



Next Step to Success Weekly Update

Message from our Executive Director



James Harris

As we close out, Week 16, I want to take a moment to wish all of our students, families, staff, and partners a happy and safe holiday season. This time of year is about rest, reflection, and time with loved ones, and we hope everyone is able to enjoy it fully.

I also want to offer my sincere apologies for the program having to close three days earlier than planned due to an unexpected water pipe flooding incident. Unfortunately, the situation required us to shut off all the water in the building for the past three days to ensure safety and allow for necessary repairs. While this disruption was unavoidable, we understand the inconvenience it may have caused for our families, and we truly appreciate your patience and understanding.

Please know that our team is actively working to address the issue so that we can reopen in a safe, fully operational space. We remain committed to providing a warm, welcoming, and secure environment for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holiday, refreshed and ready for a strong start.

James Harris, Executive Director



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NSTS Leadership Insights



Education Update

As we head into the holiday season, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday and a peaceful, well-deserved break. I am truly proud of the effort, growth, and dedication our students have shown so far this year, and it has been rewarding to see their commitment to learning continue to strengthen. I hope this break provides time to rest and recharge, while also offering an opportunity for students to review material and close any remaining academic gaps before the semester concludes on January 16th. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to a strong start to the new year.



Programming Update

As we wrap up our final week before Winter Break, our coaches created some truly special memories with our youth. Groups put the finishing touches on festive hallway decorations and enjoyed getting creative by making their own stockings. Some youth warmed up with hot chocolate, while others had fun learning how to make pancakes together. While we were disappointed that we weren't able to host our Holiday Dinner, the entire Programs Department would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!



Operations Update

Happy Holidays! Last Ops Update of 2025, families are asked to please ensure all information is up to date in TraxSolution, as staff will be reaching out in the coming weeks to confirm enrollment for our second semester beginning January 5, 2025.

Save the Dates

- December 22–26, 2025: NPS Winter Break (*NSTS Closed*)
- December 29–31, 2025: No Youth Days
- January 5, 2026: NSTS reopens for regularly scheduled programming



Culinary Corner



From the Coordinator of Culinary Arts

Good Evening NSTS Family & Team,

As we close out this season and head into the holidays, I just want to pause and say THANK YOU—from the bottom of my heart.

To our families and staff: your hard work, dedication, and willingness to step in wherever needed never go unnoticed. Whether you were helping serve our youth, jumping in to support behind the scenes, or even assisting with what turned into a viral TikTok moment 😊—you showed up with grace, love, and a whole lot of heart.

Because of you, I always had what I needed to serve our youth with excellence. Your encouragement kept me going on the long days, and your support reminded me why this work matters so much. We truly move as one team, and I am beyond grateful to be surrounded by such an amazing village.

As we look ahead to the new year, I'm excited, hopeful, and inspired for all that's to come. If you have any concerns, ideas, or just need to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out—my door (and inbox) is always open.

I love you all BIG ❤️

Wishing you and your families a joyful, peaceful, and well-deserved holiday season.

With gratitude and love,
Coach B / Chef B 🌲 ✨

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