

Academic Distinctions: Honor Roll & Polaris Scholar

2023/24 2nd Semester Application Deadline: September 13, 2024



PURPOSE

To recognize the academic achievement, community engagement, and commitment to personal excellence of Polaris Secondary students exemplifying the school's mission statement: *Polaris K-12 School is an evolving program that creates an environment challenging students, teachers, and parents to personal excellence, lifelong learning, and ethical responsibility to self, community, and world.*

HONOR ROLL SEMESTER REQUIREMENT

- Minimum 3.0 GPA at semester end, verified by school administrator. No application is required.

POLARIS SCHOLAR REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 3.5 GPA at semester end, verified by school administrator.
- Documented Polaris Community Credits:
 - Two credits per semester for middle school; grades 6-8
 - Three credits per semester for high school; grades 9-12
- A paragraph essay about how you challenge yourself to personal excellence, lifelong learning, and/or ethical responsibility to self, community, and world. Essay should specifically include examples of how you have displayed leadership in our community.
- Complete and submit your application and essay to your advisor by the semester specific deadline (above).

POLARIS COMMUNITY CREDITS

Polaris community credits can be earned in a variety of ways; attending an Advisory Board or Operational Group meeting, volunteering at a school event, coordinating a fundraiser, serving as a mentor for a younger student, supporting an event/effort, or any way in which you give of your time and talent to the Polaris Community. It can be something you have earned credit for in another class. Each credit must be different and show variety. Speak to your advisor, counselor, or principal if you need ideas or assistance finding opportunities.

PERSONAL EXCELLENCE

Submit a polished paragraph about how you are striving for personal excellence, lifelong learning, and/or ethical responsibility to self, community, and world. Share an example of a pursuit you have actively engaged in during the current academic year. This could include an extracurricular activity, an additional course you are taking, or a hobby you are passionately pursuing. Consider sharing how you are setting and achieving your personal goals.

PERSONAL EXCELLENCE PARAGRAPH PROMPT SUGGESTIONS

- Share the story of your community credits: What did you do? Why was it important? What did you learn about yourself or others in our school community? How else do you see yourself contributing to the Polaris community?
- Share a personal or academic accomplishment that you achieved or pursued during the Fall 2023 Semester.
- How do you define and/or measure personal excellence for yourself?
- As you reflect on your academic success and personal growth, what habits or attitudes worked to your advantage?
- What personal and/or academic goals do you have for Spring Semester?

RECOGNITION

SEMESTER-BASED: Honor Roll students and Polaris Scholars will be recognized with a certificate of achievement at the end of the semester, which will be announced at a school-wide academic award ceremony.

GRADUATION: Students earning Polaris Scholar status a minimum of six times during the course of their Polaris career will earn a Polaris Scholar graduation cord, which recognizes their contribution to our school community and their elite status as a Polaris Scholar! These students will be verbally recognized at the Cording Ceremony as well as at the Graduation Ceremony .

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students transferring from other schools can achieve Polaris Scholar status provided they meet the requirements for the semesters they attend Polaris and can verify GPA status before transferring to Polaris.

POLARIS SCHOLAR APPLICATION

Full Name:	Grade:
Advisor:	School Year: 2023/24
Current Semester GPA: <i>High School students should verify in Student Connect</i>	Semester: 2ND

POLARIS COMMUNITY CREDITS *(Minimum of two for middle school; three for high school to qualify.)*

Date	Event	Adult Verifier	Verifier's Signature

PERSONAL EXCELLENCE ESSAY

I have attached my essay to this application.

VERIFICATION

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Advisor Signature

Administrative Verification