

Northbridge Public Schools Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

Shannon Canoy, Chairperson, <u>scanoy@nps.org</u> Jill Leonard, Vice-Chair, <u>jleonard@nps.org</u> Heather Alden, <u>halden@nps.org</u> Jonathan Canoy, <u>jcanoy@nps.org</u> Carl Cowen, <u>ccowen@nps.org</u>

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00PM)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Attendance

Jill Leonard

Absent

Jonathan Canoy

Present

Heather Alden

Present

Shannon Canoy

Present

Carl Cowen

Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker and Student Representative, Caleb Smith.

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Student Representative Report (7:05PM)

Caleb provided updates on the high school Robotics Team (Northbridgeatrons) participation in the First Tech robotics competition qualifying event on Saturday, December 9th in Needham, MA. The team is new, but they did very well for their first event ever, and they were very excited to see the amazing things other robotics teams are doing. They will be going to their second qualifying event on Sunday, January 21st at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Congratulations to the team and their advisor, Ms. Alicia Simonti. Caleb also shared that the high school will be bringing back "Winter Holiday Extravaganza" (formerly Winter Carnival) for the last block on Friday, December 22nd. Students will be able to pick from a variety of fun and festive events to participate in, and each teacher will host a different activity or event. Everyone is looking forward to it!

VII. Superintendent's Report (7:15PM)

NES has been celebrating the countdown to Winter Break during the month of December with Spirit Days. Today was Candy Cane day, and the students (and staff) were decked out in red and white stripes. Tomorrow is Tinsel Toes – wear your favorite socks, Thursday is Winter Wonderland – wear all white, and Friday is Mele Kalikimaka – wear your favorite tropical attire, along with Holiday Hats, Gingerbread Man, Elves, Gnomes and Snowman, Penguin, and Warm and Cozy days through December 22nd. On December 7th, NES hosted teachers from Dexter Southfield Elementary School so that they could observe several of our teacher engaged in the SRSD writing process and strategies. Following their visit, they had a Q & A with the NES admin. and SRSD champions. They were thrilled with what they learned from our staff.

The Middle School MCAS remediation program is up and running. There are currently 12-6th graders, 4-7th graders, and 12 - 8th graders attending the program. Almost 100 students were invited. The Student Council sponsored a donation drive for collecting socks, stuffed animals, and blankets from 11/13 - 12/8. We are very proud of our NMS family - they collected over 80 blankets, 65 stuffed animals, and many many socks and mittens.

The middle school also started a Bullying and Harassment Unit during their Advisory blocks last week that will last for the next several weeks. Letters were sent home to parents explaining what the bullying curriculum will cover at each grade level (6-8), including key definitions at each grade level. Students will talk about how to recognize the different types of harassment and what the difference is between bullying and harassment and what their rights and responsibilities are in these situations.

The 8th grade advisors are looking for baby pictures of 8th grade students for the middle school yearbook. They will be accepting pictures until Friday, February 16th. Parents can also sent these photos in to the middle school at nmsyearbook@nps.org.

The middle school will be hosting a parent meeting on December 21 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss any areas of concern or ideas that parents may have for improvement. The link to the meeting can be found in the Middle School parent newsletter. Mrs. Palmer-Howes will also be hosting a Coffee with the Principal at 2:15 p.m. on the same day to discuss and share information about instruction, programs, and student achievement.

This afternoon, superintendents received some data from DESE regarding chronic absenteeism and its correlation to MCAS, and while we know that MCAS achievement is not the only measure of success or the only reason attendance matters, the data is blatant.

For our students at NES who took ELA and Math MCAS ($386 - 3^{rd}$, 4^{th} and 5^{th} graders), there is an average of 10 points difference between CA (62 - 16%) and non-CA students (324), in both subject areas. For our middle school students (6-8), there was an 11 point difference in ELA and a 13 point difference in math. CA = 99 (21%), NCA = 363. And for our high school students, there was a 9 point difference in ELA and a 13 point difference in math between chronically absent and non-chronically absent students. CA= 24 (22%), NCA = 83.

The Northbridge Public Schools ensures equal employment and educational opportunities for its employees and students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity (M.G.L. c. 151B and 151C, Title VI, Title VII and Title IX), or on the basis of disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA) or homelessness. In addition, the Northbridge Public Schools does not discriminate against its employees on the basis of age (M.G.L. 151B/ADEA) on the basis of veteran's status, or genetic information.

