Cybersecurity Syllabus and Class Contract

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West Fargo Public Schools Vision and Mission:

West Fargo Public Schools prepares all learners with the knowledge and skills to be contributing citizens in a rapidly changing world. We are dedicated to continuous improvement, engaging every student to become problem solvers and lifelong learners. Excellence is achieved through practices based in research, and by aligning all resources to support learning.

Daily Student Materials:

- iPad (charged and ready to go)
- Pencil and paper for activities and reflection

Schoology Information:

Students will regularly need to access videos, assignments, links, etc. from the Cybersecurity Schoology course. It is important you know how to navigate Schoology and check regularly for updates, deadlines, etc. both for Cybersecurity and other courses.

Course Overview:

As our world becomes increasingly reliant on technology, cybersecurity is a topic of rising importance. It is critical that individuals have the skills and knowledge to protect themselves from the increasing danger of cyber-attacks. This course will prepare you with the necessary skills to be a responsible citizen in a digital world.

This innovative curriculum uses a 20-minute weekly format with hands-on activities and real-world scenarios to teach all required cybersecurity standards. The course is aligned with the Computer Science Content Standards (CSCS) and covers 18 power standards across digital citizenship, ethics, security, and technology systems.

North Dakota became the first state to require cybersecurity education for all K-12 students following Gov. Doug Burgum's signing of HB 1398. To graduate from a North Dakota high school, the law requires students to take at least one course in computer science or cybersecurity. Successful completion of this course will fulfill the cybersecurity graduation requirements for you as a West Fargo High School student.

Cybersecurity Learning Objectives:

Data Analysis & Problem Solving

9-10.AP.1: Students will be able to collect, organize, analyze, and interpret datasets to draw meaningful conclusions and present findings using appropriate digital tools.

Digital Identity & Ethics

11-12.DI.1: Students will be able to assess their digital identity and footprint by auditing their online presence and developing strategies to manage their digital reputation.

11-12.E.1: Students will be able to evaluate ethical dilemmas in technology use and defend their positions on issues such as privacy, artificial intelligence, and digital equity.

Technical Problem Solving

11-12.HS.2: Students will be able to apply systematic troubleshooting methodologies to diagnose and resolve complex technical issues independently.

11-12.HS.3: Students will be able to design and implement comprehensive data backup and storage policies tailored to their personal and professional needs.

9-10.HS.2: Students will be able to identify and explain common hardware and software problems using precise technical vocabulary.

9-10.HS.3: Students will be able to evaluate various storage solutions and select the most appropriate option based on capacity, cost, security, and accessibility requirements.

Cloud Computing & Networks

11-12.NI.3: Students will be able to select and utilize appropriate cloud computing services to complete collaborative projects and manage digital workflows.

9-10.NI.3: Students will be able to compare different cloud computing models (SaaS, PaaS, IaaS) and explain when each would be most beneficial or problematic.

Privacy & Information Management

11-12.PI.1: Students will be able to audit and control personal information sharing across digital platforms while respecting others' privacy rights.

Legal & Policy Understanding

11-12.PL.1b: Students will be able to analyze how intellectual property laws impact innovation and creativity in digital environments, citing specific examples.

11-12.PL.2: Students will be able to interpret acceptable use policies and demonstrate compliance in their technology usage.

9-10.PL.1a: Students will be able to apply fair use principles when incorporating copyrighted materials, Creative Commons works, and public domain content into their projects.

Security Practices

11-12.SC.2: Students will be able to implement multi-layered security measures including strong passwords, multi-factor authentication, and safe browsing practices to protect personal information.

Communication & Collaboration

9-10.SI.1: Students will be able to utilize digital communication and collaboration tools effectively to work with diverse teams toward shared objectives.

Technology Impact Assessment

9-10.S.2: Students will be able to research and evaluate how current and emerging technologies affect society, economy, and individual privacy.

Software Updates & Maintenance

11-12.TV.2: Students will be able to prioritize software updates by analyzing security risks versus feature benefits and create appropriate update schedules.

