

Polaris K-12 School



Secondary Spring Intensive Catalog *May 4 - 21, 2020*

Intensive Registration Window: March 17th - March 24th

Scholarship applications due: Friday, April 3rd by 8 AM in the front office

Intensive fees due: Friday, April 10th

Spring Intensives May 2020

Intensives are wonderful, unique learning opportunities for teachers and students. They will take the place of our regular classes from Monday, May 4th through Thursday, May 21st.

Some of the Intensives have a cost attached to them, but we do not want that to dissuade you from following your passion. Our school works hard to raise scholarship money for students who might need assistance paying for Intensives. Scholarship applications are available online and in the front office.

Scholarship applications are due to the office on Friday, April 3rd by 8 AM.

Register for your Intensive by visiting the Polaris website (polaris.asdk12.org) and click on the link titled *Intensive Registration*.

If you are interested in taking an Intensive that is not in your grade level range, you may write a letter to the Intensive teacher explaining why you want to take that particular class and why you feel you are qualified. If appropriate, the teacher will work with you and your family to accommodate your request.

Check Parent Connect to confirm the intensive placement under “Schedule”, and then pay online at <https://parentconnect.asdk12.org/>. Fees should be paid by Friday, April 10th. Intensive fees cover the cost of materials and field trips. If you anticipate needing more time to pay an Intensive fee, contact the instructor directly. Students who have not paid their Intensive fee by the start of Intensives may be moved to another Intensive.

Hiking Biking Anchorage	Grades 6-12
Dirt + Plants + YOU = Garden	Grades K-12
Rock Climbing	Grades 6-12
Dungeons & Dragons, Jr	Grades 3-8
Psychology	Grades 8-12
Polaris Writing Project	Grades 9-11
Planning Your Future	Grade 11
Harry Potter, Socrates and Dr. Who... ?	Grades 6-9
Glass Mosaics	Grades 6-8



Hiking and Biking Anchorage

Teachers: Heidi Postishek and Christian Haich

Credit: .50 PE Credit

Grades: 6-12

Fee: None

Hike and bike locally! With over 45 miles of major paved bike trails and easy access to parks with biking and hiking trails, Anchorage has a lot to offer anyone looking to get outside. In this intensive, we will do five hikes and five biking trips (rain or shine!) while learning important skills and information like:

- Where can we hike and bike?
- What do I need to know and pack to be safe and prepared while hiking?
- What do I need to know and pack to be safe and prepared while biking?
- How do I check, maintain and repair my bike?

Bike trips will leave from and return to Polaris, but most of our day-hikes will require an alternate drop off and return. We will also be seeking a lot of trail support – both on the trail and by vehicle – from parents. Please check with your parents and keep this in mind when registering for this intensive.

Required equipment:

____ Daypack/Backpack ____ Raingear ____ Hiking/athletic shoes (ties and treads)
____ Bike with gears * ____ Bike helmet *

** = If you require a bike or helmet, please let Heidi or Christian know as soon as you confirm that you are in the intensive, so that we can secure the right equipment for you.*



Dirt + Plants + YOU = Garden

Teacher: Jess Winn and Sophie Wallace

Credit: .5 Science Elective

Grades: K-12

Fee: \$20

Do you love getting your hands dirty and playing in the garden? Would you like to see what your two hands can help grow? Join Jess and Sophie in this amazing K-12 experience! We will be revitalizing our Polaris habitat garden and preparing this natural space for learning and to thrive in the Alaskan summer growing season. Take time to experience the master gardeners at the Alaska Botanical Gardens, watch as tiny seeds become thriving plants, and experience the joy of getting your hands dirty.

Rock Climbing

Teachers: Bryan Smith

Credit: .5 PE

Grades: 6-12; limited seats for students under age 14

Fee: \$150, see Bryan for price if already member of the Alaska Rock Gym or if you have your own climbing harness and/or shoes

This intensive will feature **three** teachers: Bryan, who's been climbing recreationally for all of three years and has never really studied the sport, and peer teachers Daniel Fisher and Max Goodman who are more skilled and knowledgeable than Bryan in this area. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during this intensive, we'll begin the mornings (8:15) at the Alaska Rock Gym learning climbing techniques and building strength, balance, coordination, and endurance. Those afternoons, we'll explore other aspects of climbing, both here in Alaska and throughout the world. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, you'll be sore with the pleasant aches of muscles well worked, and we'll have other fun and physical activities here at Polaris. No experience necessary. No muscle necessary; we'll build it.

