

Northstar
Middle School
PTSA
Annual Report
2022 - 2023



**Northstar Middle School
2022-2023 PTSA Executive Board
Every Child. One Voice.**

Co-Presidents:

Cindy Swing
Misty Schmidt

Secretary:

Heidi Frank

Treasurer:

Malissa Dahlstrom

Mini Grants:

Cindy Swing
Jenn Junker
Misty Schmidt

Parent Volunteer Coordinator:

Ashley Sinette
Joy Weisner

Membership:

Nicole Hoernke

Scrip:

Dorie Fink
Ashley Sinette

Staff & Bus Driver Appreciation Week:

Brook Berg
Mellina Simon
Joy Weisner

Sunshine Committee:

Malissa Dahlstrom
Cindy Swing
Brenda Xiong

Concessions:

Ryan West
Jade Peterson
Heidi Frank
Mellina Simon
Cindy Swing

Eighth Grade Celebration Picnic:

Brook Berg
Nicole Hoernke
Ashley Sinette
Joy Weisner

Partnership Coordinator:

Jenn Junker

Teacher Representatives:

Michelle Olson – 6th Grade
Brenda Xiong – 7th Grade
Meg Linder – 8th Grade

Student Representatives:

Aunika Geske
Bodhi Osborne
Amelia Rohlik

Northstar PTSA Ends Another Successful Year! - A Note from Your Co-Presidents

Thank you for your support this year, from volunteering, providing food at events, participating on a committee, supporting your student's learning at home, attending events, and so on! Northstar is a fantastic school, due in large part to our great family involvement.

Through the hard work of many, we exceeded our projected fundraising goal again this year. Our goal was to raise \$3,000.00 and we are happy to report we were able to raise \$6,195.20 – a total of \$2,895.20 more than originally planned. *Note, we earned an additional \$500 from our Culver's restaurant fundraiser that we have not had the opportunity to collect and deposit yet. The \$500 will increase our income.*

Much of these funds were raised through restaurant fundraisers, concessions, and our scrip program. Such success would not be possible without the support of many, many families. Thank you!

Throughout this report, we share the many programs and events that took place this year, and how our fundraising monies were used to support our school and students.

Thanks to the leadership and time volunteered by our PTSA executive board! Our programs would not exist without them! A special thank you to our outgoing board members, including Heidi Frank and Joy Weisner. We also appreciate the time that our FAC, teacher, and student representatives have given to successfully support our PTSA.

We invite and encourage you to attend our informative meetings scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year:

- ✓ Tuesday, August 8- Executive Board Meeting
- ✓ Tuesday, September 12- General Meeting
- ✓ Tuesday, October 10- Executive Board Meeting
- ✓ Tuesday, January 9 - Executive Board Meeting
- ✓ Tuesday, February 13- Executive Board Meeting
- ✓ Tuesday, April 9- General Meeting
- ✓ Tuesday, May 14- General/Executive Board Meeting & End of Year Celebration

Note: All meeting times are 6:30pm and held in the Commons (General Meetings) and staff lounge (Executive Board Meetings).

Once again, thank you for all that you do to help make Northstar a great school and for making a difference in the lives of children! Watch for our PTSA summer newsletter in your mailbox early August.

Sincerely,

Cindy Swing & Misty Schmidt
Co-Presidents

Concessions Committee

The concessions committee had another successful year with profits of \$2,026.90. This amount is over our anticipated earning goal of \$1,500.

Due to a snow day, the Forensics meet was cancelled, and we were unable to hold the concessions event for it. We had a great turn out for both the wrestling meet and track meet which helped us raise funds.

Thank you to all the concessions committee members who participated this year and were key to its success. The concessions committee members included Heidi Frank, Mellina Simon, Cindy Swing, Jade Peterson, Misty Schmidt, Jenn Junker, and Ryan West.

