

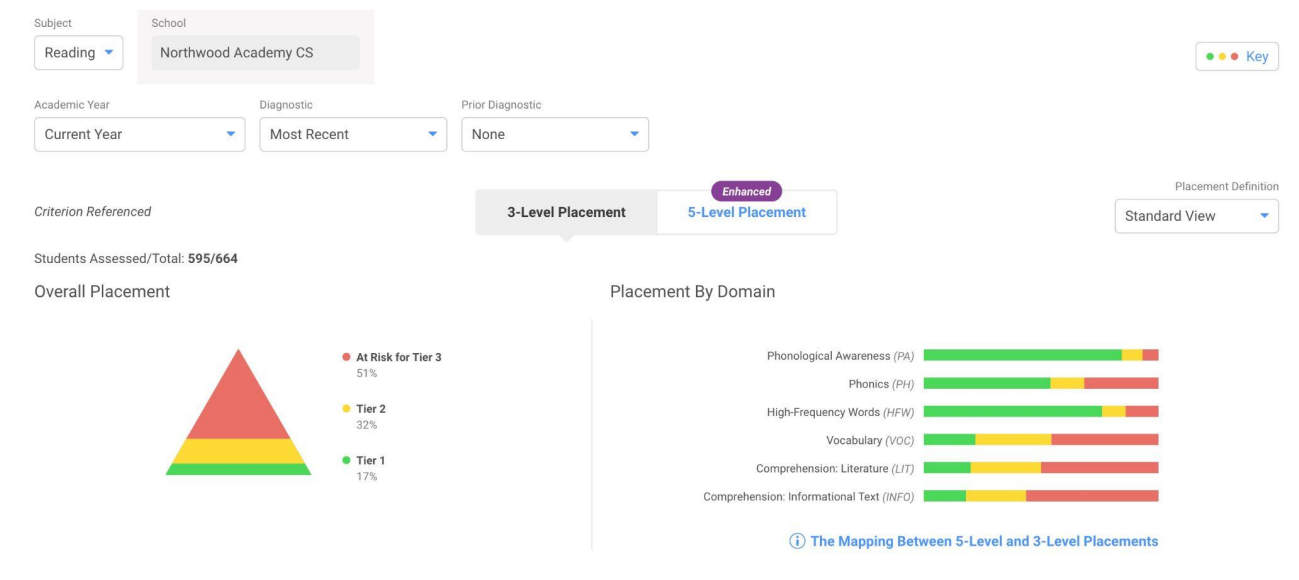
Principal's Report- Academics

Iready

i-Ready Diagnostic is a test designed to help teachers support students and provide a path of instruction for every learner. The adaptive test adjusts its questions to each student's needs. Each question a student sees is individualized based on their answer to the previous question. A series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions. This provides essential information for teachers about what the student knows and what they are ready to learn.

Students in First Grade through 8th Grade were administered the Iready Diagnostic Assessment in Reading and in Math. The following are the results of that assessment:

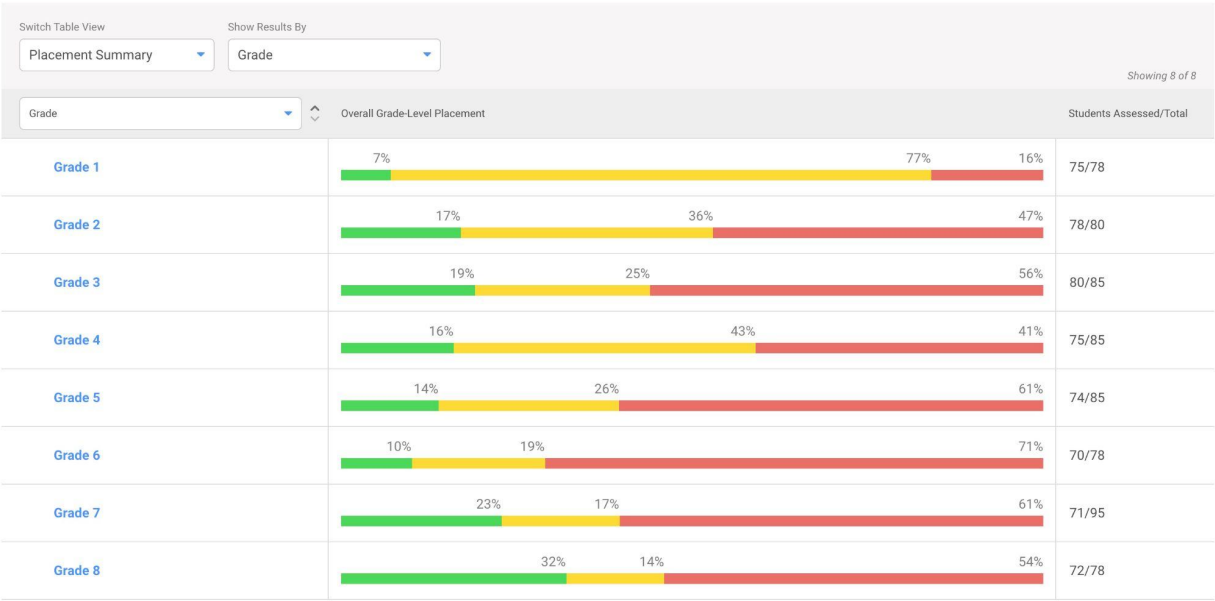
READING:



