



Winter Intensive Catalog
2024/25

Polaris K-12 School
January 6-17, 2025

Intensive Information

Intensives are a pillar within the Polaris Academic program– they offer a unique opportunity for teachers and students to learn and engage in new experiences, lessons, and activities while also providing a chance to dive deeper into content than our traditional core classes allow.

Our upcoming Winter Intensives will take the place of regular classes from Monday, January 6th to Friday, January 17th. Students and families are encouraged to read through the Intensive Catalog to preview our intensive course offerings and then complete the registration process via the [Intensive Registration Google Doc \[Linked Here\]](#).

Secondary Students– If you are interested in taking an Intensive that is not in your grade-level range, you may write a letter to the Intensive Course Teacher explaining why you want to take that particular course offering and why you feel you are qualified. If there is room in the course, the teacher will work with you and your family to accommodate your request.

Registration Information

The deadline for all intensive registration requests is November 10th, 2024.

All students & families must submit their registration requests via the [Intensive Registration Google Doc](#). Due to the limited number of seats available in each class, it is necessary for all students to select three (3) different choices, as prompted in the registration form. All requests received by the deadline will be given equal consideration. Any student who does not have a request in by the deadline will be automatically placed in an intensive that has an open seat. No exceptions will be made.

Intensive confirmations will be available to view on November 14th via Parent/Student Connect. All elementary students will also receive a paper confirmation in their family group.

Payment Information

Once you receive your Intensive confirmation, associated fees can be paid online via [ParentConnect](#).

Fees must be paid by Friday, December 13th to reserve your child's spot in their confirmed intensive.

Any student without intensive payment as of the first day of intensives will not be able to attend their intensive class until payment is received.

If your family needs financial assistance to cover or offset the cost associated with a given intensive, please fill out the [Intensive Scholarship Application \[Linked here\]](#). Our school and our Polaris PTA works hard to raise scholarship money to provide equal access for all students to any given intensive. Please note, for intensives with large monetary costs, partial scholarships will be considered, but full scholarships are unlikely to be available in order to help support as many students/families as possible.

Scholarship applications are due Wednesday, November 22nd by 8:30AM.

Elementary Intensive Offerings:

At a Glance:

- Chinese New Years (K-2)
- Space Exploration (K-3)
- Bubbles! (K-3)
- Reading Ready! Reading Support Intensive (1-3)
- Crafting the Magic of Disney (2-5)
- Flight (2-5)
- It's Time to Roll (Role)- Dungeons and Dragons (3-5)
- Miniature Model Building (3-5)
- "All Things Cozy" (4-12)

Chinese New Years (K-2)

Join us for a vibrant and engaging Chinese New Year intensive designed for kindergarten through 2nd graders! This exciting program will introduce young learners to the rich traditions and cultural significance of the Lunar New Year. Through interactive activities, storytelling, and crafts, students will explore festive customs, such as the significance of the dragon, lanterns, and red envelopes.

Each day will feature hands-on projects, including making paper lanterns, learning simple Chinese songs, and tasting traditional food. Students will also enjoy fun games that teach teamwork and celebrate the spirit of the New Year. By the end of the intensive, participants will have a deeper appreciation for Chinese culture and a sense of community as they share their creations and newfound knowledge. Join us for a joyful celebration filled with learning and fun!

Cost: \$50

Course Instructor: Teagen Stewart



Space Exploration (K-3)



Are you interested in outer space? Would you like to know more about the planets? Are you curious about the sun, moon and stars? In this intensive we will explore all the wonders of space. There will be a trip to the Planetarium at the Anchorage Museum, movies about space, you will read, study and investigate a part of our solar system that interests you. There will be crafts and snacks, songs and Reader's Theater, along with games and activities that will build our knowledge of space.

Cost: \$30

Course Instructor: Marie Lacher

Bubbles (K-3)



There are bubbles in your food. There are bubbles in your walls. There are bubbles in your toys. In this intensive, we'll explore the science of bubbles. What is a bubble? What materials can bubbles be made from? How big can you make a bubble? How small can bubbles be? Do you like bubble gum? How long can bubbles last? What's a bubble good for? Can you make a square bubble? After this intensive, you will be able to!

Cost: \$15

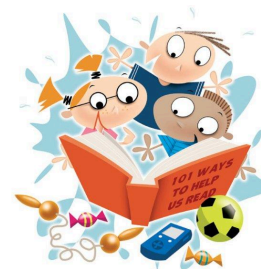
Course Instructor: Kelly Hebert

Reading Ready! Reading Support Intensive (1-3)

Let's get ready to read! The Reading Support Intensive is open to any student who needs additional assistance with reading development or for any student who just enjoys reading! Join us for read-alouds, poetry, retelling crafts, phonics, and small group reading instruction.

