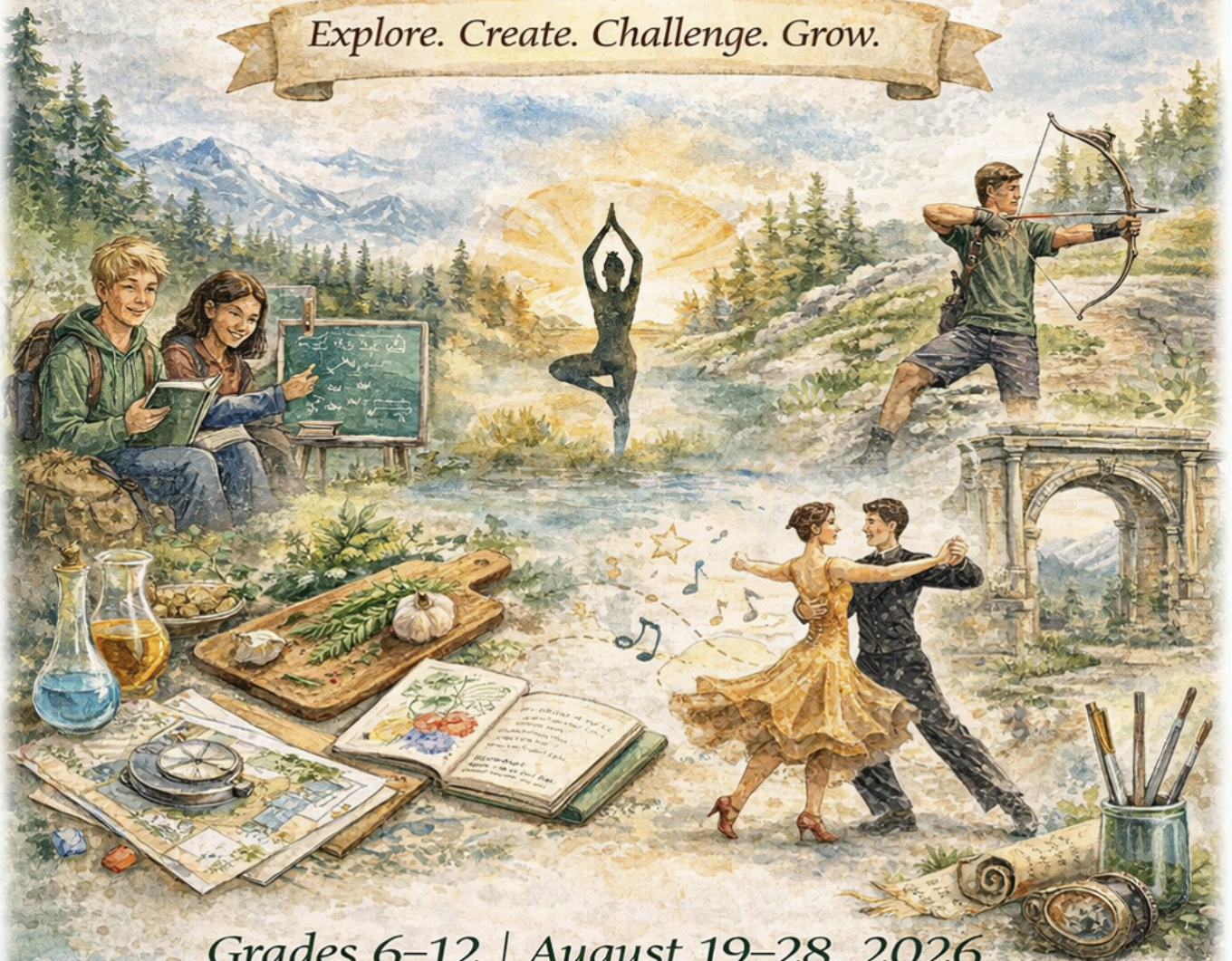




POLARIS K-12

Fall Intensive Catalog 2026

Explore. Create. Challenge. Grow.



Grades 6-12 | August 19-28, 2026

Registration: April 23 – May 3

A Polaris Signature Learning Experience

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 deeply into content that is both interest-based and academically rich.

