



How do I apply to NORSTAR?

To apply for the NORSTAR program, students should submit

1. A FULLY COMPLETED online 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 6th, 7th and 8th 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 2026. Candidates must be taking or have taken Algebra I to be eligible to apply.

Where can I find an application?

The application window for the 2026-2027 school year will be available in late Fall, 2025. For more information, please visit

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

When is the application deadline?

Traditionally, the application deadline falls in mid **December** of the current year.

What if my student is out-of-district?

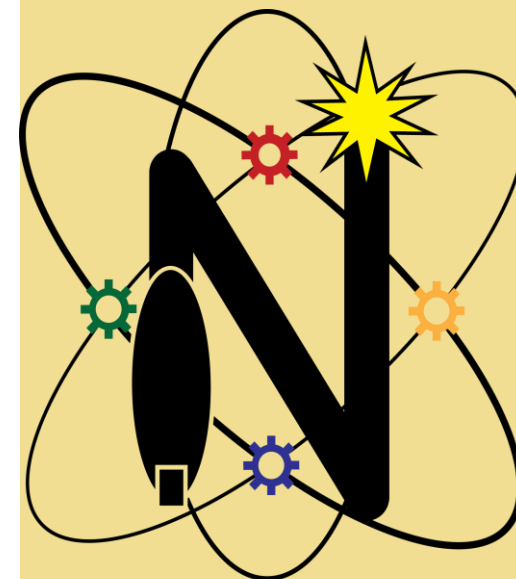
NORSTAR is open to NPS students only. We welcome transfer students who will be enrolled in NPS high schools by September, 2026.

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**, **Technology** and **Advanced Research**.



What do NORSTAR students study?

Students choose the STEM topics they study, with the guidance and assistance of NORSTAR faculty. Areas of study may include robotics, coding, building physical structures, and designing electrical circuits, to name a few. Additionally, students will study the VDOE Robotics curriculum.

Does NORSTAR influence my child's GPA?

Yes! **NORSTAR** students earn an elective CTE credit, which is a graduation requirement, and 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 CTE elective credit.

How does NORSTAR fit into my student's schedule?

NORSTAR is currently scheduled as *twilight* activity. Every other day, a specially designated bus (the **NORSTAR** shuttle) meets students just prior to their final block (approximately 1:00 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.



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

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