



## Shepherd School District's Curriculum Plan

### Shepherd Public Schools

#### Our District Mission, Vision, and Commitments

*We Are Shepherd:* A safe, respectful, and positive community where our high expectations and emphasis on personal growth support all students in being successful, lifelong learners.

#### High School:

*We Are Shepherd:* Empowering students to achieve greatness. Built Upon: ResPect, LeadeRship, IntegrItty, KinDness and AchiEvement.

#### Middle School:

Students work towards being Persistent, Responsible, Independent, Dedicated, and Empowered.

#### Elementary School:

At Shepherd Elementary School, our vision is to prepare children for a lifetime of success through Positivity, Respect, Independence, Discovery, and Empowerment.

Shepherd School District's Curriculum Plan has been a part of the Shepherd process for reviewing curriculum, instructional materials and resources for a number of years. We have had an evaluation process within our curriculum review in place for many years to ensure teachers are providing a quality education with quality materials.

Shepherd Schools have been a member of the Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement (ACE) for over 15 years. The mission of ACE is to "develop and provide meaningful professional learning, curriculum, and relevant resources to build educators' capacity to support students in achieving proficiency."

ACE provides Shepherd Schools with support in curriculum development, professional development, mentoring and coaching in various aspects of teaching and learning, as well as guidance in proficiency-based education. Their proficiency-based support focuses on instructional practices and standards-based grading.

Along with curriculum work from ACE, Shepherd has a curriculum review process of its own in place to review curriculum and materials in an on-going rotation in order to make sure we have the most up to date materials.

A well-developed curriculum ensures that there is a logical progression from one grade to the next and across different subjects. Teachers can build on what students have already learned, reinforcing concepts and skills in different contexts. We meet as subject area teams throughout the year in our vertical alignment meetings in order to establish this progression.

Having a curriculum plan allows for targeted professional development. Shepherd teachers can receive training on the curriculum and how to teach it effectively, ensuring that they are equipped with the knowledge and strategies needed to help students achieve growth.

# ***Vision, Mission, and Commitments***

## **Elementary Vision**

**P**ositivity  
**R**espect  
**I**ndependence  
**D**iscovery  
**E**mpowerment

## **Elementary Commitments**

At Shepherd Elementary School, our vision is to prepare children for a lifetime of success. Faculty and staff are committed to providing a safe and **positive** environment for children to learn and develop. We will teach **respect** for each other, authority, and oneself. Our curriculum will focus on building responsibility and **independence** to make a smooth transition to middle school, high school, and beyond. Shepherd Elementary will encourage **discovery** and growth of social, academic, and personal skills for every student. We believe in the **empowerment** of our students and hold everyone within our walls to the highest standard.

## **Middle School Vision**

### **P.R.I.D.E.**

#### **P**ersistent

I commit to creating goals for myself and overcoming obstacles by taking the time to do things the right way in order to succeed.

I commit to setting and achieving my goals.

#### **R**esponsible

I commit to completing my work with my best effort and turning it in on time.

I commit to putting forth my best effort.

#### **I**ndependent

I commit to trying to take on challenges myself before asking for help.

I commit to advocating for myself.

#### **D**edicated

I commit to giving my time and effort towards the things I need most.

I commit to prioritizing my needs.

#### **E**mpowered

I commit to realizing that I have the power to make my own decisions and choices.

I commit to being confident in my own decisions.

## **High School Vision**

We Are Shepherd: Empowering students to achieve greatness.

Built Upon:

Res**P**ect  
Leade**R**ship  
Integr**I**ty  
Kin**D**ness  
Achi**E**vement

## **Shepherd High School Commitment Statements:**

Respect: We commit to thinking before we act and showing everyone respect.

Leadership: We commit to inspiring others to be their best.

Integrity: We commit to being honest and making good choices.

Kindness: We commit to being compassionate and understanding.

Achievement: We commit to giving our best effort in everything we do.

## ***Review of Curriculum***

Shepherd Public Schools is a member of the Montana Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement (ACE). ACE provides districts with meaningful curriculum and relevant resources to build the capacity of educators as they support students to achieve proficiency.

As a member of ACE, our district has a curriculum review cycle that ACE follows in order to review standards and unit plans in order for districts to then develop and prioritize program improvements at the local level.

### **Revision Cycle | ALLIANCE FOR CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT**



AREA	Revision Cycle	
Science	2027-2029	Cycle 5
Arts		
Health and Physical Education	2025-2027	Cycle 4
English Language Arts/Literacy and English Learners		
World Languages	2023-2025	Cycle 3
Mathematics		
Computer Science/Technology/Library Media	2021-2023	Cycle 2
Career and Technical Education		
Social Studies	2020-2021	Cycle 1

## ***Evaluation of Curriculum to ensure the inclusion of the distinct and unique cultural heritages and contemporary portrayal of American Indians***

Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement supports the implementation of Indian Education for All (IEFA) in our member schools by providing a scope and sequence of IEFA-integrated standards (aligned to state standards). [IEFA implementation documentation for ACE schools](#).