Our Els and our LIs have the highest rates of Chronic Absenteeism with EL attendance rates at the end of last at 88.6% and LI attendance at 90.1.

Important Dates:

Wednesday, December 13th – Community Closet at NMS is open beginning at 2:15 p.m. Thursday, December 14th – NMS Winter Concert

Saturday, December 16th – Middle School Drama Production "Camelot and Camelittle" at 1:00 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. and then Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. at NMS

Tuesday, December 19th – NHS Winter Concert at 7:00 p.m. at the high school

Tuesday, December 19th – Tiered Focus Monitoring audit/visit

Friday, December 22nd – last day before Winter Break

VIII. Presentations

A. John and Abigail Adams Scholars and WCSA Scholar

Superintendent McKinstry presented certificates to 24 students in the Class of 2024 who received John and Abigail Adams Scholarships for their performance on MCAS. These scholarship entitle the students to free tuition at any state-approved college in Massachusetts for up to eight semesters. In order to receive this scholarship, these students had to score Advanced in one of their three MCAS tests (ELA, math or STE – science), and at last two scores of Proficient on their other two MCAS subject tests. Many of these students scored Advanced on all three MCAS tests. The following students received recognition tonight: Timmothy Adams; Ryan Bedigian; Samantha Brody; Abigail Caya; Britnei Chen; Sarah Cowen; Erika Dresp; Madelynne Driscoll; Charles Dupuis; Adam Ells; Ryan Flaherty; Olivia Frabotta; Emily Guarino; Ainsley Hogan; Callie Jee; Hannah King; Kayda King; Joseph Mazzarelli; Charleigh Mitchell; Austin O'Keeffe; Zachary O'Meara; Jack Wallace; Matthew Waterson; and Natalie Zborowski.

In addition, the Superintendent awarded the Worcester County Superintendents Association Scholar Award to Kayda King.

B. Kim Jennings, AlphaBest

Kim Jennings, the Director of Program Operations for AlphaBest, NPS's before and after school care program, did a presentation about AlphaBest's services in Northbridge. (Documents attached.)

IX. Consent Agenda (7:30PM)

- A. Joint SC & BOS Meeting Minutes 11/14/2023
- B. School Committee Meeting Minutes 11/14/2023
- C. Warrant 24-19 11/16/2023 \$32,091.04
- D. Warrant 24-20 11/22/2023 \$281,661.41

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the minutes and Warrants. It was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

Jill Leonard

N/A

Heather Alden

Yes

Shannon Canoy

Yes

Jonathan Canoy

Yes

Carl Cowen

Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 4-0

X. Discussion (7:35PM)

No discussion items for this agenda.

XI. Public Comment (8:00PM)

No citizens present for public comment.

XII. Action

No action items for this agenda.

XIII. Information

Superintendent McKinstry shared building data with the committee. Document attached.

Additional data will be provided once per month to show trend data in each of the categories listed in the document.

XV Adjournment (8:15PM)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to adjourn. It was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

Jill Leonard

N/A

Heather Alden

Yes

Shannon Canoy

Yes

Jonathan Canoy

Yes

Carl Cowen

Yes

The Northbridge Public Schools ensures equal employment and educational opportunities for its employees and students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity (M.G.L. c. 151B and 151C, Title VI, Title VII and Title IX), or on the basis of disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA) or homelessness. In addition, the Northbridge Public Schools does not discriminate against its employees on the basis of age (M.G.L. 151B/ADEA) on the basis of veteran's status, or genetic information.

The motion was passed with a vote of 4-0

Note: The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Also, the timeframe for each topic is a general guideline and may not be strictly adhered to.

dge Public Schools	СНООГ	\$7.25	\$36.25	СНООГ	\$15.75	\$78.75	EDUCED LUNCH QUALIFIED	\$6.15	\$13.50	\$30.00	\$67.50	PTIONS	\$45.00 per day	\$38.25 per day	\$60.00 per day	\$51.00 per day	\$150.00 per week	\$85.00 per pass	Included
Rates for Northbridge Public Schools	вегоке school	Daily	Weekly	AFTER SCHOOL	Daily	Меекіу	REDUCED RATES FOR FREE/REDUCED LUNCH QUALIFIED	Daily Before	Daily After	Weekly Before	Weekly After	OTHER OPTIONS	Full-Day School Day	Full-Day School Day (Reduced Rate)	Full-Day Extended Day	Full-Day Extended Day (Reduced Rate)	Full Week	5 Visit Punch Pass	Early Release Days

LOCATIONS: Northbridge E
O
Meet our partners in wonder.





