

# NORTHSTAR



Report on Philanthropy 2022-2023



## Our Mission

At Northstar, we promote educational excellence and career opportunities for students with disabilities who have academic, physical or social challenges.

## Our Vision

Northstar empowers students to value their diverse abilities, chart a successful course for their lives, and create their own futures.  
***We cultivate communities where people of all abilities thrive.***



# Letter from our Head of School



Dear Northstar Community,

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, we focused on our theme "Building Strong Minds" while successfully concluding our inaugural year at our new location on Nuckols Road. I am delighted to share the highlights and accomplishments of our journey to promote educational excellence and career opportunities. Academically our students demonstrated progress, including 83% of students increasing reading

fluency and 55% gaining up to three grade levels in math. Additionally, 75% of students demonstrated growth in their overall social skills.

We had many highlights this year. The Talent Show is always a big hit throughout the Northstar Community. Students showcase their diverse and creative talents through singing, gymnastics, and other avenues. The Corner Bistro, launched by our Career Center Hospitality class last spring, was a huge hit among faculty and staff. At the close of the year, all Career Center students averaged 83% growth in workplace independence, and 100% graduated with a plan in place to either enter the workforce or continue their education.

As our campus continues to grow, I am excited to share that we broke ground on our track and field in the Spring of 2023 and look forward to beginning construction on our new gymnasium in February 2024. The support from our community has been instrumental in realizing this vision and commitment to our students. We extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Trent". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Crystal Trent  
Head of School



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Kira Rhorer

David Rosko

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Hailey Shinault

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# Academic and Social Outcomes

## Reading

**83%** of students gained up to one grade level

**15%** of students gained up to three grade level

## Math

**52%** of students gained up to one grade level

**18%** of students gained up to two grade levels

## Social Skills

**65%**

Percentage of students who demonstrated progress on their IEP/IAP Social Goals.

**75%**

Percentage of students who demonstrated an increase in overall social skills.



# Express Yourself!



At Northstar, making art can be as therapeutic as it is fun. For Doc, a middle school student, it means he has embraced new creative pursuits.

"This is his first year taking art class and I've been so pleased with his progress this year," said Doc's parent. "It's remarkable to me the abilities Ms. Rhorer is able to draw out of him."

Art curriculum helps strengthen a child's physical dexterity, allows them to practice focusing on specific tasks, and cultivates creativity. While Doc has struggled in the past with his fine motor skills, he has improved with practice. He especially enjoys working with paints and making collages.

Ms. Rhorer credits Northstar's small class sizes with enabling her to teach most effectively. "I'm able to give each student one-on-one attention and help each one individually," she said, "so all my students are challenged at their own level."

In class every day, Doc continues to find new ways to express himself through different mediums. And at home, his art pieces are proudly displayed for all to see.

# Specialized Small Group Reading Instruction

These small groups provide targeted support, giving students individualized attention and tailored strategies to improve their reading abilities.

**83%** of students demonstrated growth in **reading fluency**

**72%** showed improvement in overall **reading rate**

**35%** gained up to three grade levels

**65%** of students gained up to one grade level in **comprehension**

**85%** gained up to one grade level in **reading accuracy**

**15%** gained up to two grade levels

**100%** of students demonstrated improvement in the area of reading









# Career Center Outcomes

A photograph of a man with glasses and a green striped shirt, and a young man in a grey polo shirt, both wearing gloves and working on a wooden project in a workshop. The man is using a power drill on a piece of wood. The background shows shelves with various items and a broom hanging on the wall.

During the 22-23 school year, students showed an average of **83%** growth in **workplace independence**.

**58%** of students demonstrated significant growth in **employability skills**

**52%** of students graduated with at least 1 industry credential.

At Northstar Career Center, a team of industry professionals and special educators train students for in-demand careers. Students demonstrate their skills by earning industry credentials. There were a total of **65 credentials** earned by the end of the 22-23 school year.

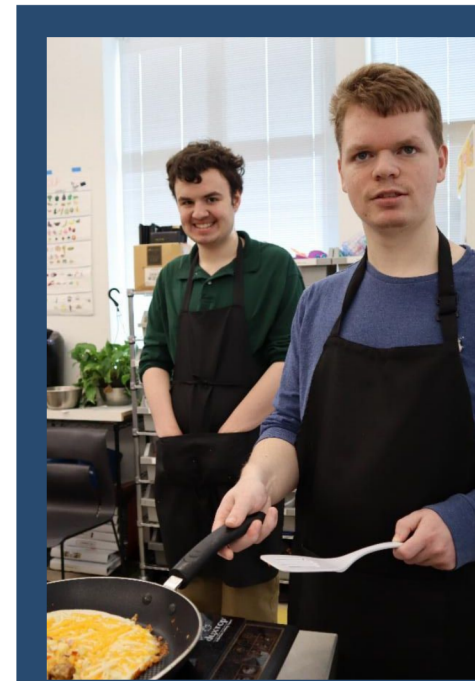


# Order Up!



Students in Mrs. Creamer's morning Hospitality class launched a new program this spring: **The Corner Bistro!** Teachers and staff were invited to order lunch from a limited menu that is prepared and delivered by Northstar's very own Hospitality students.