Our staff has a shared document where they update with lessons, pictures, and other documentation that contain IEFA content. [Indian Education for All - Shepherd](#)

IEFA event for Science Teachers, Feb 2025: In professional development through ACE, teachers learn about standards-based classrooms in training because it provides a clear framework for aligning their instruction, assessments, and curriculum with established learning goals, ensuring all students are being taught the necessary skills and knowledge at

their grade level, promoting consistency across the school, and allowing for better tracking of student progress and accountability for learning outcomes. The MT state standards are the minimum and our teachers are trained to provide instruction that take their students to even higher levels beyond the standards.

## ***Proficiency-Based Learning***

Our district is a part of the Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement (ACE) curriculum consortium. ACE regularly brings teachers together to create examples of bundling the MT Content Standards for each grade level and content area to ensure that all standards are explicitly taught and assessed. Links to those reviewed and revised grade level and content area standards, year-long context maps, and assessments are stored on the ACE website behind a password-protected page. Screenshot below. These standards are the foundation for scaffolding students learning the content and skills they need to achieve a high level of proficiency. A password to the database can be obtained by contacting Jenny Combs: [jenny\\_combs@mtace.org](mailto:jenny_combs@mtace.org)

### **Protected: K-12 YLC and Reporting Charts**

ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	Health/PE	Music	Library, Early Learning, CTE, World Languages, Counseling
Kindergarten YLC	Kindergarten YLC	Kindergarten YLC	K SS YLC	K PE YLC	K Reporting Chart	K Library Media
K Reporting Chart	K Reporting Chart	K Reporting Chart	K SS Reporting Chart			
1st YLC	1st YLC	1st YLC	1st SS YLC	1st PE YLC	1st Reporting Chart	1st Library Media
1st Reporting Chart	1st Reporting Chart	1st Reporting Chart	1st SS Reporting Chart			
2nd YLC	2nd YLC	2nd YLC	2nd SS YLC	2nd PE YLC	2nd Reporting Chart	2nd Library Media
2nd Reporting Chart	2nd Reporting Chart	2nd Reporting Chart	2nd SS Reporting Chart			
3rd YLC	3rd YLC	3rd YLC	3rd SS YLC	3rd PE YLC	3rd Reporting Chart	3rd Library Media
3rd Reporting	3rd Reporting	3rd Reporting	3rd SS Reporting			

Proficiency-based learning allows for more individualized pacing. Students tailor their learning to meet their own individual needs. This reduces the “one-size-fits-all” approach. This allows students to understand their strengths and areas for improvement. Students are expected to demonstrate a range of skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and application of knowledge, which are more important in real-world situations. Proficiency-based learning is more

of a student-centered approach to education, helping to better prepare students for life after school, whether in further education, the workforce, or other areas of personal development. Shepherd concentrates on personal growth of each student as an individual rather than just hitting a number or grade.

## ***Shepherd Curriculum Review Schedule***

Shepherd Schools has its own review cycle of curriculum materials and programs used within our K-12 system. This cycle allows us to set goals and then collect data on current programs. Needs of our students are ever-changing and therefore a review of our curriculum is necessary to make sure we are providing the best educational opportunities to the current students while looking towards the future.

Shepherd reviews its curriculum to ensure that the content being taught is up-to-date, relevant, and aligned with current educational standards both at the national and at the state levels. We also review our curriculum to make sure we include the unique and distinct cultural heritages of American Indians to meet the needs of all students.

Regular reviews of the curriculum allow schools to identify gaps in knowledge or skills that students might be lacking, making it possible to adjust teaching materials and strategies for better student performance and learning outcomes. This is done every year in vertical alignment meetings that take place in all subject areas K-12 in our district. Each vertical team meeting covers the standards being taught and which are the priorities for the grade level and subject. This ensures our curriculum is balanced and the teachers from grade level to grade level have a plan in place for the curriculum they teach.



**Shepherd Public Schools**

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**K-12 Content Standards and Revision**  
*Proposed Content Standards Revision Schedule*

<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Content Standards</b>	<b>Revision of current curriculum</b>	<b>Research/ Review</b>	<b>Begin Implementation</b>	<b>NEXT Revision of curriculum</b>
<b>Cycle 1</b> <i>August 2022- July 2023</i>	Mathematics	August 2017- December 2017	August 2022- May 2023	July 2023	2022-2024
<b>Cycle 2</b> <i>August 2023- July 2024</i>	English Language Arts/Literacy  World Languages	August 2018- December 2018	August 2023- May 2024	July 2024	2023-2025
<b>Cycle 3</b> <i>August 2024- July 2025</i>	Social Studies  Career Technical Education	August 2019- December 2019	August 2024- May 2025	July 2025	2024-2026
<b>Cycle 4</b> <i>August 2025- July 2026</i>	Arts  Health/Physical Education	August 2020- December 2020	August 2025- May 2026	July 2026	2025-2026
<b>Cycle 5</b> <i>August 2026- July 2027</i>	Science	August 2021- December 2021	August 2026- May 2027	July 2027	2026-2027

## ***Conclusion***

Shepherd School's curriculum review plan adds to our mission of personal growth, not only do we want our students to make personal growth but we would like our staff to grow as well. Each day we have the chance to improve and get better by reviewing what is taught and what resources are out there to make their classrooms better.

Shepherd Schools use our curriculum plan to provide a structured guide for our teachers, helping them know what to teach and when. It ensures that all students are exposed to the same core content and skills across different classrooms and grade levels, leading to a consistent educational experience. We choose programs and materials to help supplement our curriculum that is research-based and what best fits the needs of our students.