

# POLAR BEARISTAS

Words: Alexis Onmanivong | Photos: Alexis Onmanivong |  
Design: Alexis Onmanivong

The Learning Transitions first period classes taught by Ms. Anderson and Mr. Berkenes have come together to operate a coffee shop called The Polar Bearistas every Wednesday from 8:25AM - 9:00AM. With an order cutoff of 8:45 AM, the Polar Bearistas currently only serve school staff. Place an order by sending an email to polarbearistas@yahoo.com, calling x3220 or arriving in person to room 1513 Silver. Each beverage costs \$1, and if you require delivery, an additional 50 cents will be charged to your payment.



## GRAND OPENING HIGHLIGHTS

---





# INTERVIEW WITH MS. ANDERSON

## Q: How do you become a Polar Bearista?

**RA:** Polar Bearistas are students working in Period 1 Learning Transitions with Ms. Anderson and Mr. Berkenes. After seeing each job modeled, students had to apply and interview for specific positions in the school coffee shop.

## Q: What are the roles of the Polar Bearistas?

**RA:** We have a wide range of jobs from a barista (making coffee), a DJ to play a conversational/relaxing tune, to marketing (getting the word out to North staff) to cashier (handling money exchange and taking inventory).

## Q: How did you guys start coffee shop?

**RA:** As the work experience coordinator, I wanted a way to provide students with employment skills, adult references, and experience to build a solid resume. In collaboration with Mr. Berkenes, we brought the coffee shop back.

## Q: Who came up with the idea of a coffee shop?

**RA:** Students in years past had done coffee shop (pre-covid I believe) so we wanted to bring it back.

## Q: How long has this shop been going on for?

**RA:** We just started coffee shop back up again for the 2022-2023 school year (after closing when covid hit). Students filled out applications.

on 11/9, interviewed for positions 11/16, had training on 11/22, and officially opened on 11/30.

## Q: How have students been benefitted by working at the coffee shop?

**RA:** Students are gaining employment (hard and soft skills). They are building work experiences to add to their resumes in addition to having references to put on future job applications through the teachers/job coaches monitoring them while working. Our hope is that each student will have a resume created by the end of this coffee Job experience.

## Q: Where do the proceeds go?

**RA:** Proceeds go right back into the students working. Students have/will have the opportunity to write a persuasive paragraph explaining where they want the money to go to. Every student working in the Polar Bearistas will have the opportunity to vote on where the money will go. At this point

some students have mentioned using the money to upgrade coffee equipment/supplies, take fieldtrips, or even donate to charity.