Cost: \$20

Course Instructor: Sarah Ottum



Crafting with the Magic of Disney (2-5)



Enter a world of magic, adventure, and imagination! Join Sam on a creative journey inspired by some of Disney's most renowned films, where students will engage in creative crafts that are connected to the tales, cultures, and characters we explore. Students will participate in hands-on activities that reflect the spirit of the movies, such as paper lanterns and Greek tapestries. Prepare for a fantastic adventure filled with movies, art, and fun!

Cost: \$40

Course Instructor: Sam Bucher

Flight (2-5)

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it...an amazing flying contraption that you have made yourself? Join me for an intensive about all things flying!

This is a two-part intensive that aims to have those students who enroll for our Winter Part 1 version to return and extend their learning for Part 2 in the Spring!

This intensive will require family support for field trips.

During our first intensive together, we will be learning about the properties of flight and the history of aviation. We will be building different types of airplanes, launching items at great distances, and experimenting with all the ways in which things move through the sky.

Cost (for Winter, Part 1): \$30

Course Instructor: Tess Vandiver



Miniature Model Building (3-5)



Ever wanted to design and build a model store? A model boat or car? A dream bedroom? If so, join me as we build a city within the classroom! Toothpicks, fabric, string, origami, popsicle sticks, paint, you name it - all used to design and build this city.

Cost: \$30

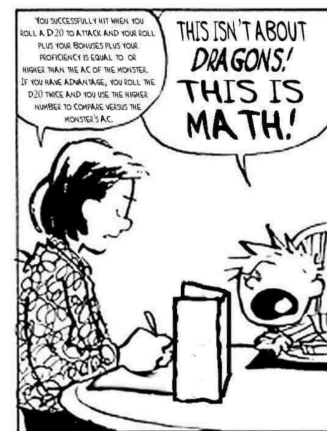
Course Instructor: Canzada Maruskie

It's Your Turn to Roll/Role - A Beginner's Guide to Role-playing and Dungeons & Dragons (3-5)

Are you yearning to adventure into the medieval world of fortress towns, dive deep into ancient caverns in search of lost cities, rescue a missing heir, or protect small villages from ravaging giants or marauding bandits? Or maybe you are ready to track a dragon back to its lair and relieve it of its gold and treasure?

This kid-friendly, role-playing Intensive will introduce you to the world of Dungeons and Dragons. The campaigns will be designed for kids and facilitated by secondary students as the "Dungeon Masters".

As an adventurer, you will learn game mechanics, build a character, create a handmade Hero's Journey journal in which to log your journeys and engage your imagination with character role-playing and storytelling. Bonus additional skills: math, physics, pro-social skills, civics, and the art of "negotiation". The cost includes a set of dice, a Hero's Journey journal, and a miniature.



Cost: \$25

Course Instructor(s): Dawn Swensen & Kyla Wilkinson

"All Things Cozy" (4-12)



Learn to create a variety of shapes, textures, and projects with this intensive yarn & fabric class! This K-12 intensive will provide students with the opportunity to learn from one another in a safe and respectful way. Our main emphasis with yarn will be on Crochet. Students will start by learning the fundamentals of the crochet stitches and pattern reading. Then, learn how to apply these skills to make some of crochet's most popular projects. Students will start by learning the fundamentals of the crochet stitches and pattern reading. Then, learn how to apply these skills to make some of crochet's most popular projects. If a student would like to venture into learning the art of Knitting, we welcome it! Students will also explore a multitude of non-sew fabric projects. These may include tie pillows, blankets and rugs, earrings, fabric decorations, or reupholstery.

All materials necessary for the projects we do will be provided and procured with the cost associated with the intensive. **No experience required.**

Cost: \$50

Course Instructor(s): Keana Graves & Akara Anglin

Secondary Intensive Offerings:

At a Glance:

- "All Things Cozy" (4-12)
- Board Games (6-12)
- New Vaudeville (6-12)
- Lifetime Sports (6-12)
- Breakout EDU (6-12)
- Alcohol Ink Art (6-12)
- School of Rock: Rock Band Fundamentals (6-12)
- Juggle, Juggle, Juggle! (6-12)
- Carve the Cold: Snow Sculpting Workshop (6-12)
- Dungeon Masters (7-12) *No Online Registration/Enrollment; [Application Required](#)
- Model U.N. (9-12)
- Horror Cinematography (10-12) **Parent Permission is Required to Register