"My favorite part is making each order just the way people want it," said David, a Career Center student, referring to crafting made-to-order meals. "And after we cook," he continued, "we deliver it to people. It's fun because they're happy to get their food." This semester, The Corner Bistro has offered a selection of sandwiches, burrito bowls, quiches, salads, desserts, beverages, and more. The dishes have become instant favorites among the staff, who were delighted to see the hard work of Mrs. Creamer and her students come to fruition.



# Life Plans After Northstar Academy

A photograph of three young people, two girls and one boy, smiling and posing outdoors. The girl on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The boy in the middle has dark hair and glasses, wearing a light blue hoodie. The girl on the right has long brown hair in pigtails, glasses, and a dark hoodie with 'NORTHSTAR' written on it. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

**100%** of Northstar Academy seniors graduated

**17%** entered the workforce

**66%** enrolled in post-secondary education programs

**17%** enrolled in both the workforce and a post-secondary education programs





PROM 2023





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# COMING SOON

In Partnership With:



# Navigators in the Spotlight!



From theatrical singing performances to high-flying acrobatics and art, Navigators of all ages delighted the audience at the annual Talent Show.

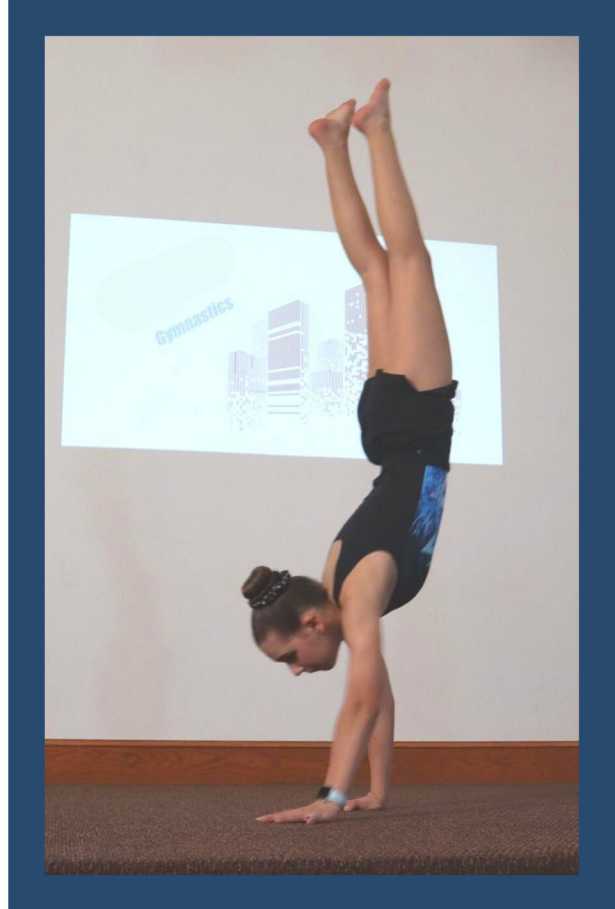
This exciting event provides our students a platform to demonstrate their skills, perform in costume, and showcase their creativity to their families, teachers, and peers. A favorite amongst the Northstar community, the evening celebrates the unique abilities of every person who chooses to participate.





Performing on stage gives students a unique creative outlet and helps build their confidence and self-esteem.

"Each and every talent in the show is amazing," said Landon, an upper school student who also served as the host and Master of Ceremonies of the event. "I like how the kids and all the other students get to show their parents their talents on stage."



The evening concluded with a multi-song performance by the Music Club, followed by a rousing rendition of the school song, "The Northstar Song," sung by current students and the alumni in attendance.

Kudos and congrats to all our marvelous performers!



# An Evening of Discovery Gala

Presented by



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*Accepted by Career Center Asst. Director Catie Huennekens*



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*Accepted by Dr. Angela Ivey and the SPCA team*

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# An Evening of Discovery Gala

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# Senior Essay

*"Every experience good or bad you have to learn from." –Patrick Mahomes*

This quote relates to my past because I had some great experiences, and then some not great experiences but I learned from both the good ones and the bad ones. Having my disability was hard for me when I was younger.