N LO)

Total AlphaBEST scholarships State Subsidies



OID GLOBALE CO Green mouse

Gearming education

Second STOP Faberision

art in 📞 action





S CALIBERT

Maker Ed

EAGE PARTY

Tire Casign.

AlphaBEST EDUCATION

IMPACT REPORT FOR NORTHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AlphaBEST Overview:



2023-2024
19 STATES PLUS WASHINGTON DC
25,000 STUDENTS
\$60 SCHOOLS
77 DISTRICTS

EST.2005: 2 STATES, 50 SCHOOLS, 3,000 STUDENTS

Number of District Partnerships:

Total Number of School District Partners	7.2
Total Number of Schools	260
Oldest Contract	Frisco ISD, TX since 2005
Contract Renewal Rate	%26

8 Massachusetts 3 Rhode Island

Enrollment Data:

	134	134
Fall 2023 Enrollment	Northbridge Elementary	TOTAL ENROLLMENT:

Total 2022-2023 Student Enrollment:

119



AlphaBEST FOR THOM

NORTHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF BY ROLE:

15	Group Leaders
N	Site Directors
0	Area Managers
٥	District Managers

in Northbridge **Public Schools** STAFF

nationally as we seek to create critical thinkers and the next generation of innovators. AlphaBEST

STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) education is a critical focus of educators

B How wonder is experienced with AlphaBEST.

takes pride in our curiosity-driven, always current STEM and Technology Arts programming

developed in partnership with some of the nation's leading STEM education experts.

World Language & Culture program uses exclusive curriculum to expose students to at least two

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

Iwenty-one of the top 25 industrialized countries begin the study of world languages in K-5. Our

AlphaBEST understands that today's students need to be **globally aware** and well rounded,

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

foreign languages, with all lessons aligned to World Readiness Standards for Language Learning.

essons integrate voice, choice and hands on learning. Culture is weaved into every unit.

based on principles and techniques designed to improve gross motor skills, flexibility, posture, AlphaBEST's Wellness & Fitness is a prevention-driven fitness, health and wellness program that is

strength, balance, teamwork and coordination.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

FITNESS & WELLNESS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment activities. Students explore creative concepts, build confidence, and explore

current and **emerging technologies** while creating and presenting their talents.

Visual arts, performing arts and **video production** units round out the AlphaBEST Arts &

Northbridge Serving Families

since:

2018

⊕ ⊖ ⊚ 9 9

What parents are saying about AlphaBEST.

The care that they provide is five stars all The staff at AlphaBEST are all wonderful! the way!"

Northbridge Parent



alphabest.org







Three Grade Bands: K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 Community Building [12 activities]
Growth Bindert & Goal Satting (12 activities)
Emotion Management (12 activities)
Emptity & Kindmass (13 activities) Designed for Out-of-School Time zecono Slep



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT | DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN FULL INCLUSIVITY:

original founders of the Maker movement. Students imagine, design, and create projects that **Design thinking** is at the core of making. Maker spaces pop up in all AlphaBEST schools every

align the content of learning with hands-on application.

other week. Our group leaders are **certified** in the delivery of *learning-through-making* by the

K.I.T. Partnership

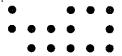
- Inclusion Support

- Positive Behavior Support Center
- Accommodations Handbook
- Inclusion Committee



AlphaBEST Core Values:







Curriculum Expedition Descriptions 2023-2024

At AlphaBEST, we believe in the power of wonder, enabling and encouraging children to use their innate sense of imagination as we expand their horizons. We do far more than provide a safe, nurturing environment for children before and after school — we create rich, immersive learning experiences in a variety of educational areas, including coding & robotics, digital animation, engineering, maker spaces, world language & culture, dramatic & visual arts, and fitness & wellness. What's more, our program is backed by exclusive partnerships with national curriculum experts, enabling us to deliver the most groundbreaking, research-based curricula available, all centered around our vision: to shape future generations of thoughtful, curious problem solvers and collaborators by showing them that learning can be fun, engaging and can happen anywhere.

