of the challenges we overcame. This annual report is a reflection of that.

INTRODUCTION

This annual report is presented to Novations Educational Opportunities (NEO), Star of the North Academy's authorizer, in fulfillment of the requirement of public charter schools set forth by the Minnesota Department of Education. It is also intended to provide information to the staff and families of Star of the North Academy, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the general public. Star of the North Academy is committed to providing a quality, child-focused educational program for all students. The staff collaboratively works to ensure that students receive a balanced education that includes academic achievement, physical growth, and social emotional learning. Individual student progress is measured and documented through formal and informal classroom assessments and used as a tool to develop instructional strategies. Achievement is reported in a variety of ways to parents and stake holders. Star of the North Academy uses NWEA-Measures of Academic progress, the FASTBridge aReading and aMath standardized tests, end of the term comprehensive exams and Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

SPONSOR/AUTHORIZER INFORMATION

Star of the North Academy is pleased to have the opportunity to function under the authorization of NEO and we look forward to many years of successful operation under their guidance and support. We have been a charter school since the 2014-2015 school year. We recognize the strong support we have received from the community that had the original vision to create our school and the many who are still with us today. We are excited to welcome all of the new families who have joined us this year and look forward to continuing to emerge as the premiere charter school of the northern suburbs. We submit this Annual Report to NEO with gratefulness and in anticipation of many productive years to come. In the winter of the 2019-2020 school year, our contract with NEO was extended for another three years through the 2022 school year. Due to the disruption of the school year and the data collected, in September of 2021, NEO extended our charter agreement with them until June of 2023.

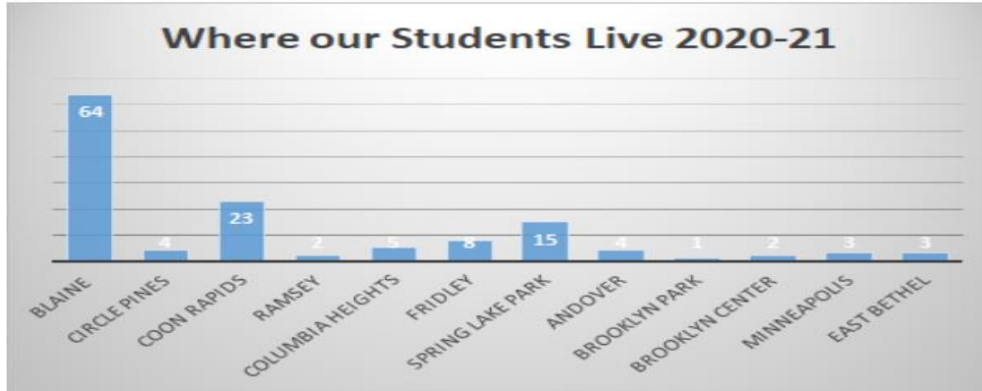
I. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

In 2020-2021 there were 128 students enrolled at Star of the North Academy at the end of the school year. Students were distributed into grade level classes as follows:

Grade Level Enrollment

Grade Level	Number of students	Number of boys	Number of girls
Kindergarten	12	9	3
First Grade	16	5	11
Second Grade	17	8	9
Third Grade	19	9	10
Fourth Grade	16	11	5
Fifth Grade	20	7	13
Sixth Grade	9	6	3
Seventh Grade	14	5	9
Eighth Grade	5	2	3
Total	128	62	66

As the graph indicates, our students reside in many different communities in the North Metro.



The following table provides demographic trends at the end of each year at Star of the North Academy.

<i>School Year</i>	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Male	82	86	74	74	63	62
Female	66	75	69	79	79	66
African American	69	75	67	79	57	64
Hispanic	0	0	1	1	0	1
Asian	26	24	26	24	29	22
White	53	62	49	49	40	39
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Free & Reduced Meals	94	120	94	122	100	98

Multilingual Learners	40	51	48	49	45	43
Special Education	1	4	11	16	11	7
End of Year Total Enrollment	148	161	143	153	142	128

II. STUDENT ATTRITION

We began the school year with an enrollment of 126 students. The year ended with 128 students. In the 6 years of operation, our student enrollment has fluctuated between 125 and 163

III. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

School Management

The Administrative Team in 2020-2021 includes the Principal, Operations Manager and Administrative Assistant. A system of checks and balances has been established for the financial accountability of the school. The School has received clean audits and exemplary operational management scores.

The Board of Directors’ primary responsibility is to provide supervision of the school’s Principal and their decisions focus on all dimensions of the school’s operation, including, but not limited to:

1. School philosophy, goals and objectives
2. School policy
3. Budget
4. Curriculum and instructional direction
5. Staffing
6. Long range planning
7. Communication (home, community, authorizer)
8. School enrollment and organization

The Star of the North Academy’s Board of Directors consists of the following voting members:

1. 1 teacher representative

2. 1 parent representative
3. 4 community representatives
4. One Ex-Officio member: school principal
5. 6 voting members total

The members of the Board of Directors serve 3 year renewable terms, with board elections taking place in May. In May of 2020, the school board held it election for the upcoming term. The 5 incumbent members were re-elected. There is still one board seat open.