Math was always a big challenge for me in school. I always felt like I was the one struggling to understand the concept of the course and everybody else was understanding it well. I would get bad grades on tests and quizzes.



Being small for my age was also hard for me. I was made fun of. I didn't like it. Another challenge was getting upset over little things. I would get angry, stressed, and upset over little things. Another thing that was also very hard was when I got made fun of in Elementary and Middle school. It was tough for me when it happened.

Being made fun of changed for the better when I came to Northstar to start high school. I wasn't made fun of as much and things got better. **Northstar has been a good fit for me because the classes are much smaller than normal public school classes.** It's easier to ask for help when you need it. People here are much more ready to help you be successful. The halls here are easy to navigate.

Over the past four years I have progressed a lot. Now I am NOT saying that math is my favorite or easiest class because let me tell you it's not.



But science and art were and are still easy for me. Eleventh grade was a little challenging for me because of courses that involved math. Twelfth grade has been my easiest year in high school without a doubt. My classes are fun and English has been my favorite class.

I have participated in many of the Northstar events over the past four years. Some of them include Senior crowning, Basketball, homecoming, and yearbook. My favorite sport was Basketball. My favorite Northstar memory has been getting chosen as one of the junior marshalls for Graduation and Baccalaureate. I was not very mature when I was in Elementary and Middle school but I am much more mature now.

Passing my STAR Test to get my Standard Diploma has definitely been my greatest accomplishment at Northstar. **I am so glad that my parents decided to put me here.**

I plan to continue working over the summer. After I graduate I am planning to go to a program at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College called "Courage to Succeed." I want to go there in the fall. The reason why I want to go to that program is to learn about being more independent. I want to get an apartment with a roommate in the long term future. I am currently working a paid job and as a volunteer.

*I learned from the bad experiences in my life and **had many good experiences here at Northstar.***





# Statement of Financial Position

For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

## **Assets**

Cash and Other Investments	\$5,966,860
Tuition and Other Receivables	\$183,315
Property and Equipment Net	\$6,089,764
Total Assets	\$15,233,183

## **Expenses**

Program Services	\$3,388,248
Management and General	\$451,916
Fundraising	\$338,972
Total Expenses	\$4,179,136

## **Liabilities and Net Assets**

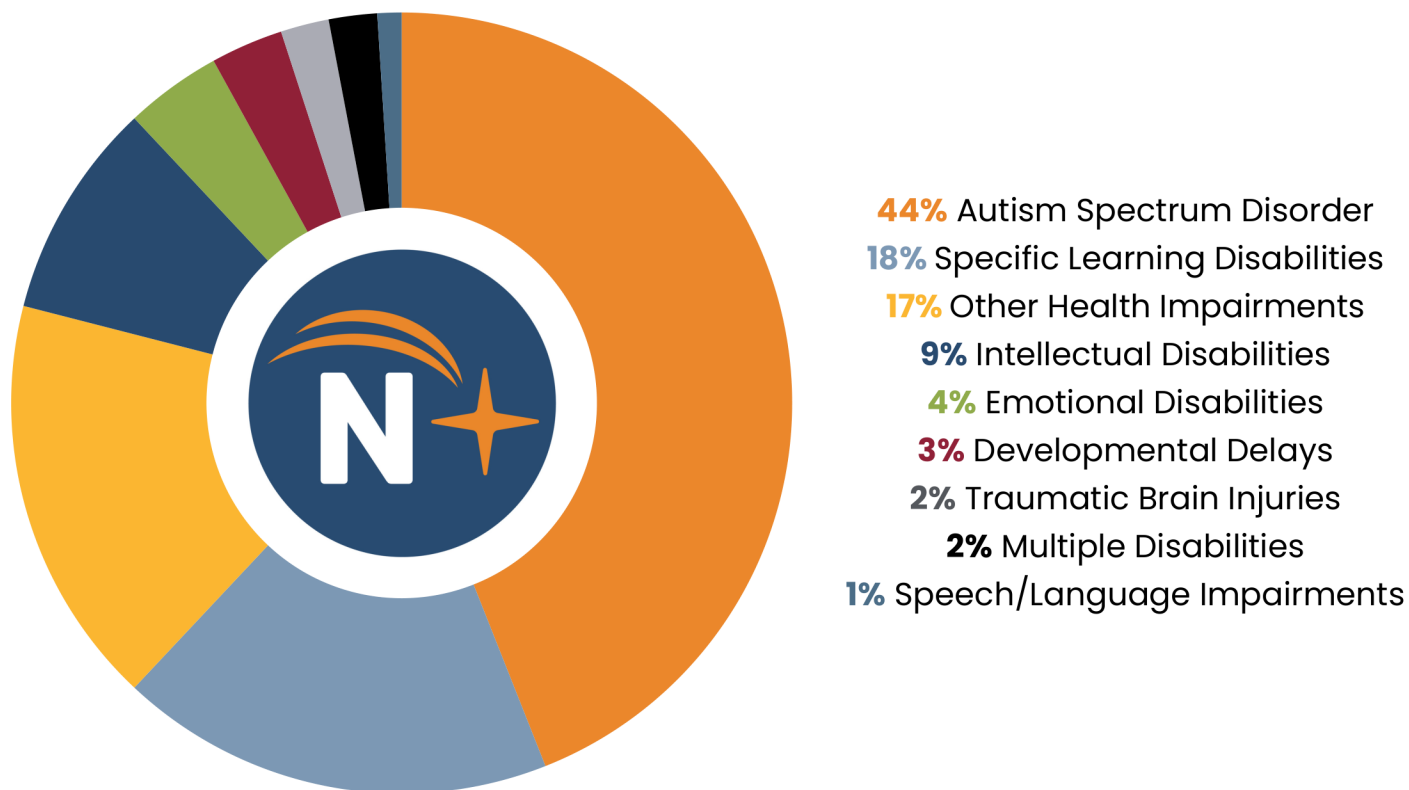
Accounts Payable	\$140,613
Accrued Payroll	\$277,521
Total Liabilities	\$3,512,039
Net Assets	\$13,820,662
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$17,332,701