Our upcoming Fall Intensives will take the place of regular classes for our secondary students from August 19-28.

Dismissal for all K-12 students will be at 2:00 during the intensive window.

Registration Information

Students and families are encouraged to read through the entire Intensive Catalog to preview our intensive course offerings prior to submitting a registration request.

Parents, please note: a submitted registration request acts as granted permission for a student to join a given intensive– please know what your student is signing up for.

Many of our intensives require a course fee, parent/family volunteers, special equipment, and/or special permission for specific content.

The registration window to submit requests will be from April 23 - May 3 (11:59 PM).

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 submitted by the deadline will be equally considered during the placement process.

Any student who does not have a request in by the deadline will be automatically placed in an intensive that has an open seat. Additionally, any request that does not indicate three different intensive options will not be considered. No exceptions will be made.

Intensive Confirmation & Payment Information

Intensive confirmations will be available to view on May 8 via Parent/Student Connect. All elementary students will also receive a paper confirmation in their family group.

Once Intensive confirmation is received, associated course fees can be paid online via [ParentConnect](#). Fees must be paid by August 7 to reserve your child's spot in their confirmed intensive. Unpaid balances could result in withdrawal from the intensive course or a penalty in future intensive registrations.

If your family needs financial assistance to cover or offset the cost associated with a given intensive, please fill out the [Intensive Scholarship Application](#).

Our school and our Polaris PTA work 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 May 17 at 11:59 PM

Secondary Course Options:

All Gr. 6

6th Grade Transition Strategies



Becoming a middle school student is both a wonderful and challenging time. This long-standing Polaris Intensive was created to help our sixth-grade cohort prepare for the transition into the Polaris Secondary program with confidence. During this Intensive, you will get all of your questions answered about the move to Secondary, pre-register for your first semester as a 6th Grader, and choose your band or orchestra instrument. This time is set aside to re-engage with academic skills after a beautiful summer and build relationships within your graduating class.

Each 6th Grader will receive a personal copy of Esperanza Rising, by Pam Muñoz Ryan, and Every Living Thing, by Cynthia Rylant. Together, we will focus on discussions based on Socratic Seminar methods, close reading techniques, and practice what it means to be a curious, life-long learner. We will also create art! We will spend a portion of each day in the art room exploring art techniques and expanding our creative horizons. Most importantly, we will explore what it means to be a Polarian and how to be a kind, contributing member of our pack.

Looking forward to meeting everyone!

Course Fee: \$25

Course Instructor: Allie Burris

Course Code/Name: Transition Strategies (M9117)

Credit: 0.25 Elective

Gr. 7-8/10-12

From Garden to Board: Woodworking & Culinary Arts



This hands-on, interdisciplinary intensive engages students in a unique “farm-to-table” experience that blends woodworking, culinary arts, and sustainable gardening. Over the course of seven days, students will design and craft their own food-safe wooden serving board, develop foundational knife and food preparation skills, and explore the art of creating visually appealing and well-balanced appetizer displays.

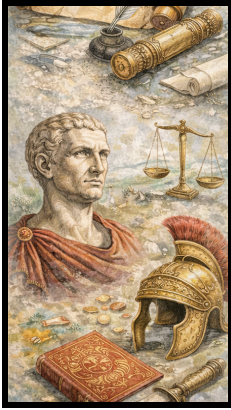
Course Fee: \$95

Course Instructor: Akara Anglin

Course Code/Name: Art Crafts (H9070QALT) or Art Special Topics (M7104QALT)

Credit: 0.25 Elective

Gr. 7-8/10-12 **All Roads Lead to Rome**



From its independence in 509 BCE through its “fall” nearly 2,000 years later, the Roman Empire has influenced our world today. From our system of government (the republic) and law (innocent until proven guilty), through language (Latin), art and architecture (The Arch from the Etruscans, Roads etc.) the Romans continue to be a part of our world.

