

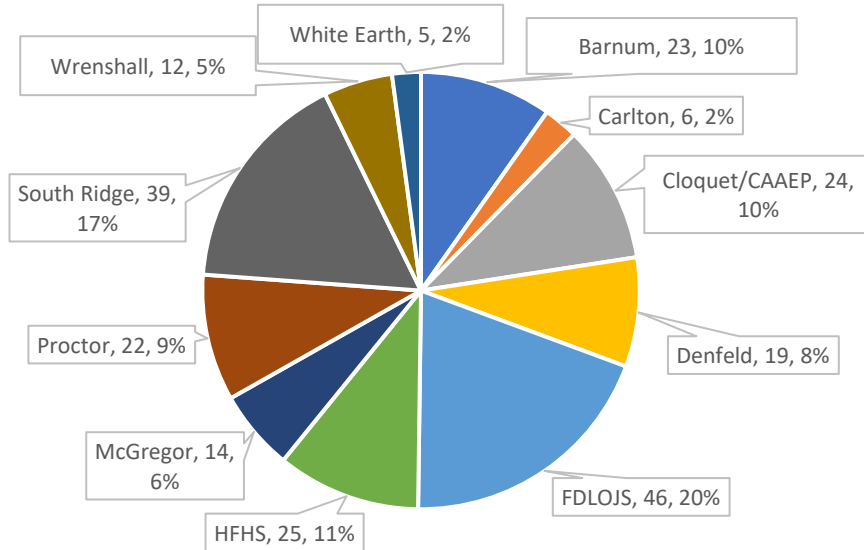


## 2023-2024 Academic Year High School Nandagikendan (Seek to Learn) Academy Report

During the 2023-2024 Academic year, ten schools participated in the monthly Seek to Learn Academy, and Center of Life Academy (“White Earth”) participated in a special academy due to the distance from the area. The schools that participated in the monthly academy were:

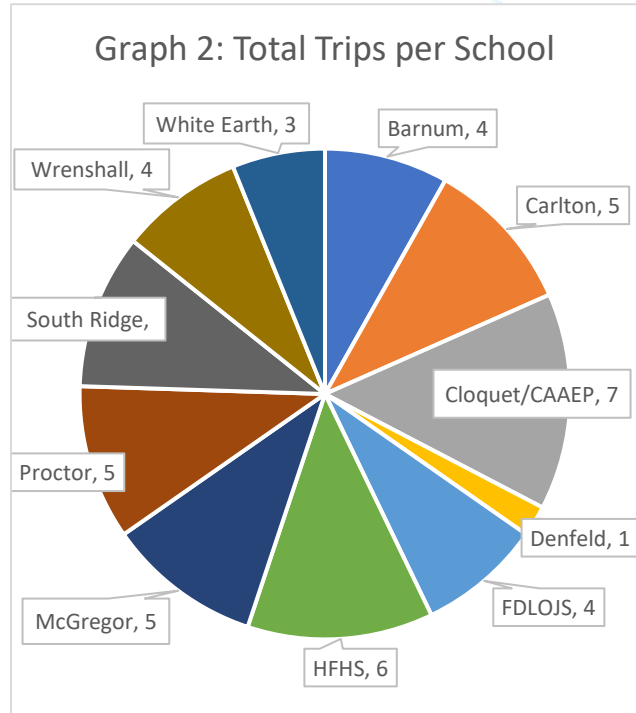
- Barnum High School
- Carlton High School (rejoined in December)
- Cloquet High School and Cloquet Area Alternative Education Program “CAAEP”
- Denfeld High School (one trip in February)
- Fond du Lac Ojibwe School “FDLOJS”
- Hinckley-Finlayson High School “HFHS” (joined in October)
- McGregor High School (joined in October)
- Proctor High School (joined in October)
- South Ridge High School (joined in November)
- Wrenshall High School (joined in November)

