April 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

North Star Academy’s Washington Park High School students engage twice weekly in our new HS 2.0 program. The goal of the HS 2.0 program is to give North Star 10th-12th graders exposure to experiences and activities outside the scope of a traditional academic classroom.

For 1-2 hours every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, our upperclassmen gather into small groups focused on activities such as glassworks design and creation, painting, digital music production, construction apprenticeships, mental health studies, fashion design, LGBTQ studies, guitar playing, webseries production, and Crossfit gym sessions connected to nutritional counseling. Over their 10th-12th grade careers, students are encouraged as part of our HS 2.0 programming to start reflecting on, and developing skill in, the activities they’d most like to continue doing in college and beyond.

Our students’ work with Glassroots has been by far the most successful of our HS 2.0 initiatives. Students in our Glassroots group can’t wait to get back to the studio each week, and with good reason. They spend Tuesday afternoons discussing key aspects of entrepreneurship and business planning and then Thursday afternoons bringing their vision to life in the Glasswork studios. As the current Glassroots students spread the word, we now have students clamoring to enroll in this group next semester.

Sincerely,

Mike Taubman
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