



Literacy

*By Lindsay Seelig, Coordinator of K-12 Literacy & Library Program and Resources Coordinator
Jen Hess, Library Program and Resources Coordinator*

Elementary Language Libraries

Fargo Public Schools is committed to literacy for all students and is working to eliminate barriers for students to graduate highly literate. Currently, there are 94 languages spoken in FPS schools, and we are dedicated to supporting students in their home languages. This year there were several requests for books in languages other than English to help support elementary students specifically.

To reflect the broad diversity of the world, specific cultures of the families we serve, and to support the home languages of families, the Elementary Language Library Project was created.

FPS knows that having books in home languages is important for several reasons:

1. **Promotes multilingualism:** Having books in different languages encourages people to learn different languages. This can lead to increased understanding and appreciation of different cultures and perspectives and helps students feel seen by their peers.
2. **Supports language learning:** Books in other languages can be useful tools for language learners, allowing them to practice reading, writing, and comprehension skills in their home language(s) while also learning English. Our goal is to set students up to be literate in their home language(s), as well as English.
3. **Preserves cultural heritage:** Books in other languages can help to preserve cultural heritage by documenting stories, traditions, and history that may not be widely known or easily accessible in other languages. All students in FPS will benefit from learning and celebrating all cultural heritages.
4. **Expands access to knowledge:** Access to books in other languages can provide people with greater access to knowledge, ideas, and information.
5. **Facilitates communication:** In a globalized world, having books in different languages can facilitate communication between people from different backgrounds and promote understanding and cooperation.
6. **Increase family engagement:** Access to books in home languages can help promote family engagement around literacy as students will be able to bring these books home and share them with others.



Literacy

We are excited to offer language libraries in the following languages:

- Arabic
- Creole
- Nepali
- Somali
- Spanish

These languages have been divided into the languages listed above and then organized for grades K-5. They each have their own bin, they will be stored at the District Office, and the bins will be available for checkout by staff. Each bin contains 20-25 unique titles for students to enjoy. Staff can request to check out a bin in a specific language through their library media specialist.