Graph 1: Number of Students per School as Value and Percentage



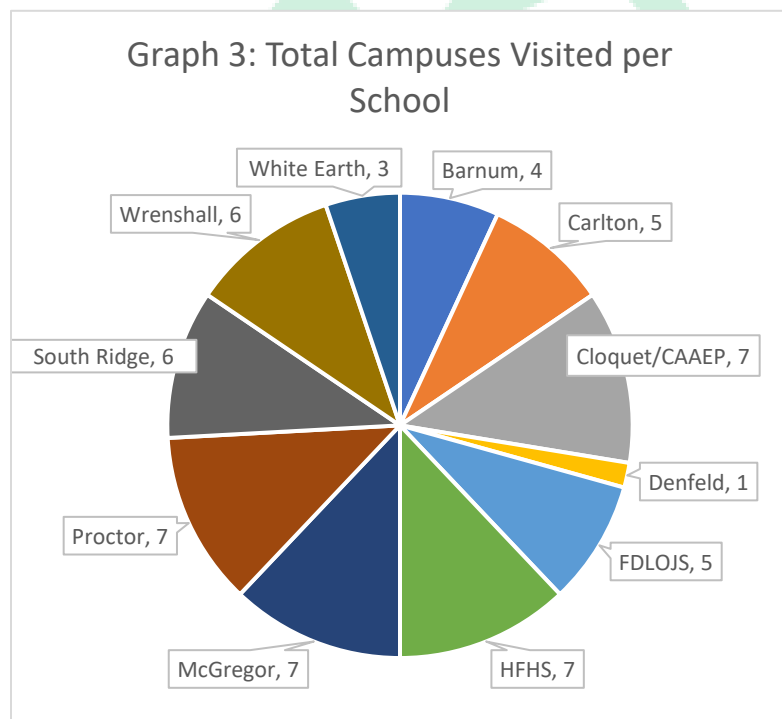
Except for the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School that also recruited 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, the schools recruited students in grades 10 through 12 for the Academy events. A total of 235 students attended at least one Academy from October 2023 to April 2024. The number of students per school can be viewed in Graph 1. There were 474 unique trips, meaning each student to campus visit.

Each school was offered monthly trips from October through April, though some schools chose to take fewer trips to accommodate student schedules. Beginning in February, some schools were partnered for trips to increase students per trip and increase efficiency of the program. The number of trips each school took during the academic year can be seen in Graph 2.



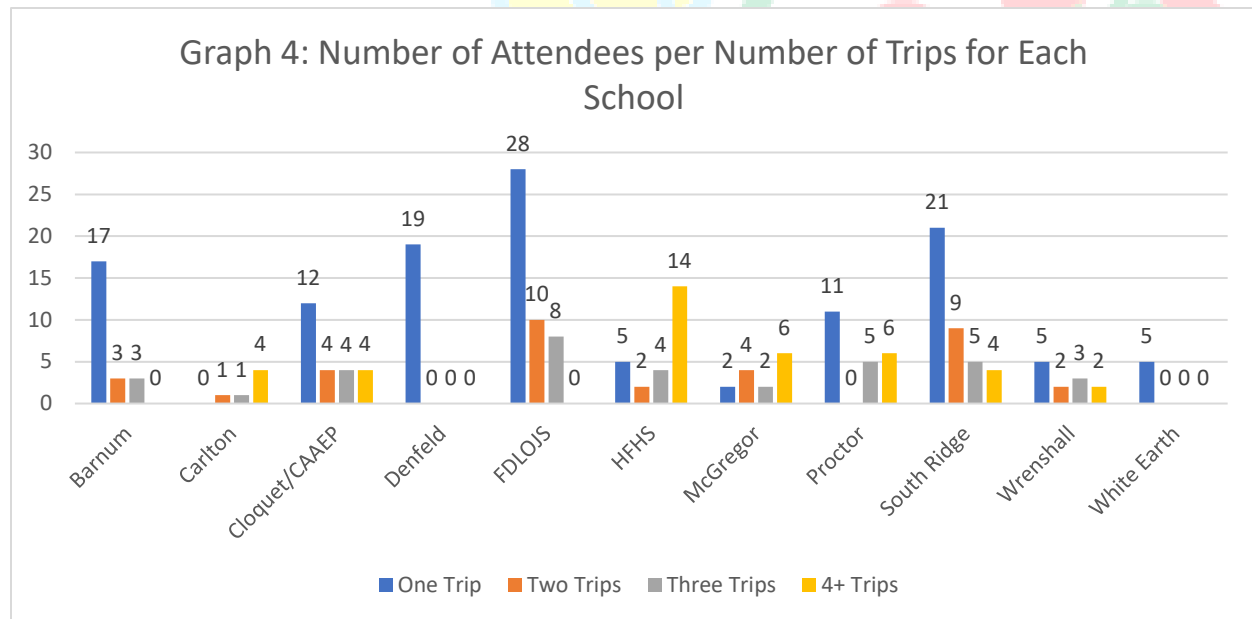
The campuses schools visited this year included:

- Augsburg University
- College of St. Scholastica
- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Lake Superior College
- Minnesota North College-Hibbing Campus
- Minnesota North College-Itasca Campus
- Minnesota North College-Mesabi Range: Virginia and Eveleth Campuses
- Northland College
- Northwood Technical College
- Pine Technical College
- St. Cloud State University
- University of Minnesota-Duluth
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- University of Wisconsin-Superior

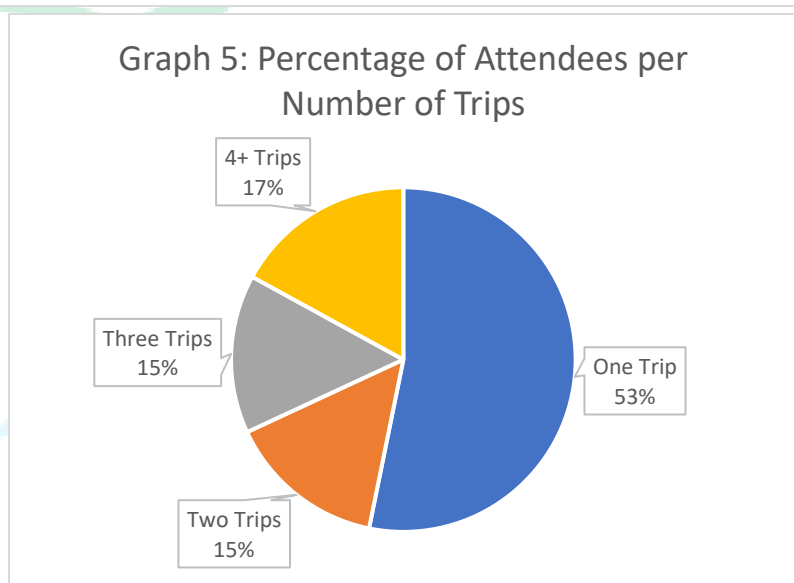


In addition to some schools partnering, some of the trips included visiting multiple campuses during one trip to further increase efficiency while also providing more campuses for students to explore. This method resulted in fewer trips per school, but more campuses for each school to visit during the academic year. For example, Wrenshall High School and Proctor High school partnered for a trip to three campuses in one day: University of Wisconsin-Superior, Northwood Technical College, and Lake Superior College. Graph 3 illustrates the total number of campuses each school visited throughout the academic year.

Graph 4 shows the number of attendees per the number of trips for each school to highlight the effectiveness of the Academy. Schools with a larger number of Native American students saw more students attend one monthly event in comparison to the schools with less Native American students. The schools with less Native American students typically saw students attend more monthly events, except for Barnum and Cloquet/CAAEP, which saw fewer attendees due to being in the Academy for multiple years and thus less student interest. FDLOJS started the year with bringing all students in grades 10 through 12 but ended the year with bringing only 10<sup>th</sup> grade students with a few seniors who had expressed interest. White Earth attended a unique Academy in that they were in the area for two days and visited three campuses in that time with five students. Their visit to the area was counted as one trip to three campuses.



As seen in Graph 5, over half of the students who participated in the Academy attended only one trip throughout the academic year. Only 15% of students attended two or three trips, with 17% of students attending four or more trips. Although most schools had consistent attendance of students for trips, some trips had more students due to higher interest in the campus that month. Students were more likely to attend an Academy event to visit a two-year college with trades programs than a four-year university.