"All Things Cozy" (4-12)



Learn to create a variety of shapes, textures, and projects with this intensive yarn & fabric class! This K-12 intensive will provide students with the opportunity to learn from one another in a safe and respectful way. Our main emphasis with yarn will be on Crochet. Students will start by learning the fundamentals of the crochet stitches and pattern reading. Then, learn how to apply these skills to make some of crochet's most popular projects. Students will start by learning the fundamentals of the crochet stitches and pattern reading. Then, learn how to apply these skills to make some of crochet's most popular projects. If a student would like to venture into learning the art of Knitting, we welcome it! Students will also explore a multitude of non-sew fabric

projects. These may include tie pillows, blankets and rugs, earrings, fabric decorations, or reupholstery.

All materials necessary for the projects we do will be provided and procured with the cost associated with the intensive. **No experience required.**

Cost: \$50

Course Instructor(s): Keana Graves & Akara Anglin

Course Credit: .25 Art Elective

Board Games (6-12)

From the ancient Egyptians playing Senet, through modern games such as Pandemic, playing board games together has been a part of the human experience. Come join us in learning, playing, and creating new board games. In the Board Games intensive, students will play a variety of board games and by the end of the intensive, we will be creating our own strategy guides & games.

Cost: \$10

Course Instructor: Jeff Bevier

Course Credit: .25 Social Studies Elective



New Vaudeville

Join your fellow Polarians on stage in the dynamic, engaging art of physical comedy! We will team up with TBA Theatre to create and produce a 1 hour show of comedic skits where actors use bodies and expressions to charm their audience. This year's theme is, *At the Disco!* Be a part of a rollicking good time and a 20+ year Polaris tradition!



Please note~ This intensive meets off-campus at UAA/APU. **Students will need their own transportation to and from the intensive.** Pick-up and drop-off times must be adhered to. There is no supervision after 2:00. Additionally, students committing to the New Vaudeville intensive are committing to 3 public performances: dates will be announced to those enrolled after registration is confirmed. Please do not sign up for the intensive if you cannot make this commitment and attend EVERY rehearsal.

Cost: \$250

Course Instructor: Rachel Gregory

Course Credit: .25 PE Elective

Lifetime Sports – Bowling, Building & More (6-12)



It's time to get to the lanes and throw some strikes! We will be spending multiple days learning rules, scoring, and technique while we bowl countless games at Center Bowl. This will be a great opportunity to hone your skills in a sport that can be played year-round and at any age. We will also be building custom yard games that students will get to take home for years of good times with their families. Some of the games they will be making and/or playing are corn hole, washers, giant Jenga, and pickleball.

This intensive will require parent/guardian pick-up and drop-off at a different location (Center Bowl).

The intensive fee associated with this intensive is based on the cost of bowling and the purchasing of materials to construct and customize the yard games. (More detailed expense information is available upon request)

Cost: \$200

Course Instructor: Greg Hobson

Course Credit: .25 PE Elective

Alcohol Ink Art (6-12)

This intensive will introduce students to alcohol inks through a series of tutorials and guided projects. Alcohol ink is a fluid art technique that uses isopropyl alcohol to move pigments around on non-porous (waterproof) media such as ceramic tiles, Yupo paper, and glass. The alcohol dries quickly when exposed to the air, leaving highly saturated pigments. The inks are layered and blended by the artist creating a unique design. Each student will receive a supply unique with their materials for the intensive which will be theirs to keep.

Cost \$80

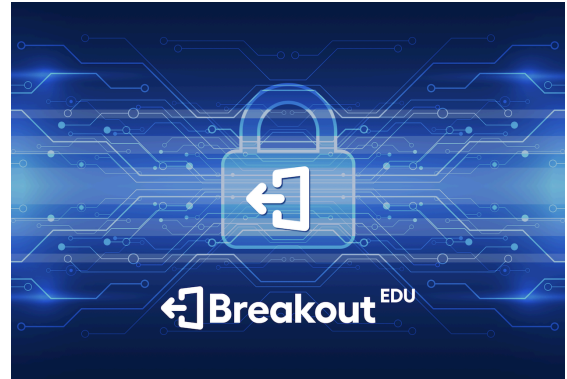
Course Instructor: Arika Drake

Course Credit: .25 Art Elective



Breakout EDU: Unlocking Learning Through Puzzles and Simulations (6-12)

Dive into the exciting world of Breakout EDU, where students engage in interactive learning experiences through logic puzzles, simulation escape rooms, and lock box challenges where they must solve a series of clues to unlock locks to get to the next clue. This course is designed to foster the 4 C's: critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity as participants work together to solve puzzles and escape from immersive scenarios. Various logic puzzles will be taught including verbal (word) quantitative (math) and nonverbal (puzzles or games without numbers or words). These will be adapted to different levels for all students to be challenged, but also enjoy no matter their strengths! The cost associated with this intensive pays for the BreakoutEDU subscription, which students will be able to continue to access after the intensive, as well as various other materials to engage students with in-person/hands-on simulations we will be engaging in.