Course Fee: \$20

Course Instructor: Jeff Bevier

Course Code/Name: Humanities, W Civ (H3505QALT), (M0415QALT)

Credit: 0.25 Social Studies Elective

Gr. 7-8/10-12 **Begin with Zen, Again!**



Back by popular demand, kick off the new school year with Rachel in *Begin with Zen*. Mornings will start with Yoga, Journaling and Reflection. Later in the day, we move to Mosaic Tiling~ creating a variety of beautiful projects and calming the mind in the process. Daily teatime and healthy smoothies add to the Zen. Skills learned (strengthening and calming the mind and body, goal setting, importance of a healthy breakfast- to name a few) will set us up for a calm, focused start to the academic year. Feel free to repeat if you joined us last year~ new concepts will be sprinkled throughout!

Course Fee: \$75

Course Instructor: Rachel Gregory

Course Code/Name: Healthy Life Skill (H6052QALT), (M6052QALT)

Credit: 0.25 Elective

Gr. 7-8/10-12 **Strictly Ballroom**



It’s physical! It’s social! It’s fun! It’s so very IRL! Get off your phone and dance! We’ll be working with Cheryl Jones of Anchorage’s Fred Astaire Dance Studio as we learn and practice a variety of partnered dances. Come and dance swing, Night Club Two Step, and Latin dances. No experience necessary! Expect four hours of physical activity daily as you develop the coordination and confidence to dance with other awkward adolescent humans.

Course Fee: \$110

Course Instructor: Bryan Smith

Course Code/Name: Dance, Introductory (H6650), (M6650QALT)

Credit: 0.25 PE Elective

Gr. 7-8/10-12

Archery



Step into the world of archery in this hands-on, action-packed fall intensive! Students in grades 7–12 will explore archery as both a sport and an art—building focus, precision, and confidence along the way. Through creative games, team challenges, and skill-building activities, students will develop technique and mental stamina needed for archery. We’ll dive into the history and science of archery, learn from guest speakers, and test our skills through friendly, collaborative, and individual competitions. Students will take at least one field trip to an archery range and an axe-throwing venue. We’ll also include a student-voted “archery-themed” movie day.

Course Fee: \$125

Course Instructor: Ilana Kerschbaum

Course Code/Name: Individual Rec Activities (H6666), (M6666QALT)

Credit: 0.25 PE Elective

Gr. 8/10-12 (7 with approval)

Two Wheels Looking For Dirt



Do *you* dream of riding your mountain bike on our beautiful Anchorage single-track trail system *during school*? That’s right - it’s happening again!

Calling all mountain bike riders!

Janice’s Jive, Ticket-to-Ride, Bolling Alley, C\$, and so many more amazing mountain-biking trails await. Join Andrea and Greg to develop your mountain-biking skills: reading terrain, balance, pedal cadence, shifting, braking, cornering, weight transition, climbing, wheel lifts, drops and miles of experience!

Requirements:

- **A ride from your family to and from the trailhead locations each day of the intensive (mainly Kincaid and Hillside).**
- Have some experience riding a mountain bike on trails, but you don’t need to be an expert.
- Have a **mountain** bike that has been inspected for safety issues, has proper mountain bike tires and fits the rider.
- Have a properly fitted mountain biking helmet in good condition.
- Be willing to ride long rides without stopping, over varying terrain and in all weather conditions.

Course Fee: \$25

Course Instructor: Andrea Evans & Greg Hobson

Course Code/Name: Outdoor Adventure (H7055QALT), (M7055QALT)

Credit: 0.25 PE Elective

Gr. 7-8/10-12

Jazz Improv



Do you play a band or orchestra instrument and want to learn how to jazz? Come learn the ins and outs and in-betweens of creative performing, jazz improv, and how to be a cool cat. Word on the street is Everybody Wants to be a Cat (hint, hint). We are looking for: all band instruments, all orchestra instruments, piano, guitar, electric bass, and drums.

Requisites:

- At least 1 year of band/orchestra experience
- You own your own instrument
- Maximum of 3 drummers

Come hang out and jam!

