



## How does a student apply to NORSTAR?

To apply for the NORSTAR program, students should submit

1. A FULLY COMPLETED application, including:
  - a. Student information (home address, contact information, extracurricular activities, etc)
  - b. Three positive recommendations (one from a science teacher, a math teacher, and a guidance counselor).
  - c. A current and complete Middle School Profile (available through a student's guidance counselor). If a middle school profile is not available, we will also accept a transcript reflecting the grades earned for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years in middle school.)

**Please note:** During our annual application window, **NORSTAR** will only consider applications that have been FULLY COMPLETED and submitted by the deadline.

## What are the candidate requirements?

Minimum eligibility requirements include:

1. Motivation and talent in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
2. An outstanding attendance and/or discipline record,
3. A cumulative GPA of B or higher (3.0 or above)
4. Enrollment at one of five NPS high schools in September of the next school year
5. Currently taking or successfully completed Algebra I

## Applying to NORSTAR

### Who may apply?

The **NORSTAR** program seeks highly talented, highly motivated NPS students who will be in grades 9-10 at one of five NPS high schools by September 2023. Candidates must be taking or have taken Algebra I to be eligible to apply.

### Where can I find an application?

Applications can be accessed via one of the links below. Applications are available beginning December 1, 2022

<https://www.npsk12.com/site/Default.aspx?PageID=11636>

<https://www.npsk12.com/Page/10010>

<https://www.npsk12.com/domain/4556>

### When is the application deadline?

The application deadline January 22, 2023.

### What if my student is out-of-district?

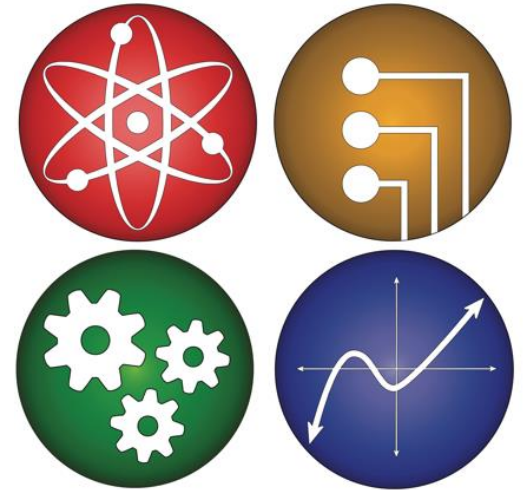
NORSTAR is open to NPS students only. We welcome transfer students who will be enrolled in NPS high schools by September, 2023.

### What happens after a student submits an application?

Applications are reviewed, and selected students are notified to schedule an interview with NORSTAR staff. Final decisions are made by April.

### What do interviews involve?

Interviews, held at Norfolk Technical Center last typically 20-25 minutes. A panel asks candidates to respond to a series of questions about their interests, experiences, and potential contributions to the NORSTAR program.



# NORSTAR

*Engineering Tomorrow's  
Innovators*



## NORSTAR FAQs

### What is NORSTAR?

**NORSTAR** is an elective science program open to high school students in Norfolk Public Schools who have shown high achievement in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM).

### What does NORSTAR stand for?

**NORSTAR** is an acronym, and although the actual meaning of each letter has changed over the past thirty years to reflect the objectives in the program, **NORSTAR** stands for **NOR**folk **Science**, **T**echnology and **A**dvanced **R**esearch.



### What do NORSTAR students study?

Students choose the topics they study, with the guidance and assistance of NORSTAR faculty. Areas of study may include robotics, coding, video game development, building physical structures, and designing electrical circuits, to name a few.

### Does NORSTAR influence my child's GPA?

Yes! **NORSTAR** students earn an elective CTE credit, which can significantly boost a student's GPA.

### How are grades assigned at NORSTAR?

Grades are based on both formal and informal assessment of participation in goal-setting, projects, presentations, and competitions. Students earn a high school science elective credit.

### How does NORSTAR fit into my student's schedule?

**NORSTAR** is currently scheduled as a *twilight* activity. Every other day, a specially designated bus (the **NORSTAR** shuttle) meets students just prior to their final block (approximately 12:30 PM) and takes them to the Norfolk Technical Center. Once they arrive, they join their classmates and remain there until 4:00 PM, where a bus arrives to take them home.

Traditional High School Schedule	NORSTAR
Block 1/2	Block 1/2
Block 3/4	Block 3/4
Block 5/6	Block 5/6
Block 7/8	NORSTAR
After-School Activity	NORSTAR



### Can NORSTAR students participate in other NPS Specialty programs?

**NORSTAR** participation can be integrated with enrollment in all high school specialty programs, with the exception of the Governor's School for the Arts (GSA). **NORSTAR** and GSA have overlapping schedules, making it impossible to participate in both programs.

### Can NORSTAR students participate in other time-demanding activities (such as sports)?

**NORSTAR** students participate in other activities, including sports, clubs, and music. Instructors encourage students to carefully consider extracurricular activities during each year they are in **NORSTAR**. **Scheduling can be difficult to maintain.**

For more information:

#### Contact NORSTAR

Norfolk Technical Center  
1330 N. Military Hwy.  
Norfolk, VA 23502

**Phone:** (757) 892-3300, ext. 3219

**E-mail:** [pcostis@nps.k12.va.us](mailto:pcostis@nps.k12.va.us)