



Career & Technical Education

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Inspiring Future Educators, One Student at a Time!

Teacher, paraeducator, social worker, counselor, childcare provider, or coach. Career opportunities in education and human services are limitless and can start in high school!

The High School Education Pathway

Fargo Public Schools is proud to provide opportunities to inspire high school students to consider teaching or the human services field through the Education Pathway and its “Future Fargo” focus. The Education Pathway is an intentional coordinated plan of courses exploring human development and teaching careers. Course activities expose students to the teaching profession, psychology, job shadows, teaching philosophy, classroom activities, ethics, FERPA, instructional methods, lesson planning, and more. Classroom observations, elementary to high school, along with project activities engage high school students through a professional lens and educator’s mindset.

The Human Services Career Cluster table outlines courses available to students in the FPS Education Pathway. The coordinated plan of study exposes students to topics related to education, but also human services, childcare, and topics related to diverse learners. The elective courses begin as early as the ninth grade, with flexibility to enroll in semester courses throughout through the high school experience. Some prerequisites apply, so students should work with their high school counselors to create a rolling plan. Dual credit options are available through Valley City State University, with options for transferability to other

Human Services Career Cluster		
Teaching/Training Pathway		
Course Name	Grades	Credit
Child Development	9-12	.5
Child Care Careers	10-12	1
Intro to Education (Optional dual credit VCSU – EDUC251)	10-12	.5
Teaching Field Experience (Optional dual credit VCSU – EDUC252)	10-12	.5
Peer-to-Peer I (Replace Social Inclusion)	10-12	.5
Peer-to-Peer II (Optional dual credit VCSU – EDUC240) (Optional para educator certification)	10-12	.5
Cooperative Work Experience	10-12	.5-1



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institutions in the NDUS system. As students advance in coursework, industry certifications may also be available.

During the fall semester, Intro to Education students were actively involved in team building when designing their first bulletin board. Classroom observations were scheduled at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, along with subject disciplines of choice. Observations have allowed students to test the waters and watch teachers and learners in action. Students were able to select a level and curricular area of interest to complete more in-depth classroom experiences at the end of the semester. All



students applied their learning by designing and teaching a lesson in their capstone project. Students interested in a deeper dive can enroll in "Teaching Field Experience" during semester 2 with Mrs. Jennifer Denault to earn dual credit or advance their learning and work experience credit.



The Education Pathway was launched in 2019 at Davies High School under the Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) department. The program expanded to South High School and will grow to North High School in 2023-24. All three high schools offer Child Care Careers which exposes students to early learning methods and activities applied in a daycare setting or early learning

classrooms. Enrollment in any, or all courses, will help learners better reflect on themselves and the reality of teaching as a career before investing in college tuition or overlooking a career in education all together.



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NEW - Peer-to-Peer Courses

In 2023-24, Fargo Public Schools will expand The Education Pathway with the addition of two new courses including, Peer-to-Peer 1 and Peer-to-Peer 2. The P2P curriculums will replace the current Social Inclusion and will introduce students to the unique needs of diverse learners in Special Education and English Language programs. Courses will study the characteristics of the exceptional student which includes gifted and talented, culturally diverse, and those with learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities.

Cultivating student interest in P2P may expose high school students to unknown aspects of teaching and set them on a trajectory to unique areas beyond the known core or elective subject areas. CTE Curriculum Coordinator, Ryan Pierce, and special education teachers from Fargo and West Fargo joined forces to create a dynamic curriculum where high school students are working with students in specialized programs to increase peer-to-peer interactions and promote a school culture of inclusiveness. Students completing both P2P courses may have an option to earn dual credit and work toward paraeducator certification for employment.

Our Why!

As Director of Career and Technical Education, career exploration and coordinated pathways are the foundation of our belief. Inspiring students to discover their passion, rule in, or rule out potential career options can save time and money. Although my (Dr. Denise Jonas) pathway to teaching was a twisted journey, my love for education has motivated me to work with teachers and administration to create better career exploration opportunities for our high school students.

In the past, we have assumed students may consider pursuing a career in education, by osmosis, family connections, personal classroom experiences, volunteering, or from the influence of an admired teacher or coach. Although this has motivated some learners, we have missed the mark in providing students with a more intentional experiences and investigation of the teaching profession.

The Education Pathway elevates the teaching profession to high school students by revealing the impact teachers have on the growth of learners, academically and social emotionally. Please share this message and check out the [2023-24 – Fargo high schools Program of Studies](#) to learn more about courses and options for your student.