QUARTER ONE

Spanish Innovation Exploration

Let's learn about the incredible ways engineers, innovators and scientists from the Spanish-speaking nations of Panamá, Paraguay and Ecuador have helped advance modern society — and learn Spanish vocabulary in the process! Through fun videos and engaging hands-on activities, AlphaBEST has partnered with the Global Language Project to merge science, culture and Spanish into one enthralling activity series! Our explorers will investigate a prosthetic hand invented in Paraguay and create their own model hands. While in Ecuador, they will be transported to the Galapagos to experiment with unique bird beak shapes to gain a deeper understanding of how animals can vary. And during a trip to Panamá, they'll take an up-close look at the Panamá Canal to learn about the science behind it and its impact on society.

Art Around the World

We're going to travel the world and through history in this fine arts series provided by Art In Action. In each session, our explorers will learn about a famous piece of art that is reflective of a historically significant artistic style. The students will then be encouraged to create their own masterpieces using similar materials and techniques as the masters. In one session, students will be transported to ancient Persia to learn about their beautiful mosaic landscapes before using sequins to create one of their own. In another session, the students will travel to early 1800s Nigeria to study classic Yoruba sculptures — when they return to the present, they'll use clay to build their own. Throughout this exhilarating

opportunity, explorers will also encounter Byzantine mosaics, Zuni water jars, Japanese landscapes and more!

Maker Survivor Challenge

The Maker Survivor Challenge puts our explorers in the middle of the action. Pretending to be a team of survivalists, our students will find themselves on Maker Island, a deserted island with very few resources, but a lot of opportunities. We're all going to have to come together to learn how to build ourselves shelter, forage for food and keep ourselves entertained. The Maker Mindset is the foundation of this activity series. We'll be focusing on the process itself, rather than concerning ourselves with the look of each student's final product. The goal is to discover what our creativity can do when presented with limited materials. We're to have fun week after week as we encourage our makers to find inspiration in everything.

Fitness - American Coaching Academy Small Group Games

We are kicking off the school year with a fun assortment of fitness games from the American Coaching Academy. All of these games promote team building, sportsmanship and essential fitness skills that we will build on all year long.

Tech - STEAM

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math are vitally important subjects, which is why we're giving our explorers the opportunity to learn about each of them, as well as participate in challenges that show how STEAM is applied in today's world. Our students will solve real-world problems while learning about aeronautics, anatomy, video game design, and color theory. So get ready to build an animal shelter, code a treasure hunt, test a helicopter, and much more!

QUARTER TWO

ASL Goes to the Movies

Get your tickets, grab your popcorn and find your seat, because ASL is going to the movies! In each of these enthralling sessions, we're celebrating a different genre of film. Each session comes with a fun project and relevant American Sign Language vocabulary. We're going to pretend to be action stars as we complete a room escape challenge. We're going to design and build a sci-fi creature. We're even going to write and film a real documentary. And what would movies be without an awards show? We'll create our very own awards and ceremony before the final curtain closes. Developed in partnership with Gallaudet University.

Variety Show

Let's put on a show! In this fun and inclusive activity series, our explorers are going to learn about everything it takes to put on a show, from performing on stage to designing sets to creating talent lineups. During the first half of our sessions, students will practice a wide variety of performing art specialties like singing, dancing, acting, telling jokes and doing magic. In the second half, we're going to create and star in our own Variety Show. By the end, everyone will have a chance to show off their talents while adding a few more tricks to their personal repertoires.

Shake Things Up - Engineering Earthquake-Resistant Buildings

To spark curiosity, sometimes you have to shake things up, which is exactly why we're helping our explorers become knowledgeable earthquake engineers. Earthquake engineers create and innovate special building designs that support structures during a sudden shift in the earth's tectonic plates. We're going to show students how the Engineering Design Process works, as well as test building models with earthquake simulation machines that they're going to make themselves! Our final event will feature the simulation of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that will put the students' earthquake-resistant building models to the test.

Tech - Stop-Motion Basics

What child doesn't love animation? That's why we're giving our explorers a chance to practice their animation skills. Every week, they will learn a new filmmaking technique designed to bring their stories to life through stop-motion animation. Our students will create their very own movies using a wide variety of animation techniques and materials. With various props, our junior animators will create polished movies of rockets blasting off, monkeys swinging through the jungle, buzzing bees and more!

