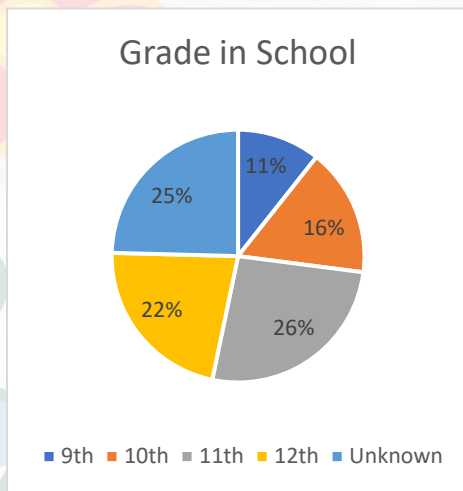




2021-2022 Academic Year High School Nandagikendan (Seek to Learn) Academy Report

During the 2021-2022 Academic year, three schools participated in the Seek to Learn Academy. Barnum High School, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School, and Cloquet High School/Cloquet Area Alternative Education Program (CAAEP) recruited students in grades 9-12 for the Seek to Learn Academy events. Fond du Lac Ojibwe School and Cloquet High School/CAAEP each had 50 students attend at least one event while Barnum High School had 19 students attend at least one event. A total of 301 student visits to campuses took place from October 2021 through May 2022 and included the following campuses:

- Itasca Community College (virtual and in person)
- University of Wisconsin-Superior (virtual and in-person)
- University of Minnesota-Duluth (in-person)
- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (virtual and in-person)
- Northwoods Technical College (formerly WITC Superior) (in-person)
- Bemidji State University (virtual)
- College of St. Scholastica (in-person)
- Lake Superior College (in-person)
- Pine Technical College (in-person)
- Hibbing Community College (in-person)



Fond du Lac Ojibwe School students were attending Academy events virtually until mid-spring. Cloquet/CAAEP and Barnum events were in-person during the duration of the 2021-2022 academic year. 70% of students attended two or more Academy events while 26% attended four or more events. Barnum High School focused recruiting junior and senior students for the Academy while Cloquet/CAAEP focused on their 10th-12th graders (and accounted for the numerous “unknown” grade status in the figure at left). Fond du Lac Ojibwe School encouraged all high school students (9th-12th grade) to attend the Academy events, which was easier to schedule considering they were virtual for most of the Academy events.

In the spring, when Fond du Lac Ojibwe School attended events in-person, the focus shifted to 10th-12th grade students. Although the Seek to Learn Academy is focused on Native American students, the program is not exclusive. Barnum High School only had four Native American students out of their 19 participants. The other two schools had 100% Native American student participation.

A survey was given to students who attended Seek to Learn Academy events to determine student interests and concerns regarding college readiness, college/program interests, and preferences in choosing a college. The top four deciding factors for students were program/major, dorm life/on campus housing, years of schooling, and in-person classes offered. Program/major interest was the top priority for students with years of schooling being the second highest priority, suggesting that students would prefer a shorter time commitment to completing a degree and that students are entering college with an intention of a program/major rather than being undecided. The third highest priority in choosing a college is having in-person classes, as few students placed online class availability as a priority. The fourth highest priority in choosing a college is the dorm life/on campus housing. This suggests that students want to experience the full “college experience” by living in dorms/campus housing.

