

A large, stylized graphic of a bulldog's head in shades of blue and grey, serving as a background for the main text.

# JOIN THE PACK

Learn About the CICS  
Northtown Academy Difference



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[CICSNORTHTOWN.ORG](http://CICSNORTHTOWN.ORG)

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD AT HOME, WHERE EVERYONE HAS A PLACE, A PURPOSE, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED!

CICS Northtown Academy, located in the Sauganash neighborhood of Chicago, is home to over 49 languages (such as Spanish, Arabic, Assyrian, Urdu, Gujarati, Tagalog, and more). Chicago's diversity is truly represented by CICS Northtown Academy. The breakdown of cultures is 60% Hispanic/Latino, 18% Caucasian, 15% Asian, 6% African American, and 1% Other.

We support student-run organizations such as the Asian Student Alliance, Assyrian Club, Unafraid Dreamers, and many others. CICS Northtown prides itself in our many cultures and languages and is honored to be the most culturally diverse charter school in Chicago.

### TURNING THE VOLUME UP ON STUDENT VOICE

A good school meets students' needs. A great school asks students what they need and uses their feedback to build a true high school of choice. At CICS Northtown, we listened when our community requested more opportunities for students to explore interests, develop knowledge beyond the required academic curricula, and build expertise in a particular area of study. We added course offerings like **Law, Adventure Ed, Aquatic Science, and AP Computer Principles** to our program to give students the chance to focus on developing and sharpening talents in fine arts, health, and fitness. At CICS Northtown, we value student voice and choice.

US News & World Report just announced its list of best high schools in the country. Our graduation rate, college readiness index, and our high AP participation rate ensured that **CICS Northtown Academy made the national list, and ranked 45th in Chicago Public Schools!**

### VIBRANT CAMPUS LIFE

Here at CICS Northtown, we have a vibrant campus life! With over 20 clubs to choose from, all students can find something that sparks their interest. Whether they have the drive for Automotive Club or feel the rhythm of Guitar Ensemble, students are sure to find something that they will enjoy. Campus Life encourages students to build relationships and become active members of their greater school community.

### ADVISORY

Since opening its doors, NTA has prioritized a robust advisory program. All students and faculty participate in the program of co-ed cohorts that stay together for their four years of high school. Advisory brothers and sisters start and graduate high school together. Daily advisory fosters the foundational relationships students can utilize to support them during high school and beyond. Dedicating daily time for relationship building helps NTA students turn into the well rounded alumni they will become.



## ATHLETICS

CICS Northtown is a proud member of the Chicago Prep Conference, and we currently compete in 11 sports.

### FALL

- Girls Flag Football
- Girls Volleyball (2 levels)  
5 Conference Championships
- Boys Soccer  
5 Conference Championships  
1 IHSA Regional Championship

### WINTER

- Boys Basketball (2 levels)  
2 Conference Championships
- Girls Basketball
- Wrestling (Co-Ed)  
Co-Op at Von Steuben

### SPRING

- Track and Field  
3 Conference Championships  
3 IHSA State Qualifiers
- Baseball  
2 Conference Championships
- Softball  
13 Conference Championships
- Girls Soccer  
4 Conference Championships
- Boys Volleyball  
5 Conference Championships



# Early College at **CICS NORTHTOWN ACADEMY**

**WITH A 91% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE RATE, CICS NORTHTOWN ACADEMY EXCEEDS CPS RATES OF COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND PERSISTENCE.**

We are always searching for ways to improve outcomes for our students. How do we increase college enrollment rates? How can we ensure that students persist in pursuing their college education?

At CICS Northtown, we recognize that the exorbitant costs of college are prohibitive for many families. We are also well aware that many students, particularly those who are the first to attend college in their families, may question their ability to complete a post-secondary program. To address both of these concerns, and to meet the needs of our students and families, CICS Northtown is building an Early College High School program.