<u>Fitness - American Coaching Academy PE Station Cards</u>

We believe in the value of keeping our explorers active and fit, and PE Station Cards are a great way to encourage everyone. Our explorers will rotate through multiple Challenge Stations to practice kicking, catching, striking, dribbling and an array of other fundamental movement skills. Throughout this entire fitness regimen, the students will stop by 59 different stations provided by the American Coaching Academy where they will have multiple opportunities to uncover the physical activities that they love the most.

QUARTER THREE

Drama: Tales from Australia and New Zealand

The folktales of Australia and New Zealand are rich in history and entertainment, and we're going to explore many of them in this series of activities, culminating in a live performance of three plays collaboratively produced by the students. Throughout our drama workshop, we'll help foster teamwork, build self-esteem, and develop public speaking skills through imaginative play and scripted acting activities. So get ready, explorers, because we're going to do some serious acting!

<u>Nigeria</u>

Our partners at Little Global Citizens are taking us on a guided tour to the beautiful land of Nigeria. This expedition is chock full of authentic information from Nigerian children's book author and cultural ambassador, Ifeoma Onyefulu. Together, we will explore traditional and modern Nigerian culture through crafts, language, and games. We are excited for our inaugural partnership with Little Global Citizen, a winner of Mom's Choice Gold Award for best educational tool.

Cricket 101

Have you ever heard of a sport called cricket? Strange how few Americans know what cricket is, since it's considered to be the second most-loved sport in the world behind soccer. Played in more than 180 countries and existing for more than 200 years, cricket is followed by 2.5 billion people! At AlphaBEST, we love an opportunity to bring the world into our programs, so we're exposing our explorers to experiences that they would not normally find during their school day. Cricket is a fun and active way to broaden our world view.

Liftoff: Rockets and Rovers

3...2...1...Blast off! We can't wait to introduce our explorers to this aerospace engineering expedition from the Boston Museum of Science. We're going to experiment with several unique variables as we design and engineer rockets, rovers and more that students will send into the air with a stomp launcher. As we go, the students will also learn about the International Space Station, the work that aerospace engineers are doing at NASA and other aerospace-related information.

Bloxels Discovery

Video games are part of life, but they're so much more fun when we can make them ourselves! With the Bloxels game and app, our explorers will enter the world of video game design! As the students learn how to create and manipulate pixel art, they will craft

heroes, enemies, level layouts and more! This exciting series is designed to guide video game architects in asset animation and art design. Students will share their adventures with their friends on a celebratory gameday when their video game is complete!

QUARTER FOUR

The Wondrous Wild

Planet Earth is a wondrous and wild place full of animals who depend on us to protect them. The World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) is dedicated to educating people about endangered species and how to protect them. AlphaBEST brings the WWF Wild Classroom into our afterschool programs, empowering our students to do what they can to protect our precious planet and all the animals who live on it with us.

Maker Essentials

This expedition takes classic maker education to another level. Young makers are challenged to think critically about how to engineer solutions to some concrete, everyday issues, as well as some abstract silly ones. You might need to innovate a way to get something out of a tree, or perhaps you'll be invited to invent a musical instrument for a spider. You never know what challenges await.

Crack the Code with SPHERO (BOLT)

So much of the world operates based on the coding of others, so we're giving our explorers the opportunity to learn some coding of their own with Sphero Bolt! Our students are going to be introduced to programming and code design. Along the way, they'll learn to use several different coding techniques, such as loops and functions, to design movement, light, and shape programs. The Sphero Bolt will soon become a race car, or play Simon Says, and even play croquet!

Introduction to Coding with SPHERO (indi)

Learning to code can open so many doors to creativity, and the Sphero Indi is an ideal way to introduce young programmers to the basics of coding. Using an easy-to-understand system of color-coded tiles, our explorers will design programs that take Indi bowling, travel through a tunnel, and compete in a car race! As a bonus, our students will also learn about spatial clearance, navigation and angles throughout each fun, weekly challenge.