Cost: \$50

Course Instructor: Ilana Kerschbaum

Course Credit: .25 Career Technology Elective

School of Rock: Rock Band Performance and Music Fundamentals (6-12)

Welcome to the School of Rock, where passion meets performance! This dynamic course is designed for aspiring musicians of all levels who want to learn the ins and outs of rock music while honing their skills in a collaborative band environment.



Students will engage in hands-on experiences, including:

- Instrument Proficiency: Develop your skills on guitar, bass, drums, or vocals through personalized instruction and practice.
- Song Repertoire: Learn classic and contemporary rock songs, exploring their structure, style, and performance techniques.
- Band Dynamics: Experience the excitement of playing in a band, focusing on teamwork, communication, and stage presence.
- Music Theory Basics: Understand the fundamentals of music theory to enhance your songwriting and improvisation abilities.
- Live Performances: Showcase your skills in a live show, gaining valuable performance experience and confidence.

Join Andrew, Mike, Adam, and other guest artists to unleash your inner rock star, connect with fellow music enthusiasts, and take your musical journey to the next level!

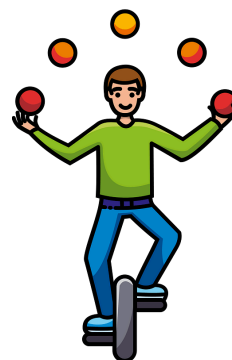
Cost: \$25

Course Instructor(s): Andrew Mullins, Mike Simpson, and Adam Stewart

Course Credit: .25 Music Elective

Juggle, Juggle, Juggle!! (6-12)

Have you ever seen a performer on the street or in the circus and thought, “I wish I could do that!”? Well now is your chance! In this intensive, you will be introduced to juggling balls, juggling clubs, juggling rings, diabolos, poi, hoops, object balancing, flower sticks (also called devil sticks), and unicycles. Each student will set learning goals based on what experience they have with each prop and what they would like to achieve. Then, students will work with Christian to accomplish those goals. This intensive is open to all experience levels.



Cost: \$30

Course Instructor: Christian Haich

Course Credit: .25 PE Elective

Carve the Cold: A Snow Sculpting Workshop (6-12*)



Under the guidance of the renowned Mellor family Ice Sculptors, you'll work with a small team to design and create sculptures out of snow here on the Polaris campus! Much of our time will be spent outside, working hard to build large blocks of snow then carve away at them to reveal your masterpieces. Students will need to dress warmly and in layers to avoid overheating as they work. We'll introduce you to a wide variety of carving techniques and tools, and leave you with skills and inspiration to create Polaris' own Fur Rendezvous snow sculpture. Carving snow can use muscles that you didn't know you had, so you can savor the soreness of days well-spent.

*This intensive is open to students in grades 6-12, however, the use of sharp, potentially hazardous hand tools will require students to remain consistently vigilant and

well-behaved; students who display irresponsibleness at any time and in any form will be immediately removed from the intensive without the possibility of course fee reimbursement.

Cost: \$40

Course Instructor(s): The Mellor Family & Bryan Smith

Course Credit: .25 PE (or Art) Elective

Dungeon Masters (For the Elementary DnD Intensive) (7-12- [Application Required](#))

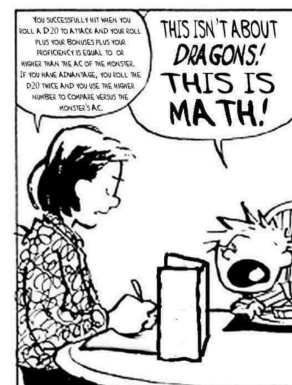
Have you been wanting to lead an adventuring party through mazes, caverns, ruins, wilds, and dungeons? Do you enjoy diving into the world of D&D and are willing to lead 3rd-5th graders on adventures? Then this Intensive is for you!

