

For Immediate Release



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## **Team Polaris and St. Charles North High School to host Project Dance**

(St. Charles, IL) (February 22, 2018) – Team Polaris and St. Charles North will host Project Dance on February 24, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., in their main gymnasium. Project Dance is a four-hour dance party that promotes awareness and raises funds for local organizations that provide services for individuals with special needs.

The theme this year is UNITED. “We are showing our community by uniting together we can provide a supportive and accepting environment for all individuals to be in,” said Tanis Simoncelli, advisor of Team Polaris. Team Polaris is committed to forming meaningful relationships in the community, as well as creating awareness for those with special needs.

Volunteers 14 and older have the opportunity to sign up to be a buddy at the dance. Individuals with special needs will be paired up with a buddy for two hours, 2:00-4:00p.m. There are currently 100 buddies registered to share this experience.

North Star Alumni Jonah Donnel, stage name Jaylin Santana, will perform his song Autistic Ambition while the NHS break-dancers lead the dancers in a battle. A dance troupe will showcase their dance moves to begin the buddy time. Additionally, there will be a Zumba session and NHS students will direct the morale dance to "Try Everything," by Shakira.

North Star administrator Julie Christiansen, who lost her battle to cancer in 2017, will be honored at the dance. “She had a special place in her heart for working with individuals... with special needs” and had a passion for this event, said Simoncelli. Her memory will be honored with the t-shirt sleeve logo JBC, by dancing to some of her favorite tunes and giving back to a charity in her name.

Knights of Columbus, Pennies for Autism and Rock Your Socks are just a couple of the booths highlighted to raise even more awareness. INSPIRE Dreams will also be hosting a Raffle for an iPad!

Memories from the event can be recorded with the photo booth hosted by members of the NHS PTO. The event unites the community through dance. “Year after year it is getting better and bigger. Every person that attends, says they can't wait to do it again next year,” said Simoncelli.

St. Charles North acknowledges that the dance environment is difficult to sustain for some, and therefore a “chill room” will be available for individuals that need a break from being overstimulated. St Charles North High School is located at 255 Red Gate Road, St. Charles. Admission is \$5 per person or \$15 for a family of three or more. All community members are welcome to attend.

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