Dungeons and Dragons Jr.

Teacher: Jeff Bevier and Tia Ruff

Credit: .5 Language Arts elective

Grades: 3-8

Fee: \$10 (for project materials)

Of Dungeons Deep and Caverns Old

“But it is one thing to read about dragons and another to meet them.”

-Ursula K. LeGuin, *A Wizard of Earthsea*

Delve deep into ancient caverns in search of lost cities. Protect small villages from the ravages of local bandits. Investigate the rumors of marauding giants. Track a dragon back to its lair in search of a great horde of coins (or butterflies, depending on the dragon).

If you are interested in creating a character and using your wits to role-play, you are welcome to the Dungeons and Dragons intensive. In this intensive we will be creating worlds, rolling up characters and writing the back stories of each. Learn how to be a dungeon master, a mighty wizard, or the Paladin that saves the day. Whatever you choose, in this intensive you will unleash the power of your imagination.



Harry Potter, Socrates and Dr. Who... ?

Teacher: Emily Kingsley

Credit: .5 Language Arts elective

Grades: 6-9

Fee: \$30

Is Harry Potter a good friend? Is it ok for the Black Widow to lie? Is the third Doctor the same person as the tenth Doctor? Can one infinity be larger than another infinity? In this intensive we will explore how characters throughout history and fiction have wrestled with these questions. Aspiring philosophers who join this intensive will explore the outdoors, eat, act, draw, read, discuss, and think their way to answers of their own. Bring your curiosity and creativity as you hone critical thinking and respectful debate skills in the spirit of all great minds.

Psychology

Teacher: Larry Frick

Grades: 9-12 (open to grade 8 with instructor permission, talk to Larry before registering)

Credit Type: .5 Social Studies Elective

Fee: None

Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior from early childhood through old age. Students will explore how an organism's physical state, mental state, and external environment affect behavior and the mental processes. We will study Psychology in class activities, experiments, and research projects.



Polaris Writing Project

Teacher: Joe Seitz and Mindi Vogel

Credit: .5 Composition Workshop

Grades: 10-11 (open to grades 9 & 12 with instructor permission, talk to Mindi or Joe before registration)

Fee: \$20.00

Join Mindi, Joe, and Dick in the Polaris Writing Project. In this intensive, we will work through a variety of compositions ranging from creative pieces to technical writing. As a community of writers, we will explore storytelling, research based writing, and visual literacy focusing on writing for authentic audiences. This will be an intense writing experience. Students will be expected to take a minimum of four compositions through the writing process. Come ready to write!

Write Your Future

Teacher: Allie Burris and Susy Gullickson

Credit: .25 elective, .25 LA elective

Grades: 11th and 12th Grade

Fee: \$20.00

This Intensive gives you the time and skills to develop a *solid plan* for your final year of high school and your first year of college, the work world, or the military. This Intensive is for everyone, not just college bound students. Get a head start and a competitive edge on scholarships, admissions, resume writing, securing internships, and preparing for the work world. Work with your peers to develop a *professional quality digital scholarship portfolio* and a *personal action plan* with your goals and objectives listed by date. Hear from professional financial advisors, state financial aid counselors, and admissions counselors. This is the place to ask the questions that you have about how it all works after high school, regardless of whatever direction you are headed. You will also be given the opportunity to take a practice SAT or ACT test with Frontier Tutoring here at Polaris. They will provide you with a detailed score report that highlights trends and patterns in your performance. Single class enrollments at other schools will be accommodated for this Intensive. Please check in with Susy as soon as possible if that applies to you.

Glass Mosaics

Teacher: Dawn Swenson

Credit: .50

Grades: 6-8

Fee: \$65.00



Take the ancient art of mosaics into the 21st century with the flexibility of glass. Students learn the basic elements of design, develop artistic plans, and create mosaics. Students will create at least two finished works during our 3 week intensive.