The Elementary D&D Intensive is looking for 6-8 Dungeon Masters to introduce them to the role-playing gaming style of Dungeons & Dragons. Space is limited, get your application in today! **(This intensive requires an application for enrollment consideration).**

Cost: Free

Course Instructor: Dawn Swensen

Course Credit: .25 Language Arts Elective



Model United Nations (9-12)



The Model UN program is a combination UAA/ASD project where students learn about other nations and represent their nation at the annual Model UN conference at the UAA campus in February 2025. It is a great program that explores world issues and exposes students to other cultures around the world. It also helps students develop speaking, organization, mediation and leadership skills. For the college-minded, Model UN programs look great on scholarship and college applications. For others, it is a fun way to meet people and learn about the world around you.

Cost: \$50

Course Instructor: Larry Frick

Course Credit: .25 Social Studies Elective

Horror Cinematography (10-12)

Do you enjoy a good scare? Are you interested in creating your own short films? Unleash your inner filmmaker in this two-week immersive horror movie intensive! Designed for high school students, this intensive will explore the history, themes, and techniques that make horror one of the most captivating genres in cinema.

Through screenings of classic and contemporary horror films, you will analyze key elements such as suspense, atmosphere, character development, and the psychology behind our inexplicable fascination with the macabre. Hands-on workshops will provide opportunities to create your own short horror films, focusing on storytelling, cinematography, and editing. Our Movie list will include: The Conjuring, The Conjuring Part 2, The Ring, Alien, The Others, Psycho, The Thing, The Omen, Signs, The Exorcism of Emily Rose. **Parent permission will be required to register for this intensive and additional permissions will be required and obtained once registration is confirmed.**



Cost: \$20

Course Instructor(s): (Student) Kaiden Warren & (Faculty Supervisor) Katie Kratsch

Course Credit: .25 Language Arts Elective



Polaris Ski & Snowboard 2024



Teachers: Allie Burris and Andrea Evans
Course Credit: .25 PE Elective

Grade Level: 6-12

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. Drastically improve your technique or even learn an entirely new sport for life in just two weeks! Join us for 8 days of skiing or snowboarding with Mountain Sports School Instructors at Alyeska Resort. We will be at Alyeska on January 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, and 17. Wednesday, January 15, is a rest and recovery day; skiers and riders will stay home to rest up. Students will be on campus on the first Monday (1/6) for regular school hours. On Alyeska days, the bus will leave Polaris at 8:45 AM and travel to Alyeska Day Lodge for morning lessons and free ski/board afternoons. We will leave Alyeska at 4:30 PM and return to Polaris by 5:30 PM. Students need to be picked up promptly at 5:30 PM each evening. Students will receive a registration packet after the class roster has been created in early November. Payment in full is due Friday, December 6. Please contact Allie or Andrea if an alternative payment plan is needed. Need-based scholarships are also available. *Students must take a minimum of four lessons to earn the ASD .25 PE/Winter Sport credit.*

Eight-Lesson Packages – BEST VALUE!

New to the sport or looking to dramatically increase your skill level? Here are the BEST choices for most participants!

*First-time participants and students up through **Intermediate** **MUST** enroll in the eight-lesson package. Eight-lesson packages are available for all skill levels and allow students to take full advantage of their time on the mountain while advancing their skill level by one, two, or even three skill levels in just two weeks! Students enrolling in eight-lesson packages will have first registration priority.*

PACKAGE A
Season Pass Holders
\$320 - 8 Lessons
\$200 - Transportation
\$520 TOTAL

PACKAGE B
Lessons & Lifts
\$520 - 8 Lessons/8 Lifts
\$200 Transportation
\$720 TOTAL

PACKAGE C
Lessons, Lifts & Rentals
\$680 8 Lessons/8 Lifts/8 Rentals
\$200 Transportation
\$880 TOTAL

Four-Lesson Packages

Highly skilled athletes looking to advance their performance significantly

Four-lesson packages are available for upper intermediate and advanced participants only and offer direct instruction from the talented Mountain Sports Staff. Learn to navigate new terrain and really sharpen your skills while learning more varied terrain and maximizing your experience on the mountain.

PACKAGE D
Season Pass Holders
\$160 – 4 Lessons
\$200 - Transportation
\$460 TOTAL

PACKAGE E
Lessons & Lifts
\$360- 4 Lessons/8 Lifts
\$200 Transportation
\$560 TOTAL

PACKAGE F
Lessons, Lifts & Rentals
\$520 – 4 Lessons/8 Lifts/8 Rentals
\$200 Transportation
\$720 TOTAL

The Polaris Alyeska Intensive tradition has been alive and thriving for almost 30 years. We are so very grateful to the Alyeska Mountain Sports School. Package prices reflect a significant discount from daily rates for our Polaris Students enrolled in the Intensive.

Think SNOW and join us on the mountain!