9-10.TV.2: Students will be able to distinguish between security updates and feature updates and explain the importance of each type for system maintenance.

Each objective uses measurable action verbs (assess, evaluate, apply, design, implement, etc.) and includes specific, observable outcomes that can be assessed through projects, demonstrations, or assessments.

Course Standards

1. **9-10.AP.1** Collect, organize, analyze, and interpret data.

2. **11-12.DI.1** Evaluate one's digital identity and footprint.
3. **11-12.E.1** Discuss and make personal judgments about the ethical use of technology.
4. **11-12.HS.2** Implement systematic troubleshooting strategies to identify and fix errors.
5. **11-12.HS.3** Develop personal procedures and policies for utilizing storage needs (e.g., backups).
6. **9-10.HS.2** Describe basic hardware and software problems using appropriate and accurate terminology.
7. **9-10.HS.3** Compare and contrast a variety of storage options to fit a need.
8. **11-12.NI.3** Appropriately utilize a variety of cloud computing resources to accomplish tasks.
9. **9-10.NI.3** Identify the advantages and disadvantages of various cloud computing models.
10. **11-12.PI.1** Monitor and manage personal information shared online about oneself and others.
11. **11-12.PL.1b** Explain intellectual property laws' beneficial and harmful effects on innovation, creativity, and collaboration.
12. **11-12.PL.2** Understand the purpose of and comply with responsible and acceptable use policies. (Library Media 12.RU.1)
13. **9-10.PL.1a** Properly use copyrighted works, works in the Creative Commons, and works in the public domain by applying fair use guidelines.
14. **11-12.SC.2** Implement best practices to secure personal information when accessing technology (e.g., password, PIN, multifactor authentication). (Library Media 12.RU.2)
15. **9-10.SI.1** Use technologies to communicate and collaborate effectively to broaden perspectives and work toward common goals. (Library Media 10.SI.1)
16. **9-10.S.2** Evaluate the impacts of current and emerging technologies.
17. **11-12.TV.2** Analyze and evaluate the urgency of installing updates, considering the differences between security and feature updates
18. **9-10.TV.2** Differentiate between security updates and feature updates and explain their purposes.

Behavior Expectations:

- **Be compassionate.** Treat yourself, your classmates, the teachers, and the school with respect and consideration.

- **Show responsibility.** Come to class on time, activities completed (when assigned), and ready with all materials.
- **Practice collaboration.** We are a classroom community. Many activities will require us to talk to one another or volunteer to share ideas with the entire class. Be kind and helpful to each other.
- **Demonstrate resilience.** Your passing grade in Cybersecurity not only contributes to your graduation requirements but meets a North Dakota Scholarship requirement of competency in 21st century skills. Stay focused, recover from absences, and strive to get and do better with the skills you learn through this course.

Important Procedures:

Class Meetings: Advisory class will meet in advisory the first day of each week unless otherwise rescheduled. Attendance is mandatory, just like your other classes.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is unethical. Show the respect you would want for your hard work and do not claim something that is not yours, including utilizing Artificial Intelligence! Cutting and pasting sentences off the Internet into a word document or copying sentences directly from the Internet will not be permitted. Paraphrase what you have found by putting it in your own words. You may use direct quotes if you cite your source. Graded assignments that are plagiarized will receive a 0.
- **Cell Phones:** Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, WFHS rules regarding personal device usage (cell phone, smartwatch, personal laptop, etc.) will be as follows:
    - Cell phones, smart watches, and all other personal devices that can send and receive messages are OUT-OF-SIGHT and OUT-OF-USE from 8:25a until 3:35p.
    - Devices CANNOT be kept on your person (in a pocket, etc.). They must, at a bare minimum, be kept in a CLOSED backpack pocket. Devices can also be left in your car, at home, etc.
    - Devices CANNOT be utilized or checked during passing times, lunch time, or Open Campus if you choose to remain on campus.
    - If you leave the classroom to visit the nurse, go to the bathroom, etc., your backpack (with your phone inside) STAYS IN THE CLASSROOM.