**An Early College program offers students the opportunity to take college level courses while attending high school.** Early exposure to the rigor of college courses builds confidence in students, helping them realize their capacity to compete successfully at the college level. In addition, earning college credit in high school eases the financial burden of paying for a 4-year degree on students and families, as students exit high school with several credits to transfer to post-secondary institutions.

Also supported by our robust AP program, students graduating from CICS Northtown get the chance to earn a few semesters of college credit while still in high school! Our students have the opportunity for early release each day to take various courses through the City Colleges of Chicago.

CICS NORTHTOWN SENIORS HAVE BEEN AWARDED MORE THAN

## **\$95 MILLION IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

**CICS Northtown Academy is committed to helping all students find the perfect fit for life after high school.** Our graduates have attended more than 150 colleges in 35 states and 4 countries, including Yale University, Northwestern, Middlebury College, and Boston College. Additionally, 15 CICS Northtown graduates have earned the prestigious Posse Scholarship.

Unlike other high school programs, CICS Northtown's College Counseling program begins freshman year by helping students successfully transition to high school. Students will explore and learn about careers at annual career fairs through which they interact with more than 100 professionals from 30 different fields.

**WE DON'T JUST TAKE STUDENTS TO COLLEGE, WE BRING COLLEGES TO OUR STUDENTS.**

Each year, CICS Northtown brings approximately 70 colleges and universities on campus to interact with our students and families.

Our students have internship opportunities through Genesys Works and the Shedd Aquarium, in addition to college opportunities, which allows for real world career experiences.

## ART CLUB

This club is for art enthusiasts! All are welcome. Come work on art of your choosing. Meet others who love art. Work on an assignment for a class. Learn about new art materials. Help make the school more beautiful and help with community outreach projects.

## ASIAN STUDENT ALLIANCE

Our mission is to help foster multi-cultural awareness in our school. We primarily discuss and share experiences pertaining to Asian, South Asian, and Middle Eastern culture, but students from any culture are welcome to attend.

## ASSYRIAN CLUB

We work together to discuss cultural norms and the magnificent history of our Assyrian ancestors. During our discussions, we indulge in our favorite foods as we appreciate the history of an ancient culture that still exists today! You do not need to be Assyrian to join the club. All interested are welcome, come join today!

## AUTOMOTIVE CLUB

Students will learn the basics of automotive maintenance and modification in a hands on way. Two years ago we took a car that hadn't run or driven in 12 years and fixed it so that it is currently running and driving. We will continue to work on and modify this car throughout the school year.

## BOOK CLUB

Our four primary goals are to promote a love of reading in the school community, to strengthen reading skills among members, to raise awareness of books of diverse genres, subjects and authors, and to develop and share different viewpoints regarding texts. Whenever possible, Book Club partners with college faculty to participate in scholarly studies – they have a long-standing arrangement with Northern Illinois University. All are welcome to join.

## BOWLING CLUB

Bowling Club is a casual, yet slightly competitive club. No experience is necessary. Learn to bowl, hang out, meet new friends. Bowling Club will take place once each week for 8 weeks beginning late February at Habetler Bowl.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

We are a group of concerned students who are committed to raising awareness about environmental issues, and to reducing our environmental impact as individuals, a school community, and as citizens of the world.

## GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

Established in 2004, the mission of NTA's GSA is to promote safety, social support and healthy development for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, as well as their friends and family members, at our school. The club works against discrimination in all of its forms and is connected to other high school GSA organizations in Chicago through the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance ([illinoisafeschools.org](http://illinoisafeschools.org)).

## GUITAR ENSEMBLE

This club provides students an opportunity to learn to play guitar and/or share their current talents as guitarists with the NTA community. The music we prepare is entirely student-chosen, and the skills developed can be applied to the curriculum in our band classes. Our aim is to provide an extra-curricular musical opportunity for students and to foster appreciation for all styles of music.

## LITERARY JOURNAL

This club exists to create and encourage a love of creative writing among students; in effect, the club is designed to create a writing community at the school. The club's activities will culminate in twice-annual Readings, as well as one annual printed Journal of the members' "best" or favorite work. Members are also encouraged to submit work to regional and national literary journals/contests, and will be shown how to do so.

## NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

NHS strives to recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

## NTA THESPIANS

Thespians is dedicated to bringing the power of theatre to the larger school community. Members enroll and earn credits in the honors International Thespian Honors Society. Thespians participate in and learn more about theatre production and performance through first-hand experience with writing, behind-the-scenes production, and onstage performances of plays, musicals, and competition pieces throughout the year.

## REPTILE CLUB

Ever been curious about having a scaly pet? Get to know more about cold-blooded animals by joining Reptile Club and helping foster animals in need, while they await for their adoption.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Representing the student voice to administration and staff, we encourage school spirit and positive relationships, and facilitate school involvement in the community.

## STUDENT LEADERS

The student leader program is designed to develop successful young adults through communication, collaboration, responsibility, and integrity. This is done through weekly mentoring work with freshmen that focuses on building teamwork and trust between students and identifying and promoting commonalities between students from diverse backgrounds.

## TECHNICAL THEATRE CREW

The Technical Crew learns how to operate audio-visual equipment and technology, cue, and train others in the use of equipment to make sure that school events (pep rallies, assemblies, etc.) and extracurricular or special community events run smoothly. Crew members are an essential part of the NTA Thespian family as well: designing, organizing, directing, and running our theatrical productions throughout the year.

## UNAFRAID DREAMERS

The mission of the Unafraid Dreamers Club is to provide a safe space for undocumented students and allies to share resources and find academic and social support. We will discuss changes in the law for undocumented students and families, how to navigate the college application process and locate scholarship dollars, and how to manage daily stressors. You do not need to be undocumented to join this club; you just need to be an open-minded, supportive ally.

## VIDEO GAMERS CLUB

This club is an opportunity for students to socialize and have fun together based on their hobby of playing video games. Our club is designed to bring gamers of all types, be it console, handheld, or PC, together.



## Students on the **CICS NORTHTOWN ACADEMY EXPERIENCE**

“I loved NTA because of its passionate staff. They taught me that nothing is handed to you, everything is earned.”

*-Violet Gomez, Class of 2016,  
Columbia University*

“It’s easy to complain about the work you have now, but, trust me, there’s no leniency in college. Northtown is just preparing you for the next steps. So, thank your teachers, thank your deans, and thank your counselors.”

*-Karen Cordero, Class of 2020,  
North Park University*

“During my time at Northtown, I learned a lot about what I am good at and what I enjoyed doing. At first, the math and science classes I took made me see that I was meant to go into the STEM field. Now I’m graduating with an Industrial Engineering degree...The opportunities at Northtown have allowed me to get to where I am today.”

*-Golzar Shobeiri, Class of 2014,  
Illinois Institute of Technology*

“I am so grateful that the Northtown staff provided me with the education and knowledge to be successful in my future endeavors.”

*-Emily Coletta-Acuna, Class of 2010,  
Current NTA School Nurse*

## NTA ALUMNI

“What I liked about my classes was that all my peers were very supportive along with my teachers. Even with being online we all worked together to get the best out of being at home. I knew that I could rely on my teachers and ask them any questions that I needed help with.”

*-Cynthia Cruz, Class of 2024, Marquette University*

“I like advisory because it gives me a break between my classes, but still keeps my brain in school-mode, plus Mrs. Gomez and I are hilarious.”

*-Jasper Abdullah, Class of 2022,  
University of Illinois- Chicago*

“Advisory is where you build relationships with different people around the school that you might not normally hang out with. You come from different cliques freshmen year and come together as a family by senior year, but most importantly, your advisors help guide you through your four years.”

*-Agelina Gomez, Class of 2023,  
Northern Illinois University*





# JOIN OUR PACK

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO EXPERIENCE ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER!



**INCOMING  
9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**



**10<sup>TH</sup> -12<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADERS**

## APPLY TO BECOME A PUMA NOW!

Complete your full application online by scanning the qr code or visiting [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu). Make sure you check their website for updates on when the round one application period opens and closes.

**DON'T FORGET TO RATE US #1!**



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