Course Fee: \$FREE

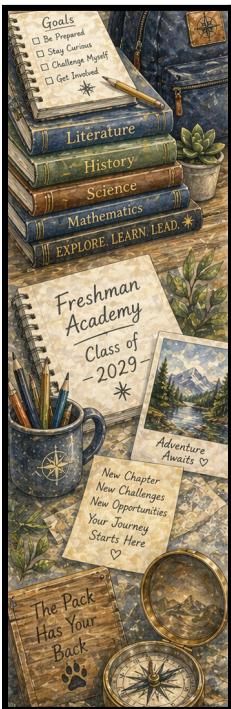
Course Instructor: Brad Hamilton

Course Code/Name: TBA

Credit: 0.25 Music Elective

Gr. 9

9th Grade Freshman Academy



Our 9th Grade Intensive will welcome all 9th graders to the world of high school, specifically high school here at Polaris K-12! In this intensive, you will not only form a community of fellow freshmen, but you will learn the tools to be successful in High School and beyond! Topics focus on community, lifelong learning, ethical responsibility, academic and personal excellence, and so much more! All 9th graders will be automatically enrolled unless previous arrangements have been made for travel intensives.

Instructional Goals:

- Introduce Freshmen students to college & career options & opportunities
- Introduce Freshmen students to high school information-credits, schedules, Alaska Performance Scholarship
- Introduce Freshmen students to habits and skills necessary to succeed in high school

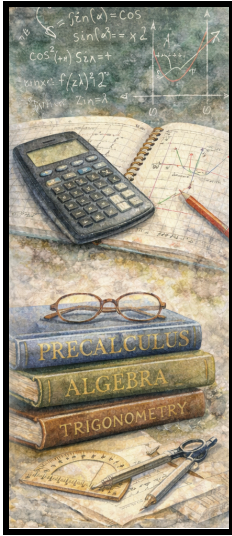
Course Fee: \$20

Course Instructor: Larry Frick

Course Code/Name: Advisory Intensive (H9911ALT)

Credit: 0.25 Elective

Gr. 10-12



A Prelude to Precalculus

Have you completed Algebra 2 and are wondering what math class comes next? The answer: you're almost ready for Calculus! If you plan to take AP Calculus during the 2024-2025 school year, and you have not taken a PreCalculus course, then you must take this intensive. We will intensely study exponential functions, logarithmic functions, trig functions, rational functions, asymptotes, composite functions, function transformations, and analyzing function graphs. We're going to put the FUN in FUNctions! All of this will lead directly to your readiness for success in AP Calculus.

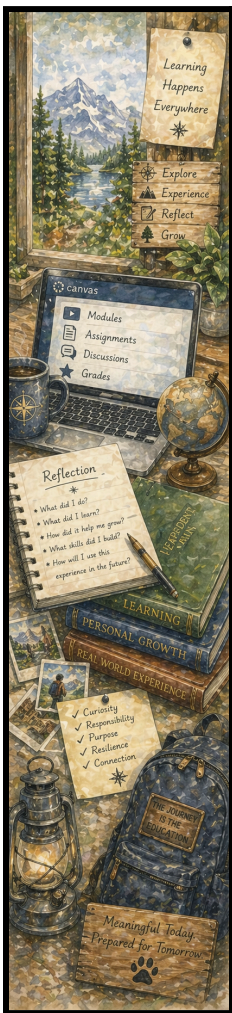
Course Fee: \$FREE

Course Instructor: Christian Haich

Course Code/Name: Math, Special Topics (H1017QALT)

Credit: 0.25 Math Elective

K-12



Independent Study Course | For Students Non-Attending

This option is designed for students who remain actively enrolled during the Intensive session but are not participating in a scheduled intensive. The Independent Study Course ensures students continue meeting district and state attendance expectations while engaging in meaningful learning experiences outside the traditional intensive structure.

Students enrolled in this course will complete an online learning component through Canvas and submit written reflections documenting their independent experiences. These experiences may include work commitments, dual-enrollment scheduling conflicts, family travel, internships, or other meaningful learning opportunities. Throughout the session, students will demonstrate engagement by submitting regular reflections that connect their experiences to personal growth, skills development, and learning outcomes.

Secondary students may earn academic credit for successful completion of the course. The course will culminate in a final reflective essay, allowing students to thoughtfully synthesize their learning and demonstrate that meaningful work was completed during the Intensive period.

*Please note, all students who are absent from intensives and choose not to enroll in this course/complete course requirements will be considered unexcused and could jeopardize their enrollment in our Choice program.

Course Instructor: Various

Course Code/Name: H3011 or M9113 / Social Studies, Independent Study

Credit: up to .5 Credit, subject may vary