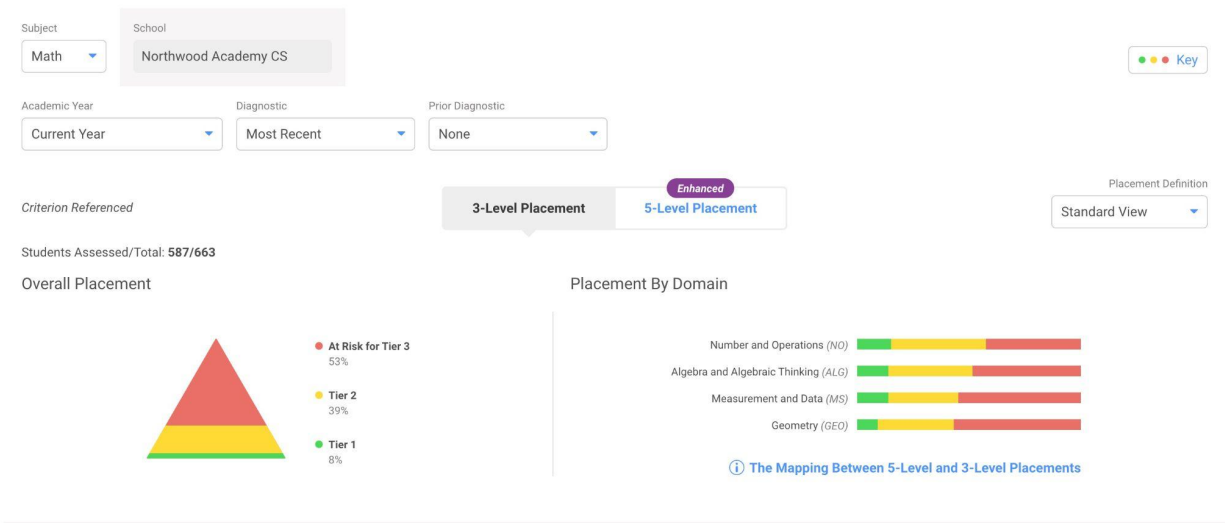
This chart illustrates that 51% of our students fall in the At Risk Category for Reading. As a whole, our students demonstrate strength in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and High Frequency words.

Students present with deficiencies in vocabulary, comprehension of literature, and comprehension of informational texts.

The following is a breakdown of Reading Assessment results by grade:

