

## North Star Charter School



### WHAT A YEAR!

When I joined North Star in May of 2015, I was excited about the opportunities I believed were possible. The results from this past year have far surpassed my expectations. North Star is a special community. I felt it the day I arrived and now have seen it first hand - it is a community of passionate and accomplished educators, bright and eager students, and engaged and supportive parents. It is a community that comes together to achieve great things for our students. This past year was a perfect example of seeing these qualities in action.

I'm excited to report to you the impact of your donations in our first edition of the North Star Development Impact Report. As the recipient of your generous donations, we take seriously our role as good stewards of your gifts. As you read this report I **hope you will see the impact, feel the appreciation, and know that your investment in us was well spent.**

— Joanna O'Donnell  
Director of Development

# TOTAL GIVING IN 2015-2016

## \$101,441

### Leading Edge Technology:

\$77,525/142 donors

### Student Spaceflight Experiment Program:

\$15,752/110 donors

### Closing the Gender Gap:

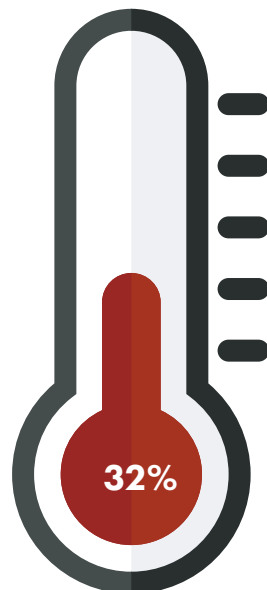
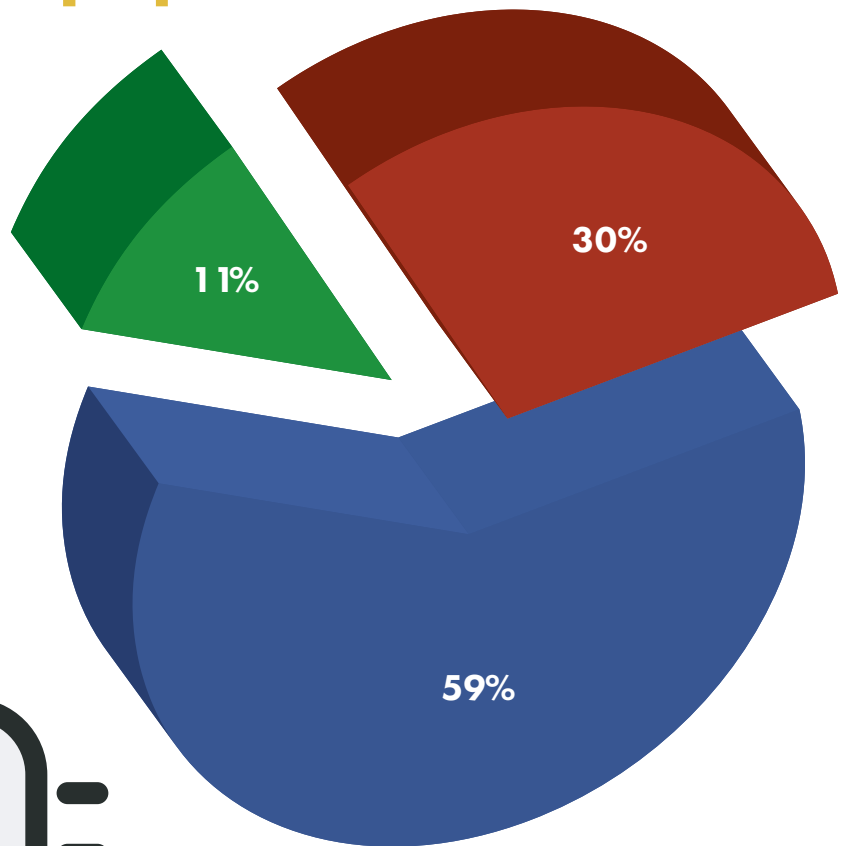
\$4,000/3 donors

### Non-campaign, designated gifts:

\$4,164/5 donors

### 2015-2016 Current Parent Participation

● 32% Parents



- 2015-2016 Total Giving by Category
- 59% Individual: \$59,527
- 30% Business: \$30,827
- 11% Foundation/Org: \$11,087

# LEADING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

## THE NEW TECHNOLOGY ARRIVES!

Academic Administrator, Ms. Drain unpacks the new laptops.



