

WHAT WILL YOU HAVE? *The Polar Bearistas help kick off Friday mornings with a menu of hot beverages. All selling for \$1. Photo Credit: Kayden Watts*



How Did the Polar Bearistas Get Started?

North is known for its many diverse qualities and unique capabilities along with the talented students and teachers who take part in them and help it all come together.

One of the many activities would be a mini business called the "Polar Bearistas," North's student-run coffee shop that teaches our special education students good, real life work skills.

A total of 30 students are a part of Polar Bearistas.

Mrs. Erin Van Dorin is the leader of this mini business and who really got it up and running.

"I used to own a restaurant for 15 years before I became a teacher, so my mind automatically goes to 'how can we teach our kids life skills?'" said Van Dorin.

The purpose of the Polar Bearistas touches many aspects that have to do with life skills, how to do a job that they're not so confident in, as well as learning self-control.

"I want to continue this student business for sure," said Van Dorin. "Maybe one day adding donuts and other things besides coffee."

Another goal is to have more students get the feel of the experience. That way even more young people are prepared for what life has set for them.

Story by: Keirra Martin

Q&A with the Polar Bearistas

Q: What is your favorite job for Polar Bearistas?

A: "My favorite part is the delivering the coffee because I can never sit in just one spot, and I also get to know the building." - Kaira Francis

"Being the customer associate because I'm able to talk more." - Jaylen Hughes

Q: Do you think other schools could use something like this? Why?

A: "I'm actually getting ready to put together a training packet of what we've done and examples from the students, and it's going to be sent out to all the other high schools... I think it's a very doable thing for every school. It's good for all students."

- Mrs. Erin Van Dorin

Q: If you could define Polar Bearistas in one word, what would it be?

A: Teamwork. - Mrs. Erin Van Dorin



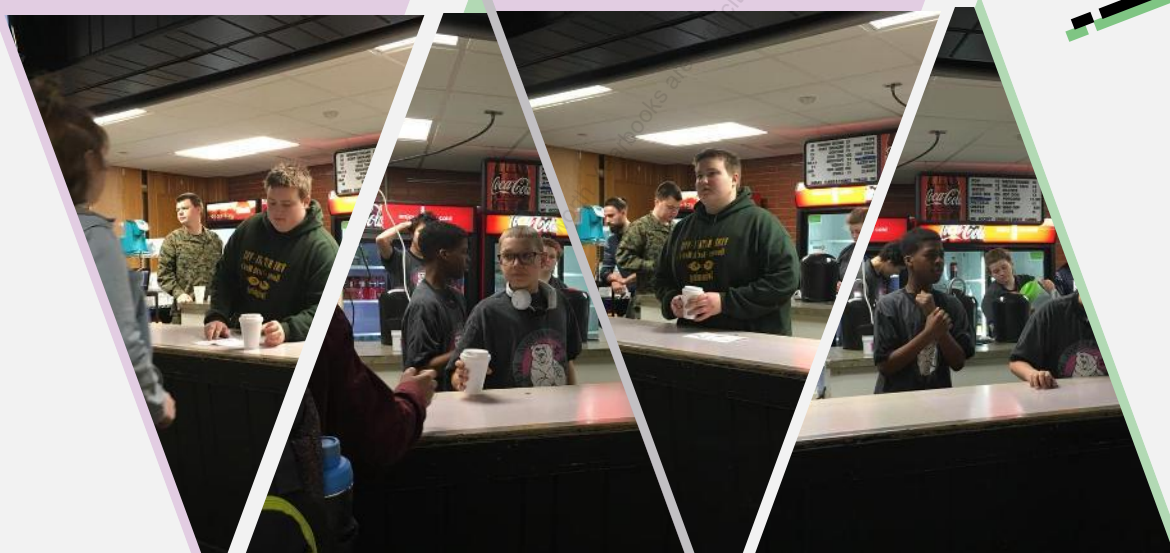
► POLAR BEARISTAS.

(Left) Mrs. Erin Van Dorin and her students run a small cafe in the concession stand most Fridays, selling coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate, apple cider and cappuccinos. All drinks sell for \$1.

Front Row: Liby Armstrong, Devon Gilbert, Jaylen Hughes, Erin Van Dorin, Kyle Saenghoi

Back Row: Thomas Cleary, Brendan Back, Kaira Francis, Kobie Campbell, Paige Stanley

Photo Credit: Laura Christensen



Special Delivery!



► **LIFE SKILLS AND SELF-CONTROL.** *The Polar Bearistas work hard, have fun, smile and put smiles on people's faces while providing a morning warm drink.*

Top Row: Chris Cyran watches over his students. Michael Hohl delivers a student her drink. A Polar Bearista makes Jean Schwendau's day when he gives her her drink.

Middle Row: Thomas Cleary hands a student her drink. Michael Hohl hands another student their drink. Thomas Cleary mans the concession stand during open cafe. Jaylen Hughes waits for more people to come and for more drinks to be made.

Bottom Row: Jaylen Hughes hands science teacher, Grace Nieters her morning coffee on Friday, March 23, 2018. Photo Credits: Kayden Watts and Laura Christensen

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