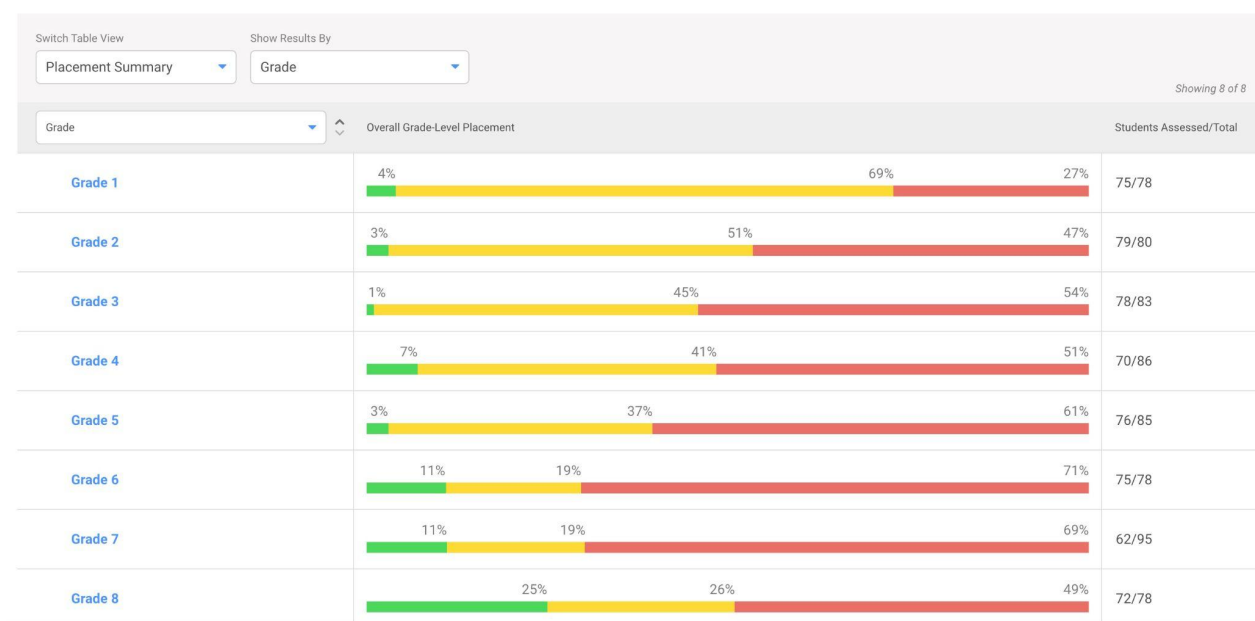


MATH:



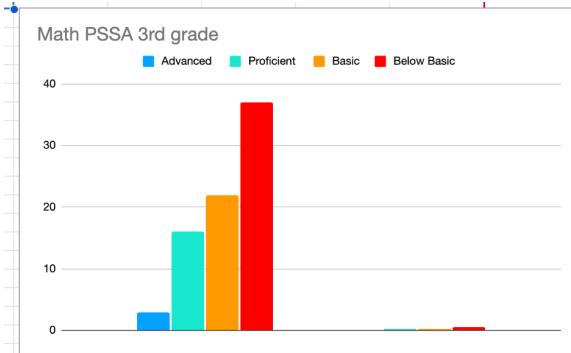
This chart illustrates that 53% of our students fall in the At Risk Category for Math. As a whole our students demonstrate a relative strength in Numbers and Operations as well as Algebra and Algebraic Thinking. Students present with the highest deficiencies in Measurement and Data as well as Geometry.

The following is a breakdown of Math Assessment results by grade:

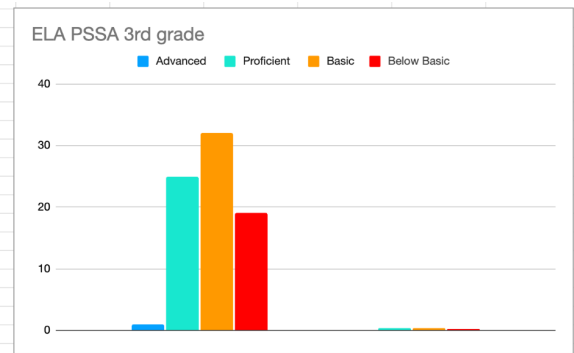


PSSA Spring 2023

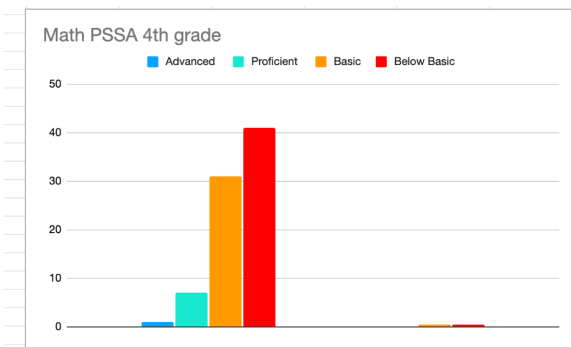
The Pennsylvania System School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment which provides students, parents, educators and citizens with an understanding of student and school performance related to the attainment of proficiency of the academic standards. The PSSA is a state assessment. Northwood students were administered the PSSA in the Spring of 2023. The following is a visual representation of how students performed in English Language Arts and Mathematics grades 3 - 7 (our current 4th - 8th grade students).