Submitted by:
Cindy Swing

SCRIP (Holiday and Season of Giving)

The Northstar PTSA Scrip Program allows people to order gift cards at face value (no markup). The retailers sell the cards to the PTSA at a discount, thus earning a “rebate” for the PTSA (the face value of the card minus the discount).

The program continued to include two seasonal opportunities for scrip.

- The **Holiday Scrip Program** allowed people to order gift cards for personal use.
- The **Season of Giving Scrip Program** allowed families to order gift cards for families in need – thus giving to another family AND providing rebate to the PTSA. This year, the Season of Giving Gift cards were donated to the ECASD Homeless Program.

Northstar PTSA earned \$566.49 from the Holiday Scrip and Season of Giving Program.

\$1400 was raised for the Season of Giving; a total of (56) \$25 gift cards (\$1150 went to the ECASD Homeless program and \$250 stayed at Northstar.)

Many thanks to all families and staff who participated!

Respectfully submitted,
Dorie Fink

SCRIP (Year-Round)

We also worked to expand the scrip program to include a year-round option.

The Year-Round Scrip Program allows families to purchase scrip using the Raise Right app on their smartphone to support Northstar. A portion of the proceeds go directly to Northstar.

Since June 1, 2022, Northstar PTSA has raised \$356.98 with Year-Round Scrip!

Our goal is to continue to expand this program in the upcoming years. Many thanks to all families and staff who participated!

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Sinette

Restaurant Fundraisers

Thanks to everyone who participated in our restaurant fundraiser evenings, helping us raise \$2,438.20 for our school! This was a tremendous success as we greatly surpassed our goal of \$1,438.20. *Note, we earned an additional \$500 from our Culver's restaurant fundraiser that we have not had the opportunity to collect and deposit yet. The \$500 will increase our income.*

A special thank you to Dairy Queen, Burrachos, Panera, Culvers (Brackett location), Panda Express, and Ramone's for partnering with us this year. This is a very easy way to participate in fundraising. By purchasing dinner, you helped us raise funds through the generosity of the

participating businesses. Watch for more opportunities next year and please take time to participate!

Membership

Total Northstar PTSA membership for the 2022 - 2023 school year was 42 members, which is a decrease of 6 members in the previous school year. Membership is expected to go up and down as families of 8th graders transition to high school and families of 6th graders move up to Northstar. We have a strong PTSA here at Northstar and would like to maintain or grow the membership during those transitions. It is an indicator of the commitment our parents, teachers, students and staff have in supporting education at Northstar.

Submitted by:

Nicole Hoernke, Membership Committee

Staff and Bus Driver Appreciation Week

May 1-5th, Northstar PTSA celebrated our hardworking staff and bus drivers for the National Teacher Appreciation Week.

We started the week with **Motivation Monday**, where staff members were able to fill personalized swag bags with over 20 options of goodies – such as coupons for free lunches and teas/shakes, various school supplies, fun snacks, and other items donated from local companies and parents. Each item for the swag bags included a specialty message to pair with the matching treat, just a few examples include: *“You’re all that and a bag of chips”* – paired with chips, *“Thanks for being dePENDable”* – paired with specialty pens, *“You’ve been Gouda to us, now it’s our turn to be Gouda to you”* – paired with specialty cheese wedge treats.

Treat Yourself Tuesday, provided a sweet mid-day break of lemonade paired with a variety of specialty cookies from Crumbl Cookies in Woodbury, MN.

Wake-up Wednesday had staff kicking off the day with a pastry and coffee/juice breakfast from French Press.

Thankful Thursday was the big ‘Souper’ Hero lunch! PTSA provided homemade chicken noodle soup & garden soup, along with a salad bar & breadstick side donated from Olive Garden, and various desserts provided by parents. After lunch, was the drawing for door prizes which were generously donated from Northstar families, our local community, and over 30 local businesses; every staff member received a gift!

Friday had staff celebrating with Dilly Bars from DQ. In addition, the student council helped pass out candy bars and mini swag bags to the bus drivers and crossing guards.