  Consequences are as follows:

- First Offense: The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the student at the end of the student's day
- Second Offense: The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day
- Third Offense: The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, behavior plan assigned to the student
- Fourth Offense: The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day ISS
- Fifth Offense: The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day OSS
- Sixth Offense: The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, transition to Virtual Program for the at least the remainder of the semester

- **Missed Work/Makeup Work:** Each week (29 total) there will be a Cybersecurity Assessment. You must complete all assessments with a score of 80% or higher to successfully pass the course. You have multiple attempts to complete each assessment.
- **Tardiness:** A tardy is any situation in which you arrive to class late or unprepared. 5 unexcused tardies will result in a UV, which receive detention.
- **Inappropriate Language:** The words we use are powerful. We must choose them wisely and make sure they are not used to put one another down or degrade the classroom environment. School is professional space and your language in our classroom should reflect this.
- **Start of Class:** Enter class quickly and quietly. Pick up any materials by the door and then go directly to your assigned seat.
- **Food and Drink:** All drinks must have a spill-proof lid. Do not make a mess! Do not let your drink distract you from class or this privilege will be revoked. The only food allowed is teacher-provided.

- **End of Class:** The bell doesn't dismiss class, I do. You will be given permission to pack up your belongings and materials. Desk space and any mess made in class must be cleaned. If you borrowed a pencil, RETURN IT. No one is to crowd or open the door until given permission.
- **Class Participation:** Unless stated otherwise, ALWAYS raise your hand and wait to be called upon. Track the speaker with both your shoulders and your eyes. Keep your head up. This is a sign of respect. When having a class discussion, build on the ideas of others, ask further questions, challenge and disagree with your peers, provide evidence for your response, etc. Participation is important!
- **Leaving the Room:** If you need to leave the room for ANY reason, ask first AND THEN submit an eHall Pass to be approved. Only one person will be allowed out of the room at a time. Bathroom and water fountain use is limited to independent and group work time. As we are only together for 20 minutes, approval to leave the room will be very rare.
- **Materials for Class:** You must come to class with your iPad (charged and ready to use), pencil and paper. If you fail to bring a writing utensil to class, you must borrow one from me or a classmate.

Discipline Policy:

Level One: Friendly Reminder

Level Two: Verbal Warning

Level Three: Hallway Conference

Level Four: Office Referral

Other: Students may be recommended for a Behavior Intervention Plan, lose computer or group-work privileges or be required to move seats, write an apology letter, etc.

Expectations for Your Teachers:

As your teachers, you should expect us to:

- Do all that we can to ensure your success in our class
- Treat you respectfully and fairly at all times
- Learn from you and about you
- Not let you "slack off" and hold you to HIGH expectations because we believe in you

Grading Scale:

This course is graded as pass/fail. This means, at the end of the year, you will receive either a **SATISFACTORY (SA)** grade (passing) or an **UNSATISFACTORY (UN)** grade (failing). All advisory courses, including Cybersecurity, are worth .25 credit. Successful completion of this cybersecurity course is a North Dakota graduation requirement.

To earn a satisfactory grade, you must:

- Demonstrate proficiency on all cybersecurity standards
- Participate actively in class learning activities
- Show growth from pre-assessment to post-assessment on individual standards
- Complete 80% of the Cybersecurity Assessments with a score of 80% or higher.

Course Structure:

This course uses an innovative **20-minute weekly format** with:

- **Weekly content sessions** across 9 months
- **Grade check weeks** at the end of each quarter for assessment review
- **Collaborative learning** through peer evaluation and group challenges
- **Video resources** to support each week's learning objectives
- **Assessments on each Standard (18 total)**

Extra Help:

- **Homework Room** will be offered after school
- **Grade check weeks** provide built-in time for individual conferences and catch-up work

This is your class: your opportunity to learn, ask questions, and challenge yourself. We encourage you to make the best of it and set yourself up for high school success!

Sincerely,

Brittany Smith & Erika Brann

If you agree to work hard to develop cybersecurity skills, please sign to accept the terms of this contract.

Student Signature Date
