



# Brookings School District

Working Together...Educating with Excellence...Inspiring Learners for Life

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Michelle Vande Weerd, 6-12 Director of Curriculum and Instruction

RE: October Board Report

DATE: October 8, 2024

## A Great Place to Learn

1. **Bobcat Plains Academy** – The BPA team is finding its rhythm and doing outstanding work with students. This year, we are utilizing the South Dakota Virtual School for course instruction. Parents have real-time access to their child's academic information through the Parent Portal, allowing them to track progress. Additionally, our staff regularly communicates with families to discuss student success, attendance, and overall progress.
2. **JAG** – I attended the JAG Leadership Conference with our new JAG specialist on October 2-3. We gained a deeper understanding of the organization and the incredible student leadership opportunities it offers. Additionally, we collaborated with other JAG specialists from across the state to learn more about building the program at Brookings High School.
3. **Standards Revision** – I will be collaborating with Social Studies teachers to review and realign our curriculum to the new standards, which are set to be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year.

## A Great Place to Work

1. **Bobcat Plains Academy** – I am deeply appreciative of the collaboration and support from the BPA staff as we've navigated changes, updates, and an increase in enrollment. Their flexibility and student-centered approach are remarkable, and I feel incredibly fortunate to work with such an outstanding team. I'd also like to extend my gratitude to the staff at both MMS and BHS for their invaluable assistance as we implement new systems and enroll new students.

## A Great Place to Collaborate

1. **Teacher Pathway** – I had the opportunity to participate in a meeting with SDSU faculty to explore the Teacher Pathway program. I'm excited about the opportunities this program offers for future educators in South Dakota.

2. **CDA** - I had the opportunity to sit in on the portfolio introduction for students pursuing their CDA certification, and they are doing outstanding work. Thank you to Mrs. Page for her dedication to supporting our students interested in early childhood education careers.

### **A Responsible District**

1. **ALICE Training** – We offered two opportunities this month for the staff that are new to the district to receive ALICE training.
2. **AI Training** – A team of middle and high school assistant principals, middle school teachers, and I attended a workshop offered by SASD on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our team gained valuable insights into how educators can leverage AI to enhance classroom opportunities, teach students about the effective and ethical use of AI, and explore the potential future developments of this technology.