

## NORSTAR Overview

**Norfolk Science, Technology and Advanced Research, or NORSTAR** is a STEM-infused program which develops student leadership in STEM innovation and creative problem-solving by providing laboratory and real world experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math. **NORSTAR** seeks motivated, gifted/high performing students with the ability to demonstrate original, creative problem-solving abilities.

**NORSTAR** students research and investigate STEM-related topics of their choosing. Areas include but are not limited to: the creation of new and innovative products, mastery of basic engineering skills (using CAD, soldering, circuit diagrams, etc.), manufacturing protocols in contemporary industrial settings, computer programming, and coding.

In addition to research, investigation, and product construction, **NORSTAR** students participate in various STEM-based competitions in Hampton Roads, Virginia, and the U.S., including the Great Computer Challenge at Old Dominion University, and the National Robotics Challenge in Marion, Ohio.

**NORSTAR** encourages creative thinking through the use of expert mentors, teacher-student mentors, and student-student mentors. **NORSTAR** has also been proud to host discussions with experts and mentors from:

- ⊗ The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
- ⊗ BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair
- ⊗ Experts in online, real-time modeling and simulation (MYMIC)
- ⊗ Norfolk State University

## Application Information

Candidates for the **NORSTAR** program should be in grade 8 or 9 during the current school year. Applicants should be in very good academic standing (3.0 GPA or above) and show both high interest and high aptitude in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.



## Application Information (cont.)

To apply for the **NORSTAR** program, students submit a fully completed application, which includes:

- ⊕ Student information (home address, contact information, extracurricular activities, etc.)
- ⊕ Student questionnaire
- ⊕ Positive recommendations from: 1) the student's current science teacher; 2) the student's current math teacher; and 3) the student's guidance counselor
- ⊕ A current and complete Middle School Profile, available through the student's school counselor\*

## Students Not Enrolled in Norfolk Public Schools

**NORSTAR** welcomes applications from eighth grade students who are not enrolled in Norfolk Public Schools during their eighth grade year but intend to enroll in NPS for high school. In place of a Middle School Profile, **NORSTAR** will accept an official school transcript reflecting academic performance during the candidate's sixth, seventh and eighth grade years.

## Application Process

Completed applications must be submitted to the Gifted Education and Academic Rigor Services (GEARS) office prior to the deadline. Once applications are received and screened by **NORSTAR** faculty, qualifying candidates and their parents will be invited to schedule an interview, to be held at the **NORSTAR** labs. After all interviews have been conducted, the **NORSTAR** faculty will evaluate each candidate's application and interview responses. Candidates will be contacted via US Mail, inviting them into the **NORSTAR** program.

NPS will maintain a copy of the program application online as a courtesy to interested students, parents, and other Norfolk Public Schools stakeholders. Please visit the GEARS or Norfolk Technical Center webpage to download a copy today.

\* The Middle School Profile is an official record of the student's performance in middle school, including a complete transcript, GPA, disciplinary record, attendance record, and other pertinent information.