A huge thank you to the Staff Appreciation Week Planning Committee, all the other parents and volunteers who stepped up by making deserts for the “Souper” Hero lunch as well as those who reached out to get donations for the door prizes.

Also, thank you to the families, community members and businesses who donated gift cards and goodies for our week of celebration!

Committee members were: Jenn Junker, Brook Berg, Joy Weisner, Tamara Gauthier, and Misty Schmidt.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Misty Schmidt

8th Grade Celebration Picnic

We honored our 8th graders with a picnic style lunch on Monday, June 5. We had grilled burgers and hotdogs, chips, cookies, fruit, water, and an Icee treat!

We asked our 7th grade families for monetary donations to help offset the costs of the purchase of food items. THANK YOU, 7th grade families!

Thank you to all who made the day special for our 8th grade students: Our amazing custodial staff, Joy Weisner, Brook Berg, Ashley Sinette, Nicole Hoernke, Heather Russell, Eric Dunn, Heather Market Sullivan, Ryan West, Jessica France, Bobby Olson, Leslie Gorman and grillers Nick Sinette & James Weisner.

Our committee was full of 8th grade families, so if you'd like to join the committee next year let us know! We'd love for you to join in the fun!

Submitted by: Jenn Junker

Parent Volunteer Committee

Thank you to all the people who have volunteered this past year at Northstar! You truly have enriched our students' experience by providing a willing resource to give of your time. We have moms, dads, sisters, brothers, and grandparents who have helped at various events throughout the year.

Following are examples of events that were successful because of YOU:

- Back to School Night
- Picture Day & Schedule Pick Up Day
- Spring Polar Party
- Fall and Spring Mile Run
- Concessions
- Family Teacher Conference Staff Meals
- Staff Appreciation Week

- 8th Grade Celebration Picnic

Our volunteers remain an integral part of our Northstar community, and we are so thankful for each one of them.

Thank you for all you do!

Submitted by:

Joy Weisner, Parent Volunteer Committee

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine committee was formed to acknowledge the loss of a student or teacher's primary placement or caregiver, sibling, or significant other by providing a token of sympathy of behalf of the Northstar PTSA. The goal of this committee is not to provide financial assistance, but rather to show care and concern.

An amount of \$100 was budgeted in the 2022-2023 school year from Northstar PTSA funds. Based on the situation, a gift shall be provided to the family of no more than \$50 per situation. The gift will be based on the discretion of the committee and the situation (e.g., flowers, donation to a memorial, etc.).

The following process has been established:

1. Loss within Northstar family occurs as outlined in the scope.
2. Northstar counselor is made aware of the loss.
3. Northstar counselor verifies with family that notification of the loss can be communicated to Northstar PTSA.
4. Northstar counselor communicates to Northstar partnership coordinator.
5. Northstar partnership coordinator communicates the need for a gift to executive committee at next scheduled PTSA meeting or email, based on timing.
6. Executive committee reviews and decides on appropriate gift.

7. Northstar PTSA president or designee coordinates purchase and delivery of gift.

The committee approved and provided support three times during the 2022-2023 school year. Special approval to go above budget was received. The total funds spent for the school year were \$150.00.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cindy Swing

Boxtops4Education

Last year, Northstar PTSA decided to discontinue support of this program. Due to changes in the program and it becoming fully electronic, we saw a steady and substantial decline in any income associated with the program and decided to focus our attention in other potential income areas.

While we did not budget any potential income from this program due to recent program changes, some families continue to support the program. We were able to recognize \$93.10. this year!

Thank you for your support!

Submitted by: Ashley Sinette

Annual Report: Grade 6

This year feels like we are closer to pre-Covid era. Conferences were still virtual this year, but we also had phone and in-person for each family to choose. The 6th grade staff would like to thank the PTSA for the many ways that you helped our staff feel appreciated this year. The amazing food at conferences was very thoughtful. The Snack Cart was appreciated as well as all the awesome treats and surprises during Staff Appreciation Week which really helped build us up.

