The West Fargo Public Schools elementary and secondary leadership teams are continually monitoring and improving our curriculum - what we teach and how we teach it. Our focus is on research-based instruction and best practices. The standards provided by the state are not a curriculum, but provide a target for our district to utilize as we determine the resources that we implement and use to educate our youth in West Fargo.

### Elementary Curriculum

**Standards**

Define the critical knowledge and skills that a learner should acquire at each grade level.

A movement toward a standards-based education in began in 1984. The state of North Dakota began adopting statewide standards beginning in the early 1990s.

**LITERACY**

Learners are being asked to write more and with a greater level of organization and planning. Learners are asked to understand and cite evidence in both literature and non-fiction text. Our social studies content is integrated into this non-fiction reading and writing, providing learners with a rich experience.

**MATH**

Understanding math includes computation as well as problem solving, reasoning, justification and modeling. Learners are expected to know the how and why of mathematics. This allows learners to understand how numbers work and provides an avenue for thinking and reasoning about numbers in new ways.

**SCIENCE**

We are focusing on the integration of the engineering design process as an integral part of gaining knowledge and application skills in the field of science.

### Secondary Curriculum

**CORE CONTENT**

ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies

Curriculum is designed using the backward design model where teachers examine the knowledge and skills stated by the standards and design a curriculum for learners to achieve those learning targets. Each curriculum integrates 21st century skills and learning environments to ensure our students are ready to pursue lifelong learning, find their passion, and contribute to society.

**ELECTIVES**

Our elective courses help provide a well-rounded education for our students. Each encore subject has its own set of standards, which are used to design the curriculum. These courses provide more opportunities for students to pursue a passion area and gain additional knowledge and skills. These courses are blended with 21st century skills and learning to prepare our students to pursue lifelong learning, find their passion, and contribute to society.

**RESOURCES**

Are the books and materials that teachers and learners utilize for learning.