

Key Terms & Definitions

At NorthStar Academy, we are committed to providing responsive, Christ-centered education where all students are equipped for life-long kingdom impact. Below are key terms and definitions that outline our various learning approaches and educational philosophy.

Asynchronous Learning

A flexibly structured approach where students engage with meaningful, Christ-centered course content at their own pace within a guided and supportive environment.

- No real-time classes, allowing students to manage their schedules.
- Students complete assignments and meet weekly deadlines with accountability.
- Attendance is tracked through participation and assignment submission.
- Teachers provide instruction, feedback, and support to ensure academic and spiritual growth.

Christian School

A Christ-centered learning environment where education extends beyond academics, shaping students into individuals who reflect Christ-like character, leadership, and service.

- Biblical principles are woven into every subject to develop a strong Biblical worldview.
- Students explore diverse perspectives—such as creation and evolution—through a faith-based lens.
- Teachers guide students to integrate faith into learning and meaningful discussions.
- Families and local communities partner with NorthStar to nurture students' faith and growth.

Community Connections

A program designed to build relationships and enhance learning through in-person and virtual experiences.

- Includes **Activity Days, Learning Clusters, Workshops, and large school events** such as the *Back-to-School BBQ, and Graduation*.
- *Virtual Homeroom* program fosters engagement and connection in the teacher-directed program.
- Students, families, and teachers connect in a Christ-centered learning community.
- Learning happens in fellowship, collaboration, and shared faith experiences.

Home Education

A parent-led education model where families take an active role in directing their child's learning while partnering with NorthStar Academy for support.

- Parents choose curriculum, resources, and learning experiences aligned with their faith and values.
- NorthStar provides guidance, encouragement, and access to educational resources.
- Learning is centered on Biblical principles, fostering both academic and spiritual growth.
- Students engage in flexible, individualized learning supported by their families.

Online Learning

A structured, Christ-centered, teacher-directed program where students engage in meaningful learning through Moodle.

- Course content is delivered through *written instruction, tutorial videos, and interactive activities*.
- Certified Christian teachers provide instruction, assessment, and feedback.
- Parents serve as supervisors, fostering engagement, accountability, and a supportive learning environment.
- Clear expectations for assignment submission and progress tracking ensure students stay on course.

Print-Based Resources (PBR)

A low-screen, hands-on learning model where students engage in meaningful learning through chosen print-based resources.

- Students complete printed lessons and activities with parents as their primary guides.
- Select assignments are submitted for teacher review and feedback.
- Families personalize scheduling and pacing while maintaining academic accountability.
- A strong Biblical foundation is built through structured learning and clear progress tracking.

Shared Responsibility

A flexible, Christ-centered program that combines teacher-directed courses with parent-led home education.

- Families choose which subjects are led by certified Christian teachers and which are guided at home.
- Balances structured academic accountability within the teacher-directed program alongside flexible, individualized learning opportunities within the parent-directed program.

- Parents and supervisors take an active role, receiving support, resources, and encouragement from NorthStar Academy.
- Teacher-directed portions must constitute at least 20% and no more than 80% of the overall learning program.

Teacher-Directed Learning

A structured program where certified Christian teachers provide instruction, assessment, and support in a Christ-centered learning environment.

- Students follow a guided structure with clear expectations and deadlines.
- Parents partner with teachers to encourage engagement and student success.
- NorthStar students earn full Alberta course credits and may obtain an **Alberta High School Diploma** by meeting provincial requirements.
- Learning integrates faith, character development, and academic excellence to prepare students for life-long Kingdom impact.