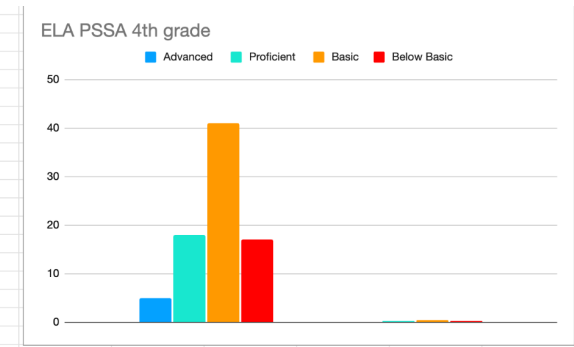
Math	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
78 students	3	16	22	37
	3%	21%	28%	47%



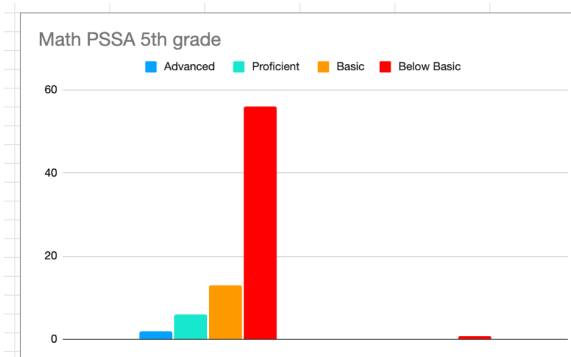
English	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
78 students	1	25	32	19
	1%	32%	41%	24%



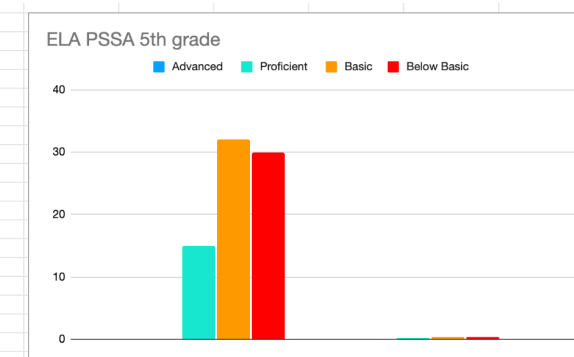
Math	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
81	1	7	31	41
	1%	9%	38%	51%