“It feels like Christmas!” said our elementary computer teacher, Becky Albin as the new technology started arriving in early July. Thanks to the generosity of the North Star community, our school received 107 new laptops, 35 new Chromebooks, 45 new iPads, new robotic kits and professional development for our teachers! This new technology and training has given North Star a much needed boost for our students and teachers.

The total amount raised in the Leading Edge Technology campaign was \$77,525. Our community came together to support this important campaign with 142 donations from

current and past parents, grandparents, teachers, staff and board members. Your gifts were an encouragement to us as the vision for these new computers in the classroom become a reality. **Thank you!**



### Principals’ Corner:

Since we became administrators at North Star, it was glaringly apparent our students lacked access to technology. Not only were there not enough devices to share across the school, but many were outdated or didn’t represent the diversity of platforms that are often required of students in higher education and the workforce. Needless to say, deciding to make technology acquisition and professional development part of North Star’s first unified fundraising campaign was an extremely easy one. Our need was great!



Secondary Principal, Ms. Andersen unpacks the new robotic kits.

In the elementary school (k-5), our teachers expressed a desire for more technology in both academic intervention and acceleration. Teachers wanted students to learn how to use technology for research, typing papers, sharing information and making connections. We are excited to put all of the new technology to use this school year in meeting students at their educational needs.

For the secondary school (6-12), we determined it was necessary for -cont-



Elementary Principal, Ms. Davis is excited to deliver the new iPads to the classroom!



students to have experience in both the Google and Microsoft worlds. More and more university campuses are utilizing Google Classroom with professors requiring students to submit their work in Google. Thanks to our wonderful school community, we were able to purchase a Chromebook cart, a laptop cart, and several robotics kits for our teachers and students to have more access to technology.

Our teachers are excited to implement what they have learned, have a desire to learn even more, and want to provide opportunities for our students to be college and career ready in the area of technology.

Thank you for generously supporting our school and for your partnership in providing a world class education for our students.

– Melissa Andersen, Secondary Principal  
– Shay Davis, Elementary Principal



## **A note from our elementary computer teacher, Ms. Albin:**

I am thrilled beyond measure to have new computers for our computer lab this year. I want to thank each and every person who has contributed to this campaign to make this possible, as well as enabling many other upgrades to our technology at North Star. For me, it feels like Christmas. Our children will have different opportunities than they did with Chromebooks where they did everything on the Internet. With our new laptops, we will have the ability to use typing and creation software that we could not use before. We will be able to use Microsoft products

without the Internet, which I believe is easier for young children. It is my hope to be the best computer teacher that I can be for North Star and I am extremely grateful and excited to have these wonderful tools in my hands to better serve your children. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

– Becky Albin

## **A note from our IB english teacher, Ms. Rau:**

I am THRILLED with the opportunities afforded to our students through the generous donations of our community this past year.

While our students have access to books and resources in our classroom libraries, we have been limited in our ability to provide our students a wide range of literary texts for independent reading, and we have been limited in our ability to provide resources for in depth research—a critical component of the IB program.

We have managed through partnerships with NNU and BSU to create opportunities—but one-to-one access to laptops in the classroom will afford all of our high school students access to resources with which to do high-quality research—and will provide me an opportunity to focus on scholarly -cont-



searches beyond “Google it.” In particular, IB juniors and seniors will be more able to access scholarly sources for their IB extended essays and the IB written assignments required in all of their courses.