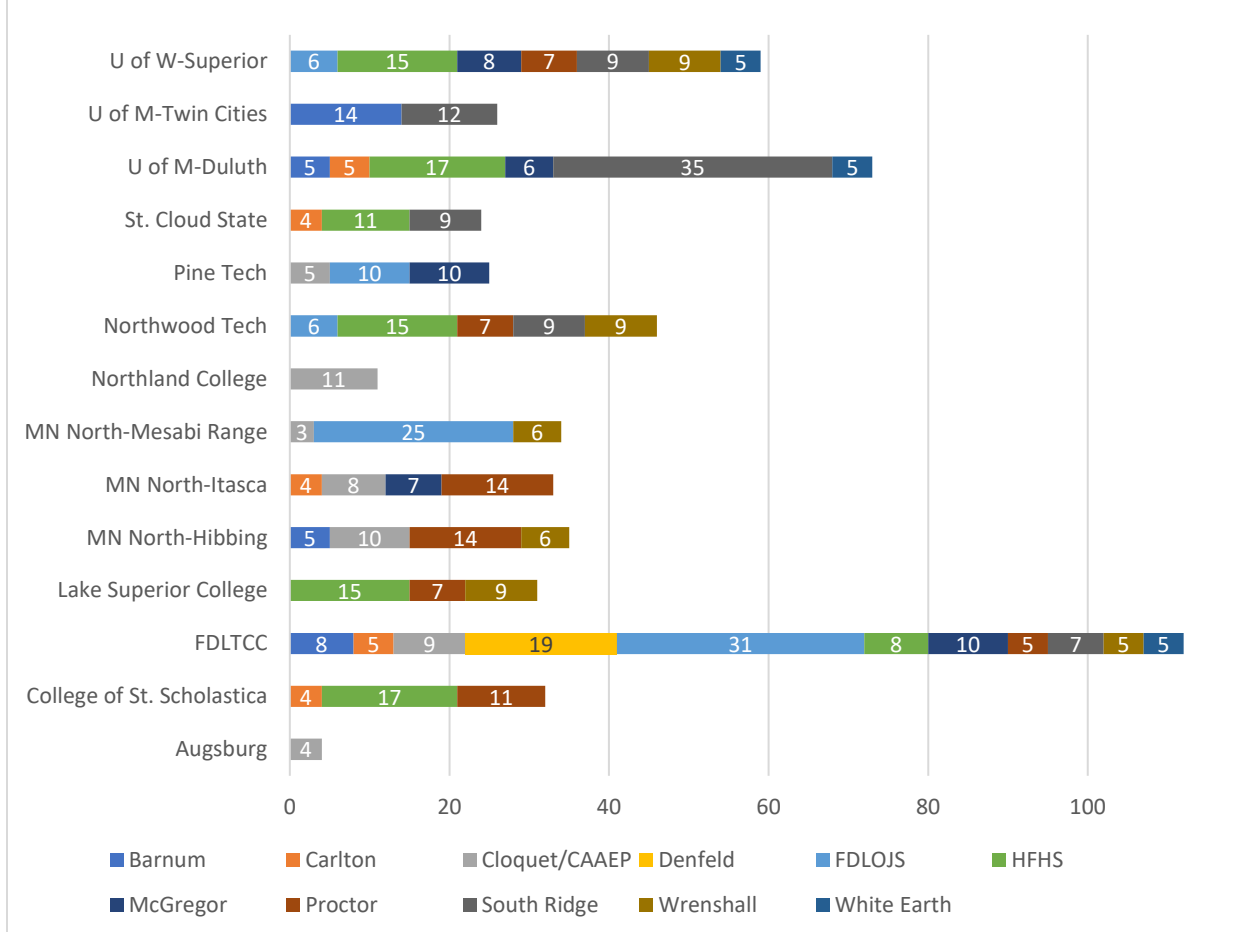


All schools are asked to bring their students to the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) so students could take mock college classes, learn about Financial Aid, and receive information on how to be college ready. Visiting FDLTCC sets the stage for what students should be reflecting on as they explore other campuses. Graph 6 illustrates the attendees from each school for each campus. This graph details where student interests are in terms of exploring higher education options. There is equal interest in four-year campuses and two-year campuses. Table 1 details how many students visited each campus. This clearly displays the campuses students are most interested in.

