



## **Family and Consumer Sciences Curriculum Review**

West St. Paul - Mendota Heights - Eagan Area Schools  
School District 197

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Prepared by

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## Summary of Year 2

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS or FACS) is the comprehensive body of skills, research, and knowledge that help people make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life.

The field represents many areas, including human development, personal and family finance, housing and interior design, food science, nutrition, wellness, textiles and apparel, and consumer issues. Family and Consumer Sciences education provides the essential life skills needed for students to develop into healthy people who are prepared to meet the needs of themselves, their children and families, and those with whom they work.

The curriculum review committee met to review current course offerings and how those met the Minnesota FACS Framework. We met with Maxine Peterson, FACS specialist from the Minnesota Department of Education, to review the current trends in FACS education. In our discussions with Maxine it became clear that in order to maintain relevant and robust programming we need more data to demonstrate skills attainment for college and career readiness. It was recommended that we offer Technical Skills Assessments to all students in FACS. These assessments will provide the student with a certificate that lists the skills mastered in each course. Students will then have concrete skills to add to their resume when pursuing a career.

In order to expand our pathway choices for students in FACS we added two new courses for the 2016-17 school year. Nutrition and Whole Foods Cooking course will use the *Teaching the Food System*, curriculum from Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. The course modules span topics from field to plate, emphasizing the relationships between food, public health, equity, and the environment. The material is focused on issues in the U.S. food system but also touches on some of their global implications.

We also added Child Psychology II, which will include an internship with our Early Learning classrooms at the Early Learning and Family Resource Center. This course will transition in the 2017-18 school year to our Teacher Cadet Program. As described by the Center for Educator

Recruitment, Retention and Advancement, “The primary goal of the Teacher Cadet Program is to encourage academically talented, high-achieving, high school students with exemplary interpersonal and leadership skills to consider teaching as a career.” An important secondary goal of the program is to develop future community leaders who will become civic advocates for public education. The Teacher Cadet Program uses an innovative approach designed to attract talented young people to the teaching profession through a challenging introduction to teaching. The program seeks to provide high school students with insight into the nature of teaching, the problems of schooling, and the critical issues affecting the quality of education in America's schools. Piloted in four South Carolina high schools in 1985-86, the Teacher Cadet Program has grown to include approximately 170 South Carolina high schools with nearly 200 classes serving an average of 2,700 juniors and seniors annually. More than 60,000 students have participated in the Teacher Cadet Program in its 30-year history. The state of Minnesota has received grant funding to get the Teacher Cadet Program up and running in our state. We are excited to be one of a few districts who will offer this program to our students.

A scope and sequence was created for each course offered at Henry Sibley High School. The scope and sequence includes unit titles, student learning objectives, career pathways, activities, assessments, and standards addressed in each unit. These documents will guide teachers in the delivery of each course.

**School District 197 Family and Consumer Sciences Program**

|             | <b>Level I Courses</b>                                     | <b>Level II Courses</b> | <b>Level III Courses</b> |
|-------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>9-12</b> | Introduction to Foods<br>Nutrition and Whole Foods Cooking | Culinary I              | Culinary II              |
|             | Clothing Design I  | Clothing Design II      |                          |
|             | Child Psychology I   | Child Psychology II     |                          |
|             | Housing and Interior Design (Hybrid)                       |                         |                          |
|             | On Your Own (Hybrid)                                       |                         |                          |
|             |  |                         |                          |

## Next Steps

In the 2016-17 school year we will begin using Precision Exams skills assessments for all Family and Consumer Sciences Courses. You can view the knowledge standards for the courses, which include the objectives measured, by clicking on the exam name in the table below. Additional information on the exams can be found on the vendor website: [www.precisionexams.com/minnesota](http://www.precisionexams.com/minnesota). Training will happen prior to the start of the school year. The assessments will be given at the beginning of the school year as a pretest to measure student skill levels and then at the end of the course to demonstrate growth and achieve the certificate. Teachers of these courses will now have standardized data to use in their planning and preparation for their instruction. The exams from Precision Exams will be aligned with our courses as follows:

| Course                            | Exam   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Introduction to Foods             | <a href="#">340: Food and Nutrition</a>                |
| Culinary I                        | <a href="#">345: Food Service &amp; Culinary Arts</a>  |
| Culinary II                       | Assessment given through Prostart                      |
| Nutrition and Whole Foods Cooking | <a href="#">201: Nutrition and Wellness</a>            |
| Clothing Design I                 | <a href="#">350: Clothing and Textiles I</a>           |
| Clothing Design II                | <a href="#">353: Clothing and Textiles II</a>          |
| Child Psychology                  | <a href="#">320: Child Development</a>                 |
| Housing and Interior Design       | <a href="#">330: Interior Design</a>                   |
| On Your Own                       | <a href="#">301: Personal Financial Responsibility</a> |

At the conclusion of each FACS course, teachers will review data from the Technical Skills Assessments to modify course content to ensure students are successful in attainment of the skill certificate for that course. This work will happen through Collaborative Teams at the high school.

Our Child Psychology teacher, Linda Zurn, will attend Teacher Cadet training at the Minnesota Department of Education in June of 2016 in order to prepare to offer this program in the

2017-18 school year. This course will become the Level II course that follows Child Psychology I. We will work with Maxine Peterson at MDE to set up our program to include classroom experiences for students in this program.