In the high school classroom 9-12, we will have the opportunity as a school to move from entry-level technology integration on limited devices—towards full integration of technology as a tool for deepening conceptual understanding, promoting student engagement and accelerating the learning of all of our students.

– Shirley Rau

**PS:** You should have seen the faces of the kids who saw the cart of laptops —they are thrilled to have been so warmly supported by all of you.

## NS teachers receive full day of customized technology training

A portion of the funds raised through the Leading Edge Technology campaign were set aside to provide professional development for our teachers. We partnered with the Idaho Leads Learning Network at Boise State University and developed a customized training program for North Star teachers. The training took place on August 16th at our school. Teachers were able to choose from a variety of breakout sessions that applied to their grade level or technology interests, such as; Presentation Applications, A Day in the Life of a Google-Using Teacher, The Digital Age: Tips, Tricks and Troubleshooting, Elementary iPad Applications, and Milepost training. Equipping our teachers with training necessary to integrate technology at a transformational level is an important component of the technology plan. Thank you for helping make it a reality!



### Special Thanks

*A special thanks to the parents who served as volunteers for the Leading Edge Technology Campaign. The time and talent they contributed truly cannot be measured. Grandpa Jeff Bailey, Tobe Brockner, Lindsey Burnett, Christianne Crump, Janet Dukelow, Chandy Fabrizio, Natalie Jardine, Katie McDaniel, Joe Meeks, and Cynthia Wilkie.*

# STUDENT SPACEFLIGHT EXPERIMENT PROGRAM

Last year, North Star was selected to participate in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP). This one of a kind opportunity provided our students with authentic immersion into a multi-faceted research experience and genuinely engaged them in America’s Space Program. Through the generosity of our current parents, local -cont-



Students continue working hard through the summer to prepare experiment for flight.

businesses and national grants, we were able to raise the \$15,500 necessary to participate in the program!

We are pleased to report to our community the results of the SSEP Program. Over 480 North Star students participated, producing 119 proposals. Our students demonstrated a great level of creativity in overcoming the seemingly impossible constraints placed on them by the SSEP program. Our students developed new questions that have never been tested related to plants and algae, ants, worms, milkweed bugs, yeast, chemical reactions, viscosity, density, and cavity development under a microgravity environment. They sought out help from experts in their areas, both locally, nationally, and world-wide. This project gave them the opportunity to learn about real science, life skills associated with STEM fields, collaboration and cooperation within real world constraints.

Following a formal judging and selection process, the North Star experiment that was selected for flight on Mission 9 to the International Space Station is a project titled: "Living Water Filters: Triops in Microgravity." Projects that received Honorable

Mention are: "Epigenetic changes in Microscopic Worms (C. Elegans) as a result of Microgravity." and "Improving the Fertility of Mars Soil with Cyanobacteria (Anabaena PCC 7120) in Microgravity."



Project selected for Mission 9: Living Water Filters: Triops in Microgravity"

The winning experiment "Living Water Filters: Triops in Microgravity" is scheduled to be sent to the International Space Station in November, 2016. It will return in the springtime and our students will begin the analyzation of the results.

Another component to this program was the development of an artistic patch to accompany the flight. Roughly 300 students from our elementary and secondary programs participated in a mission patch design contest. These students expressed great creativity and thought in how to represent our school artistically.

Thank you for your support of this program and opportunity for our school.



The Mission-9 patch design chosen to represent the Elementary School was designed by a 5th grade student. This student created a drawing with a Triops and a spaceship representing the mission to space.



The Mision-9 patch design chosen to represent the Secondary School was designed by a 7th grade student. Her design is a husky silhouette filled with Triops, a rocket, an astronaut, and stars.





We want to express again our sincere gratitude for your generous support of our school this year. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are invaluable to us. Because of you, our students and teachers have been given new tools for learning and have grown in knowledge and real-world experience. All of this would not have been possible without your support.

**Thank you.**

**"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;  
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."**

**HELEN KELLER**



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