The continued fundraising you accomplished this year was so appreciated. It has provided many mini-grants and

opportunities to lower the cost for our students for the year end trip. The \$250 was used for scholarships for the end of the year trip. Any leftover money will roll over to 7th grade for them. The sixth grade enjoyed activities here at school including the usual 6th grade Tug of War tournament as well as Bean Bag tournament and many other activities, followed by a movie trip to see The Super Mario Bros. Movie at the Micon Theater in Oakwood Mall after lunch.

We feel fortunate to work with such a supportive and involved PTSA.

Michelle Olson 6th grader teacher representative

Respectfully submitted June 5, 2023

Annual Report: Grade 7

The 7th grade students and teachers had a very busy year filled with learning activities both in and out of the classroom. In January students attended the play *Holes* at the Eau Claire Children's Theater. Through social studies this spring students worked on "–isms" projects to show their understanding and to stop discrimination of gender, sexuality, age, etc. In May, all students attended Career Venture to be introduced to different career opportunities. We ended our year together by going to the movie *Puss in Boots—the Last Wish* at Micon Theater in Chippewa Falls and playing games and other activities at Northstar.

We would like to thank the PTSA for their financial support throughout the year. All students were able to attend the play for free thanks to PTSA and a grant through the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation. We greatly appreciate PTSA's commitment to our students.

Brenda Xiong
7th grade teacher representative

Annual Report: Grade 8

We are proud of these polars! We wish this crew the best of luck as Huskies. This year brought back a sense of normalcy for this group. We were so thankful for the opportunity to return to the Guthrie to watch the Christmas Carol, and JA in the day where we explored various career opportunities and field trips. We want to thank PTSA for the Guthrie opportunity, and the amazing picnic we just had for 8th grade celebration. Some all-school fun, the talent show, and bean bag toss, and ski trips we think we will be lasting memories for our 8th grade class. We ended the year with a trip to Mt. Olympus, and it was fun to send these students off with a splash.

Again, we want to thank PTSA for the extra support this year and the fun they provided for these awesome kids!

Meg Linder
8th grade teacher representative

Northstar Student Council 22-23 Summary

The members of Student Council were excited for another year of leadership. We met several times throughout the year to plan and prepare many exciting activities. Our membership, as always, was open to all students. It is our goal to develop future leaders, provide student involvement opportunities, and to be role models for the students of Northstar.

During the 2022-2023 school year, Student Council donated \$100 to Northstar's Kitchen Cupboard and \$250 to the HERS Breast Center, facilitated several fundraising activities, and sponsored many school spirit events. We also hosted four Polar Parties—the first time since 2019-2020!

Our 22-23 highlights include:
Bus Driver/Staff Appreciation Week in May
Promoting school spirit through spirit dress up days

School Apparel--offered school clothing to purchase

We are looking forward to another wonderful year in 2023-2024!

Submitted by: Jessica Szymanski
Student Council Teacher Representative

PTSA Polar Fund

This is the 15th year of the Polar Fund. It is a discretionary fund, which was developed to provide emergency monies for Northstar students, and/or their families on an as needed basis. In the spirit of supporting all children, the executive board feels the Polar Fund supports our mission and the mission of National PTA. This year the executive board voted to use the \$200 discretionary fund to support a family.

Mini Grant Program

The purpose of the Northstar Middle School PTSA Mini Grant Program is to provide funding to Northstar for programs that are not provided through the normal school budget. The emphasis of mini grants is with programs that support our students and enhance learning. This includes special projects, field trip scholarships, field trip expenses and busing, speakers, authors, and more. Mini grants vary in amounts up to \$500.00. Staff wishing to request mini grant funds simply complete a mini grant application and submit it to the PTSA for approval. This year we awarded \$2,958.72 in mini grant funds. We are extremely proud of this program and the ways it benefits students in the classroom. Here are a few of the mini grants that were approved in the 22-23 school year:

- Cooking with life skills students: \$200
- DJ Board band teacher: \$300
- FACS expo class: cooking opportunities (charcuterie boards): \$200
- Mindfulness for esports club: \$60