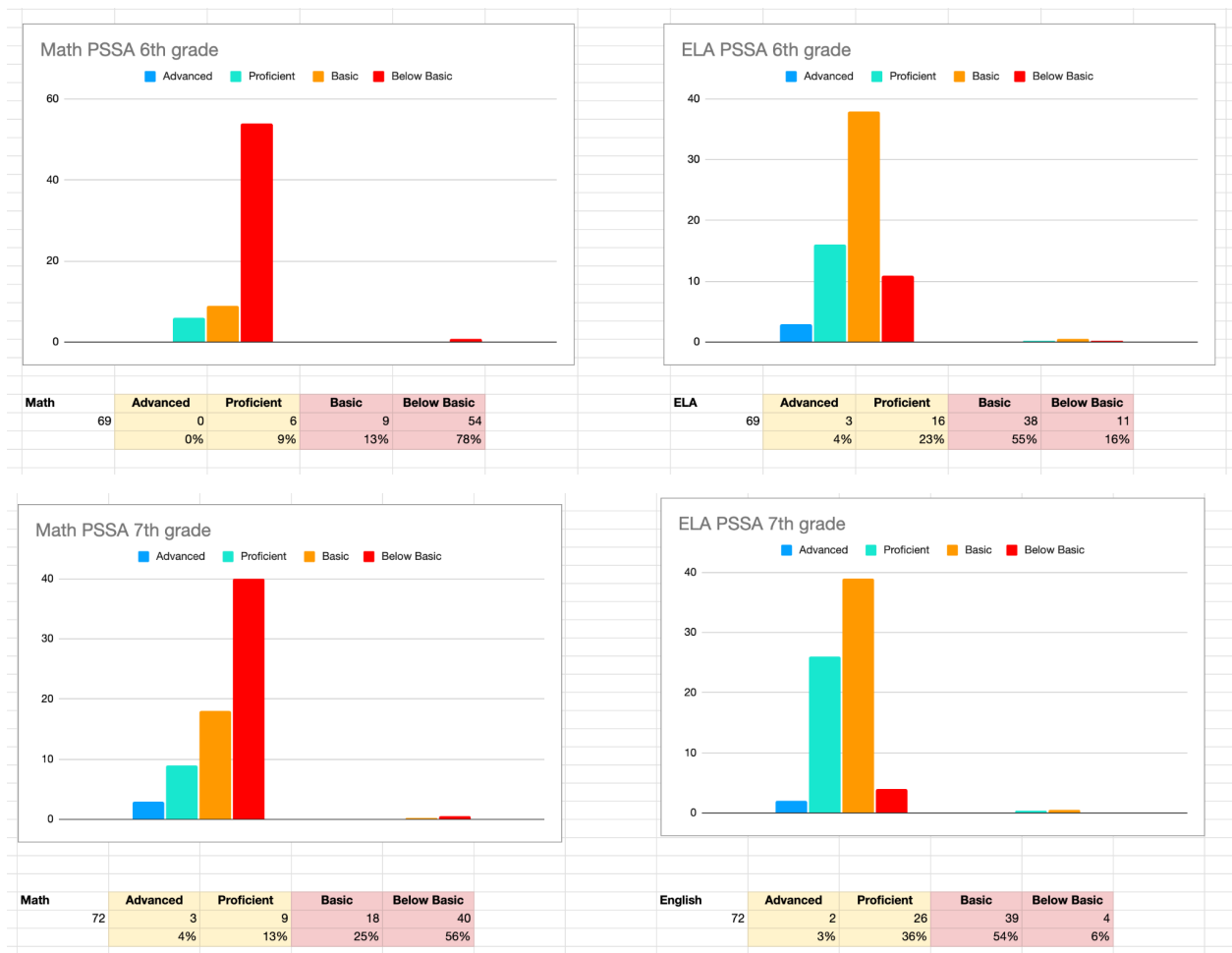
English	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
81	5	18	41	17
	6%	22%	51%	21%



Math	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
77	2	6	13	56
	3%	8%	17%	73%



ELA	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
77	0	15	32	30
	0%	19%	42%	39%



Proficiency in ELA in grades 3- 7 averages around 27% proficiency (including proficient and advanced scores). Philadelphia district schools averaged 34% proficiency in 2023.

Proficiency in Mathematics in grades 3 -7 averages around 13% proficiency (including proficient and advanced). Philadelphia district schools averaged 20% proficiency in 2023*.

*Note: There was a 16% increase in math proficiency from 2022 to 2023 in Philadelphia district schools.

Curriculum -

Reading

K- 2 currently uses 2 reading programs. The first is Foundations which is a Wilson Reading product primarily designed to address Phonemic Awareness, & Decoding (Learning how to Read). The

second reading program is Into Reading which is an HMH product designed to provide students with literature and reading comprehension.

3rd grade - In 3rd grade students primarily used the Into Reading Curriculum to address Grammar, Phonics, Comprehension and Writing. In third grade the instructional focus in reading shifts from decoding words (learning how to read) to comprehension (reading to learn).

4th - 8 - Currently 4th through 8th teachers provide reading instruction by utilizing PA Core standards. A proposal has been drafted to purchase a Reading Curriculum for upper grades. An update on the selected reading curriculum will be provided at the following Board meeting. The Upper School ELA Department has been reviewing curricula. The team has identified two such curriculums. After reviewing both, the team has recommended the Engage NY ELA program. This curriculum aligns with the PA ELA Standards with the exception of the fourth grade state history.

The following link is the Engage NY ELA archived files.