Monthly Building Data	NHS NMS NES	—order of responses
Publish analytics	-	4
Please indicate which school you are providing in	formation for:	[Сору
3 responses		1.
	● NES	1 0
33.3%	● NMS ● NHS	ald dam
33.3%		adardana

Please indicate how many times each of the following forms of discipline were used or how many incidents of the particular offense:

33.3%

1st offense - cell phone: Two ODs

3 responses

6

0

N/A

2nd offense - cell phone: 2 ODs and complete loss of device for 2 weeks

3 responses

o response

1

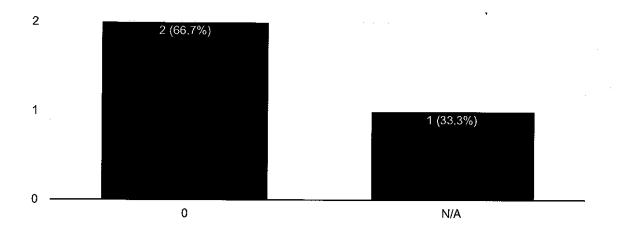
0

N/A

3rd offense - cell phone: One day suspension and loss of device for remainder of year

Сору

3 responses



Tardy to school - came after homeroom ended:

3 responses

127 total 60=1 day, 27= 2 days, 5=3 days, 35= 4+ days

This is a report we cannot run due to our current constraints. I have spoken with the high school and they changed the way they record tardies. They created a new code "Tardy to school". The middle school will do this going forward. The data currently only shows by period.

Term 1= 274 Term 2=652

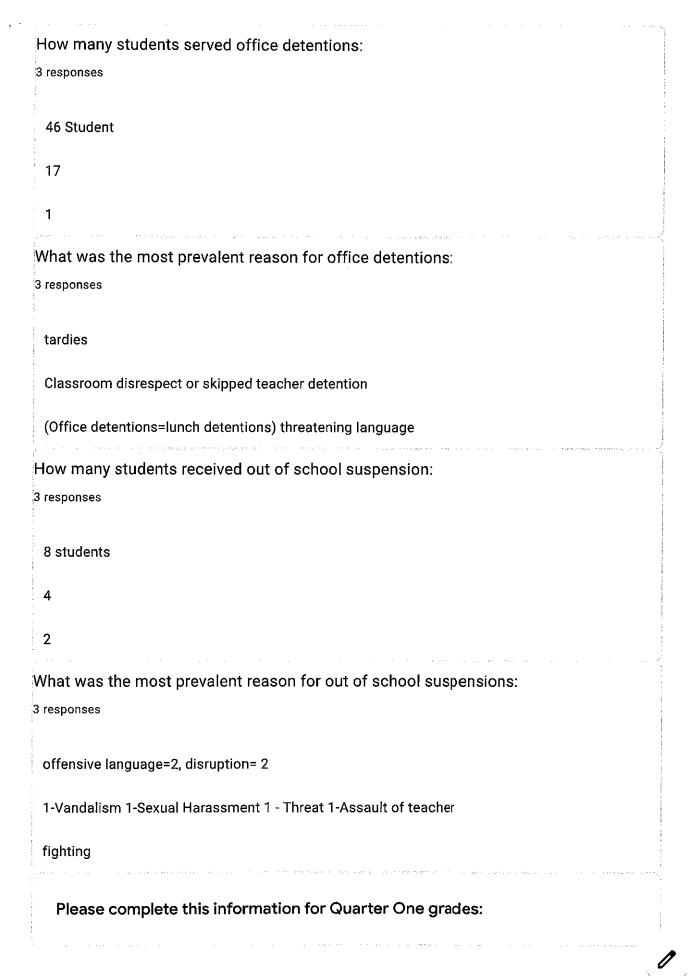
How many students received office detentions:

3 responses

47 students

18

1



How many students in each grade failed at least one core class for the first quarter?

3 responses

9th= 12, 10th=17, 11th= 14, 12th=1

6th: 3 students 7th: 4 students 8th: 7 students

N/A

How many students in each grade failed at least one class - core or elective?

3 responses

9th= 16, 10th= 18, 11th= 16, 12th= 7

6th: 7 students 7th: 5 students 8th: 8 students

N/A

How many students failed two or more core classes?

3 responses

9th= 3, 10th= 2, 11th= 1, 12th= 0

6th: 0 7th: 1 student 8th: 2 students

N/A

How many students failed two or more classes - core OR elective?

3 responses

9th= 7, 10th= 7, 11th=5, 12th= 0

6th: 0 7th: 2 students 8th: 2 students

N/A

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. Report Abuse - Terms of Service - Privacy Policy