- 6 spike ball sets (PE and events): \$384
 - Library Media Center poster board library card reminder: \$107
 - Student Achievement Specialist who works with kids who are struggling for variety of reasons: games to connect with kids: \$250
 - Specialty seating (stools) for special education classroom flexible seating options for kids who need help with focus and learning: \$320
 - Library: funds to help purchase button maker kit to be used in the library by students to promote literacy and for fun: \$142.51
 - Yearbook camera purchase: \$300
- 3 representatives on ECASD Parent Advisory Council
 - Membership to state and National PTA to support state and national programs
 - PTSA support of Northstar's Edible Classroom, giving students the opportunity to grow and care for seedlings and grow and care for our community and each other.
 - Continued support of Sunshine Fund sponsored by Northstar PTSA: A fund and set of guidelines to acknowledge the loss of someone close to a Northstar student or teacher.

We apologize if we missed anything or anyone. Please know that we appreciate every volunteer hour and donation that is given to Northstar. It is through the efforts of everyone that we can support Northstar!

Other School Year Successes:

- Back to School Orientation Night volunteers
- Provided funds towards 8th Grade Guthrie field trip to see "A Christmas Carol"
- \$600.00 towards 7th grade curriculum field trip:
- Volunteers for Schedule Pick Up and Picture Day
- Chaperones for Polar Parties
- Mile Run-Fall/Spring volunteers
- PTSA Concessions and volunteers
- Food for staff dinners on Family/Teacher conference days
- Staff Appreciation Week food donations; door prize donations from Northstar parents and businesses; and volunteers
- 8th Grade Celebration Picnic donations and volunteers

Date of Report: June 15, 2023

Report concludes with budget report on the next page. Our Annual Report can also be viewed on the PTSA section of the Northstar webpage.

Northstar PTSA 2022-2023 Budget

INCOME				
	Budget	Actual	Balance	
Box Tops		\$ 93.10	\$ (93.10)	
Concessions	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,026.90	\$ (526.90)	
Membership Dues	\$ 300.00	\$ 220.50	\$ 79.50	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ 624.25	\$ (624.25)	
Restaurant Fundraiser	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,438.20	\$ (1,438.20)	
Scrip	\$ 500.00	\$ 792.25	\$ (292.25)	
	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 6,195.20	\$ (2,895.20)	
EXPENSES				
6 th Grade Curriculum Trip	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	
7 th Grade Curriculum Trip	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -	
8 th Grade Celebration (picnic)	\$ 600.00	\$ 796.53	\$ (196.53)	
8 th Grade Guthrie Fieldtrip	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	
8 th Grade Guthrie Spring Deposit	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Community Outreach (backpacks, Season of Giving)	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Edible Classroom	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 883.83	\$ 116.17	
End of Year Field Trip Grade 6	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
End of Year Field Trip Grade 7	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
End of Year Field Trip Grade 8	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
Insurance	\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00	\$ -	
Membership Dues (\$5.25/member)	\$ 300.00	\$ 222.50	\$ 77.50	
Mile Run	\$ 275.00	\$ 334.04	\$ (59.04)	
Mini Grant Program	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,958.72	\$ 41.28	
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 546.95	\$ (446.95)	
Nature Trail and School Beautification	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	
PBIS—Positive Behavior Support Incentive	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Polar Fund (PTSA Discretionary Fund)	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	
Postage (Business)	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00	
Staff Appreciation	\$ 500.00	\$ 461.23	\$ 38.77	
Staff Retirement Gifts (\$25.00 each)	\$ 175.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00	
Sunshine Committee	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	\$ (50.00)	
Yearbook donation	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	
	\$ 11,540.00	\$ 9,393.80	\$ 2,146.20	
Current Balance for Savings: \$22,527.68 (May RCU statement)				
Current Balance for Checking: \$5,752.23 (May RCU statement)				
Updated: June 8, 2023				