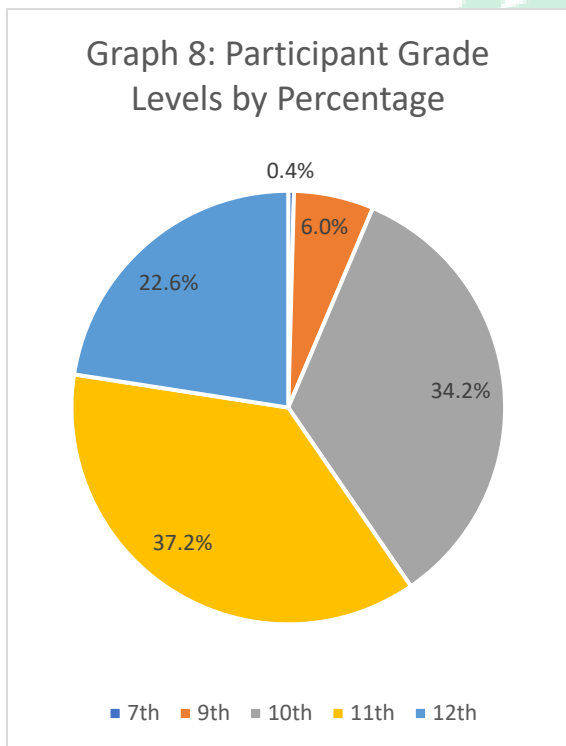
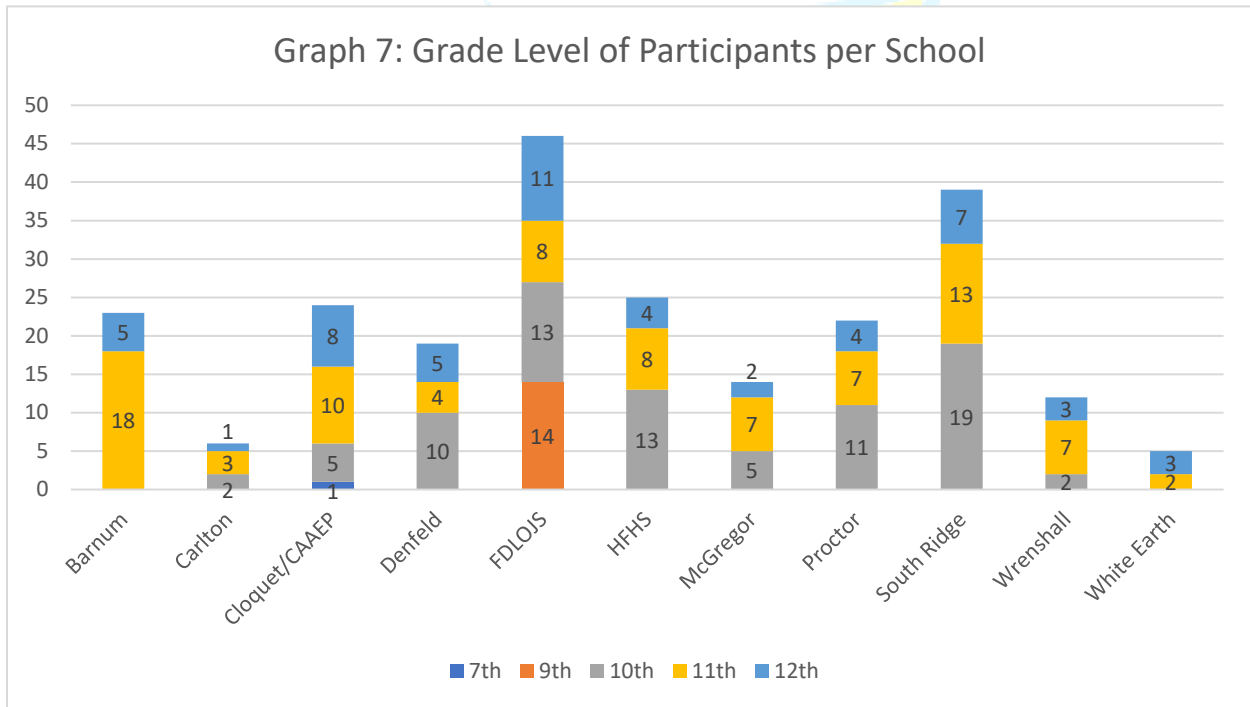
**Table 1: Number of Students to Visit Each Campus**

Campus	Number of Students
FDLTCC	112
U of M-Duluth	73
U of W-Superior	59
Northwood Tech	46
MN North-Hibbing	35
MN North-Mesabi Range	34
MN North-Itasca	33
College of St. Scholastica	32
Lake Superior College	31
U of M-Twin Cities	26
Pine Tech	25
St. Cloud State	24
Northland College	11
Augsburg	4

**Graph 6: Number of Attendees from Each School to Each Campus**



While most of the schools focused on recruiting students in grades 10 through 12 for Academy events, the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School also recruited 9<sup>th</sup> graders at the beginning of the academic year. CAAEP brought one 7<sup>th</sup> grader to an Academy event with the intent to inspire the student to do well in school and perhaps even graduate early if able. Graph 7 shows the grade level of participants per each school.



Due to the increase in schools participating in the program, trips were reduced from last year’s goal of eight trips during the academic year down to seven, though some schools chose to reduce their trips to four of five to accommodate students and staffing needs. In addition to the reduction of trips, the number of participants was also limited to 15 students per trip on trips that had two schools attending. Teachers therefore focused on students in grades 10 through 12 to ensure they were provided the most experiences to explore higher education opportunities. The participant grade levels as percentages can be seen in Graph 8. The goal for the 2024-2025 academic year Seek to Learn Academy is to give schools the option of fewer trips as a single school to allow for more students to attend or to partner schools to allow for more trips but a limited number of attendees per trip. Trips will also take place October through March with April being the reschedule month if trips need to be cancelled for weather.