



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration is a hallmark of both Laurel and WGLA and this shared philosophy is critical to our success! The North Star Collaborative provides a vehicle, venue and audience for teachers, college students and high school students to share best practices in educating girls. NSC is run by Laurel and Warner faculty members who not only teach and lead the North Stars but also serve as role models and mentors to our college- and high-school staff members. These youth staff members often discover that education is a field worthy of their passion and skills.

In addition, teachers exchange resources and ideas between the two schools throughout the year. Faculty members are encouraged to observe and offer feedback to one another and to reflect on the intersection of theory and practice through our relationship with Laurel's Center for Research on Girls.



REVITALIZING GREATER CLEVELAND

As a longstanding member of the Greater Cleveland community, Laurel School knows girls—how they learn, think and feel. Through the North Star Collaborative, Laurel continues to champion girls claiming their voices and developing as engaged citizens. This partnership benefits everyone involved.

Laurel students come to understand the challenges that characterize life in urban America, and the North Stars will lead the way in bolstering the CMSD's high school graduation rate and go on to graduate from a four-year college. Just as the North Star in the sky provides guidance to travelers, the North Star Collaborative is a beacon to schools, businesses, organizations and institutions working together to revitalize Greater Cleveland.

NORTH STAR COLLABORATIVE

HOLLY FIDLER, DIRECTOR



LAUREL SCHOOL

ONE LYMAN CIRCLE
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44122
OFFICE: (216) 455-0120

WWW.LAURELSCHOOL.ORG
WWW.NORTHSTARCOLLABORATIVE.ORG

North Star Collaborative



CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON GIRLS
AT LAUREL SCHOOL



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LAUREL SCHOOL
AND WARNER GIRLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



ENCOURAGING GIRLS TO **DREAM. DARE. DO.**

The North Star Collaborative (NSC) is an innovative partnership between Laurel School, an independent school for girls K–Grade 12 with a coed Pre-Primary, and Warner Girls Leadership Academy (WGLA), a public Pre-K–Grade 8 single-gender school in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD).

Under the umbrella of The Center for Research on Girls (CRG) at Laurel School, NSC seeks to inspire Warner girls to fulfill their promise—intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically—and to better the world. Additionally, NSC strives to foster socially conscious and action-oriented behavior in Laurel girls. Our goal is to provide long-term access to resources and the academic support necessary for the North Stars, a cohort of Warner girls in the Classes of 2018 and 2019, to obtain a four-year college degree. In order to assess progress towards this goal, CRG has selected a series of measures—both academic and psychological—that we administer annually. Additionally, the North Stars, their teachers and family members complete surveys to offer feedback which cultivates and strengthens the Collaborative as it evolves. The breadth and depth of our commitment make the North Star Collaborative unlike any other youth development program in the nation.



BRAIDING TOGETHER TWO COMMUNITIES

Through three strands—the NSC Summer Academy, Shared-Learning Experiences and Professional Development—the communities of Laurel School and Warner Girls Leadership Academy come together to make a difference in the lives of the North Stars and their families, and in doing so, in the lives of both school communities as well.

THE SUMMER ACADEMY

This six-week enrichment program for North Stars addresses the achievement gap and focuses the girls and their families on the single lever known to move individuals out of poverty—a four-year college degree. Each summer the North Stars visit colleges to reinforce the reality of higher education as an attainable goal. The Summer Academy encourages a growth mindset—the concept that intelligence and abilities can be expanded with effort—and promotes heightened awareness of health and nutrition, creativity, leadership and the environment through an integrated, research-based curriculum.



SHARED-LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Throughout the school year, NSC brings together the two school communities in a variety of ways.

TUTORING PROGRAM: Laurel Upper School students serve as tutors and classroom helpers at Warner each week. Upper School Seminar groups read and reflect with “Warner Buddies” each semester.

CLASSROOM EXCHANGES: Warner classes from various grades visit Laurel (and vice versa) for project-based activities, literature groups and classroom presentations.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Together, Warner girls and Laurel girls attend theater performances, collaborate on S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) explorations during Tinkering Week and participate in community service activities.

FAMILY GATHERINGS: The North Stars and their families attend quarterly family gatherings with guest speakers, such as journalist and author Charlise Lyles and Director of CRG Dr. Lisa Damour, and opportunities for discussion. Past gatherings include: NSC @ Playhouse Square, Eerie Evening at Butler and MLK Day of Service.