

STAR

- EST. FEBRUARY 2018 -
A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

IMPACT REPORT

STAR (Scholars on Target to Achieve Results) is a culturally-responsive academic engagement initiative that works to build equitable education opportunities for Black Scholars in the Fox Cities.

919
SCHOLARS SERVED
TO DATE



9 APPLETON STAR STAFF
4 MIDDLE SCHOOLS
3 HIGH SCHOOLS

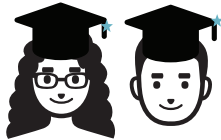
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



313
SCHOLARS

35

SENIORS



94%
GRADUATED

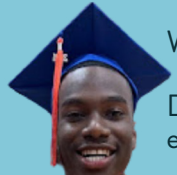
"It's not okay to be someone else, you should always try to be yourself and be proud of it."



Neveah
STAR Scholar Graduate

The STAR initiative acknowledges that by strengthening young people's sense of social cohesion and connection to community, they are better positioned to pursue their academic and personal goals. Through STAR, Neveah met other Black students, shared stories, and found a sense of belonging she had never felt before, which helped her better understand her culture and take pride in her Black identity—and herself.

Before being involved in STAR, Neveah rarely celebrated her Black heritage. STAR staff helped Neveah continue her journey to better understand her history and community. With the understanding she was seen, heard, and valued for who she is, Neveah discovered her resiliency and achieved the ambitious goal of graduating from Appleton West one year early.



When talking with younger Scholars about what it takes to triumph over obstacles and adversity, recent STAR graduate Daniel advises, "Be yourself, stay focused, strive for excellence."

Daniel's wisdom comes from his personal experience moving from Kenya to America at a young age. He's excelled over the past few years, acclimating to new environments, making friends, and navigating to life in the US.

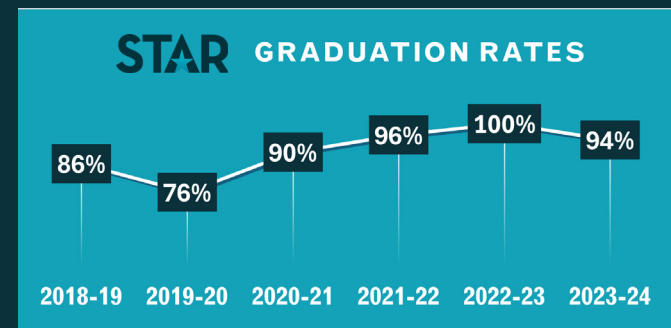
Daniel's involvement in STAR empowered him to connect with other Scholars and set goals that kept him on track. His STAR Coordinators have served as mentors and guides for him, and he's found through the supportive network that he's capable of thriving in the face of personal, academic, and cultural challenges.

Daniel
STAR Scholar Graduate

2022-2023 AASD Graduation Rates

STAR Scholars = 100%
White Students = 92%
Black Students = 62%

STAR is helping to close this educational attainment disparity.



89%

of Scholars believe STAR staff helped them solve problems and reach goals.

86%

of Scholars believe working with STAR helped them navigate relationships with others in their life.

92%

of Scholars say STAR staff inspired them to see new future possibilities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- STAR planned its' first middle school focused Black History Month event at Kaleidoscope Academy in partnership with Appleton Area School District.
- STAR Scholar, Noah Kelsey, was honored with the BGCFV Youth of the Year award.
- STAR received a commitment from UW-Oshkosh for all expenses paid campus visits for Scholars every three years, as well as providing five free pre-college program opportunities annually.
- STAR held its first middle school graduation celebration to acknowledge eighth graders transitioning to high school.

"[STAR] guided me through hard times and helped me get past the loss of my mom."

-STAR Scholar



STAR TEAM

"[STAR staff] helped me talk more to my teachers about problems I had."

-STAR Scholar

SCHOOL PARTNER INSIGHTS

87%

of School Partners who frequently connect with staff reported STAR helped to create a better learning environment at their school for students.

"Students have shared with me how STAR has helped them to do better academically and they have so many amazing opportunities for field trips and college visits."

-AASD Educator

When Deshaun transitioned to middle school, he had to adapt to a new school, schedule, and peers. These transitions proved challenging for Deshaun, and his STAR Coordinator noticed. Together, they worked to develop a plan for Deshaun to implement coping strategies to support his plan for success.



Deshaun
STAR Scholar

After making some adjustments, Deshaun saw a shift in how he felt when big emotions needed to be processed. The more he tapped into his inner resources, the stronger his relationships with his teachers, peers, and teammates became.

Deshaun's intentionality and dedication to this work have paid off. He's grown personally and academically, and he's become a leader among his peers. Recently, he received a Ronald Dunlap award in recognition of his resiliency and strong desire to learn and succeed.

CAREGIVER INSIGHTS

92%

feel a sense of hope for their STAR Scholar's future.

"I love this program for my kids. It has given me a sense of relief knowing that there are awesome people advocating for my kids other than just me."

-STAR Scholar Caregiver