<https://nysed.sharepoint.com/sites/P12EngageNY-ELA-EXTA/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id>

In addition to the curriculum alignment for 4-8, this curriculum is also aligned with K-8.

Ms. Gibson, 6th grade ELA

The ELA department has also identified a writing resource which will provide laser focus supports for the deficiencies in writing, It is No Red Ink

[No Red Ink](#)

The ELA teachers in the Upper School will implement this program.

Math

K-8 currently uses GO Math as the mathematics program across all grades. GO Math is an HMH product that is Common Core Aligned designed to make conceptual math more approachable for students. Northwood is looking to Pilot 2 -3 math curriculums (1 per class per curriculum) in the Spring of 2024 for full implementation next school year. Ms. Meghan Curley is the new Math Interventionist, she has delved into the PSSA Math results and is comparing the results to the results of the I-Ready Math diagnostic test. Once the data has been collected, a plan for support with the 4-8 students will be rolled out.

School Culture-

School support- two additional deans were approved. The deans will support the following grade bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8.

Teacher Supports-

- Mr. Kell will be providing support to teachers 1x a week in restorative practices.
- Jounce Partners have been approved to provide teacher coaching, primarily in classroom management in cycles.
- Implementation of Revised Handbook with a new Code of Conduct is presented for approval. [☰ A_COPY_OCTOBER 2023 Draft Student & Family Handbook](#)
- October 18th - Full Day Professional Development dedicated to culture systems

Professional Development -

Student Achievement is linked to curriculum and instructional programs as well as teacher practice. An additional approach to address academic growth for the 2023- 2024 SY, Northwood's Administrative Team will focus on Professional Development of Teachers. Walkthroughs and Informal Observations will follow the SkyRocket Teacher Coaching Framework. The framework is broken into 3 strands which will be the areas of focus for Professional Development throughout the remainder of the school year: Classroom Culture, Content Mastery and Rigor. Additional teacher support will be added to the professional development plan such as Jounce Partners, which will provide selected teachers with individualized coaching on management and best teacher practice.

Initial PD Plan - [☰ Staff Development Plan](#)

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Northwood embraces the whole child approach and recognizes that many students learn from the environment around them. The following are the learning opportunities beyond the classroom (school field trips) confirmed for students to date:

1. Kindergarten - Shady Brook Farm **10/12/2023**

2. Grade 8 - PA Convention Ctr. High School Fair **10/13/2023**
3. Grade 2 - Shady Brook Farm **10/27/2023**
4. Grade 1 - Shady Brook Farm **10/31/2023**
5. Kindergarten - Please Touch Museum. **11/2/2023**
6. Fifth - The Franklin Institute **11/07/2023**
7. Grade 2 - Adventure Aquarium - **11/21/2023**

Diversity & Inclusion

Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th - October 15th)

Northwood recognizes the importance of cultural pride and how it directly aligns to academic confidence. This school year Northwood participated in Hispanic Heritage with the following activities:

- 9/18 - 9/22 Fun Facts (K-8)
 - During this week hispanic heritage facts will be shared over the loudspeaker. We also had students announcing in spanish!
- Wed 9/27 - K/1 - Read Aloud Movie 2nd/3rd grade !
 - K-1 - Enjoyed Student Ambassadors Read a Hispanic Heritage book to the class .
 - 2nd Grade & 3rd Grade watched Encanto in the GYM. A Disney movie that highlights hispanic culture and pride.
- Wed 10/11- Traditional Hispanic Garb! (K-8)
 - Students have an opportunity to come to school dressed in Hispanic Garb!

October is Anti- Bullying Month

- Anti- Bullying
 - Wed- 10/4 - Bullying Assembly
 - K-8 students will have an assembly defining bullying and emphasize the importance of kindness.
 - Wed- 10/18 - Unity Day
 - Students are off and Teachers are required to attend school for a Full Day of Professional Development. Shirts are ordered for educators to participate in Unity Day to bring Awareness to Unity amongst staff.
 - Wed - 10/25- Fall Fest (K-8)

- Northwood will celebrate a Fall Festival at the Simpson Recreational Center (outside). This family engagement event will promote unity amongst the Northwood community as well as bring awareness to Breast Cancer survivors.
 - This is after school (3:00pm - 5:00pm).