

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

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◆ AIM

The aim of the Northern Ozaukee School District is that students at all levels will be taught the conceptual understanding required for higher-level, integrative thinking. This will be accomplished through a curriculum that:

- ▶ Has rigor, thought, diversity, and authenticity that promotes richness and depth versus coverage of material;
- ▶ Is clear, understandable, and manageable by the student, parent, and educator;
- ▶ Is guided by varied and engaging practices;
- ▶ Involves technology appropriately integrated throughout the curriculum;
- ▶ Applies assessment that is ongoing, using data to improve learning; and
- ▶ Is continually assessed, adjusted, and refined.

◆ STANDARDS-BASED CURRICULUM

The primary goal of a standards-based system is to ensure that all students meet or exceed established standards.

- ▶ In a standards-based system, all students can and will learn the standards for the courses in which they are enrolled – but not necessarily at the same time in the same way.
- ▶ Students are provided with the opportunity to learn the content and skills required to demonstrate proficiency in each standard. What has been learned is more important than what has been taught.
- ▶ Students are given feedback in relation to demonstrating proficiency around key content and performance standards.
 - Norm referenced: Rank, sort, bell-curve, competition-based
 - Criterion-referenced: Performance judged in relation to a clear criteria; learning-based.
 - Seeks to ensure that all students demonstrate, or are progressing toward, proficiency in grade-level standards.
- ▶ Standards are based on criterion reference points rather than on Norman reference points.
- ▶ The purpose of schools in a criterion-referenced, standards-based system is to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency in high standards.

◆ OTHER CURRICULUM INFORMATION

The district is developing and implementing standards-based report cards in grades 5K-8. The report card reports students' progress in achieving district benchmarks and standards.

Over the next several years, the district will be developing a curriculum approach that does not give students permission to forget. Learning is about developing long-term memory and not short-term memory.

Curriculum development is an ongoing process in the district. In June 2009, the K-8 curriculum will be available for review on the district's Web site through *Eclipse*.

Over the next two years (2008-09 and 2009-10), Ozaukee High School will be involved in an extensive curriculum development program.

◆ CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

As the curriculum continues to be developed, refined, and implemented in the Northern Ozaukee School District, the following will serve as a framework:

Standards-based curriculum is taught through Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions:

- ▶ Enduring Understandings are the overarching essential content of a course. These are the big ideas and provide a larger purpose and context for the study of a subject and/or unit.
- ▶ Essential Questions guide teaching and stimulate inquiry around the topic understandings and/or the overarching understanding.

◆ **DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS**

Northern Ozaukee School District participated in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Assessment Program, the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE).

GRADE	AREAS TESTED
Third	Reading & Math; fall testing
Fourth	Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, & Writing; fall testing
Fifth	Reading & Math; fall testing
Sixth	Reading & Math; fall testing
Seventh	Reading & Math; fall testing
Eighth	Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, & Writing; fall testing
Tenth	Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, & Writing; fall testing

Northern Ozaukee School District uses the following assessments:

GRADE	AREAS TESTED
Second	Measure of Academic Progress MAP, spring testing, Reading & Math
Third	Measure of Academic Progress MAP, fall & spring testing, Reading & Math
Fourth	Measure of Academic Progress MAP, fall & spring testing, Reading & Math
Fifth	Measure of Academic Progress MAP, fall & spring testing, Reading & Math
Sixth	Measure of Academic Progress MAP, fall & spring testing, Reading & Math
Seventh	Measure of Academic Progress MAP, fall & spring testing, Reading & Math
Eighth	Measure of Academic Progress MAP, fall & spring testing, Reading & Math ACT Explore, English, Math, Reading, and Science; winter
Tenth	Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, & Writing; fall testing ACT Plan, English, Math, Reading, and Science; fall

Other assessments:

- ▶ Ozaukee Elementary School: Benchmark assessments in reading
- ▶ All schools: Ongoing formative assessments
- ▶ District will implement a writing assessment in grades K-12 starting in 2008-09. Assessment will be administered in the fall and spring.