## **Revenue and Support**

Net Tuition and Fees	\$3,283,517
Fundraising	\$3,141,769
Programs and Services	\$110,536
Special Event Revenue	\$60,939
Total Revenue & Other Support	\$6,596,761



Northstar hosts a community that works together to overcome individual challenges. Northstar welcomes students with many different abilities.

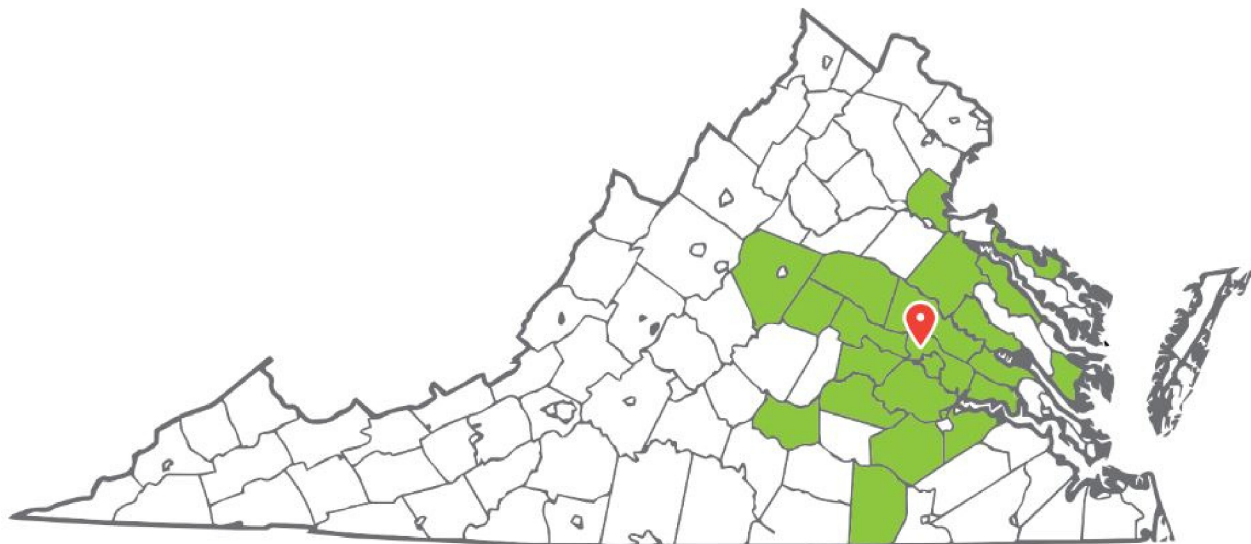


\*Visual representation only showcases students' primary disability identification. Northstar also serves students with visual impairments, orthopedic impairments, and multiple disabilities

# Cultivating a Community Where Diverse Learners Can Grow



Students at Northstar represent many cities and counties surrounding our campus, which is located in Glen Allen, Virginia



\*Northstar does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its education policies, admission policies, programs or athletic and other school administered programs.