The Board of Directors meets the third Thursday of the month. Special meeting days and times, as determined by the Board of Directors, are publicly posted and announced to parents, staff, and community.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Name	Email	Teacher File #	Board Position	Board Seat	Term
Javed Mohammad	mohammad@snacharterschool.org		President	Parent	6/30/20- 6/30/23
Ahmed Abuatieh	aabatieh@snacharterschool.org		Member	Community	6/30/20- 6/30/23
Abdul Khadeer	Akhadeer@snacharterschool.org		Vice President	Community	6/30/20- 6/30/23
Mohamed Omar	momar@snacharterschool.org		Member	Community	6/30/20- 6/30/23
Keely Dutcher	kshephard@snacharterschool.org	502282	Member	Teacher	6/30/20- 6/30/23

IV. STAFFING

CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	File/Folder #	Position	Years at SNA
Meaghan Kaufenburg	488555	KG teacher	5
Crystal King	495932	1 st grade teacher	5
Miranda Crockett	491440	2 nd grade teacher	6
Keely Dutcher	502282	3 rd grade teacher	4
Rachel Paulsen	489898	4 th grade teacher	3
Elizabeth Stadtherr	503731	5 th grade teacher	3
Julie Rydberg	326967	MS Math	2
Michelle Larson	501557	MS ELA	4
Katie Hunt	495707	MS Social Studies	3
Tammy Hoffmann	449125	SPED	4
Alicean Caskey	375263	ESL	5
James Harnett	466911	PE	6
Dr. Laila AbuHassoun	1002546	Arabic Teacher	2
Laura Montray	320779	RTI	3

Shaunna Kroska	501121	MS Science	2
Dawn Madland	346539	Principal	3

NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Walid Kandil	Operations Manager	7
Mariah Hoffman	School age childcare	1
Muna Ibrahim	SPED Para	1
Susan Wong	Admin Aisstant	1

Licensed teacher turnover rate:

2020-2021 = *All licensed staff returned.*

Staff Development

The theme for staff professional development of 2020-2021 school year was “Re-Imaging School”

This framework created the structure for in-service trainings, PLC meetings and personal professional development plans that all staff created as a means to grow professionally. During the August preservice, we focused on analyzing data, building a strong school community and the implementation of best instructional practice to move our academic performance forward. Staff Professional Development trainings included: social and emotional learning, Special Education Modifications, Engaging with Somali American families and students, working with Gifted and Talented Students.

In February staff received intensive training with MNMEEP (Minnesota Education Equity Partnership) on equity work. Our ESL teacher was trained to be an instructional coach through Hamline University’s ELM Project. (English Learners in the Mainstream). This was an opportunity to provide classroom teachers with extra support to provide ELL students with the best possible education in the mainstream classroom.

V. FINANCES

BerganKDV audited the school in September of 2020 after the finish of the 6th year of operation. According to the auditor's report, there were no control deficiencies, clean report in internal controls, and no material weaknesses. The audit reports were presented and approved by SNA Board and are submitted to Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Office of State Auditor.

VI. BOARD TRAINING

The SNA school board received the following board training during the 2020-2021 school year.

Date	Topic
September 17, 2020	Financial Oversight and Audits, KDVBergen
October 22, 2020	CARES and Federal COVID Funding
December 17, 2020	WBWF and Annual Report Requirements, MN Charter Board Training Site
June 2021	Board Development and Planning, MN Charter Board Training Site

VII. PRINCIPAL'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The principal has extensive experience in charter school administration. Ms. Madland has worked in various charter and public alternative schools to create learning environments where the learning needs of each individual child can be met. Through rigorous instruction, the use of data to increase student growth and by developing highly skilled teachers, she has been able to provide families with viable learning options for their children.

This past year, the principal's professional development plan included the following.

- Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Leaders Meetings
- A New Way Forward, Planning and Preparing to Lead this Fall
- MDE Back to School Conference
- School Law Seminar
- Blended and Online Learning Options, MDE
- 5 Practices for Equity-Focused Leadership, MDE
- Navigating all of the COVID Funding Training from MDE

We are submitting our Annual Report to our authorizer- Novation Educational Opportunities (NEO). We are grateful to the trust our families and the SNA community have placed in us to deliver a program of excellence to the students of the Star of the North Academy. We continue to strive to become the premier charter school in the north metro. By creating quality programing, innovative instruction and a commitment to meeting the needs of the whole learner, we fully believe we can achieve this status. We look forward to the opportunities for growth and enhanced success as we continue our partnership with NEO.