

# PERSONALIZED EDUCATION

## • *WSSD STUDENTS DEVELOP OWN ACADEMIC GOALS*

The mission of the Wessington Springs School District, as a leader in innovative education, is to provide a high quality, personalized learning experience that inspires and fosters student creativity, success and self-confidence by embracing best practices and collaborative partnerships.

Wessington Springs School District continues to enhance the personal experience of education for all students. The process has been ongoing for several years, as the district developed personal learning plans for every K-12 student.

Students develop goals related to the areas of Math, Reading, and Character. To assist in writing of Math and Reading goals teachers and students base their goals off assessments that are done in the fall of the academic year.

The character goal focuses on Character Counts Pillars. For each goal, student's list steps in helping them achieve their goals. Middle School and High School students use SD-MyLife as tool to monitor goals and utilize other career path tools.

Goals are monitored and reviewed throughout the year. The personal learning plans drive instruction and assessments in the district. The plans are used in student-parent-teacher conferences as students share with parents their personal learning goals.

"This process has led to increased parent involvement and has built a solid partnership from home to school enhancing the learning process," Wessington Springs Superintendent Lance Witte said.

Middle School students use personalized online reading curriculum called Reading Plus. The teacher monitors progress and provides interventions to students.

Math instruction is personalized at the Middle School and High School utilizing Accelerated Math. Student's progress at their own pace as they master objectives aligned to the Common Core standards and can complete a course and



begin the next course at any point in the academic year.

High school students have many opportunities to take classes offered outside the building, as they are given an opportunity to enroll in online distance coursework.

Many juniors and seniors are enrolled in college courses receiving dual credit. These courses are financially supported by the school district and provided to students at no cost.

Wessington Springs Schools also offers an Open Enrollment – Cyber School – Program, providing personalized learning opportunities for 22 students from across the state. Students are able to take coursework to meet graduation requirements through the South Dakota Virtual School and Wessington Springs online course offerings.

"At Wessington Springs Schools we are excited about the personal learning experience we are striving to achieve for our students," Witte said. "As new technologies and curriculums present themselves the school will look to strategically engage in activities to support personalized student instruction."