

## The Core Principles of AISF Curriculum

All AISF curriculum is designed and written by the AISF faculty specifically for our student population from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8. AISF curriculum references educational standards from the United States. Currently the standards referenced include Common Core in English and Math, Next Generation Science, and AERO standards. For the 2016/2017 we will add McRel Standards (US produced) to our references. High school curriculum and subject offerings utilize the University of Nebraska High School, a distance learning program based in Lincoln, Nebraska. AISF retains a certified full time teacher to support all high school students.

Faculty base their curriculum design on three core principles.

1. **Know your students**, including every student in every class.
2. **Plan backwards**. Start with the goals. The first step is to create the intended learning outcomes for every unit planned.

The templates used for AISF curriculum writing are grounded in Understanding by Design (UbD). Every Unit Plan opens with the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) for the students. The ILOs describe what the students will understand at the end of the unit, whether the unit topic is fractions, the basic anatomy of green plants, or the novel Charlotte's Web. The Learning Outcomes are taken from the US Standards noted above. After writing the learning outcomes, teachers create the learning activities, the educational resources, and the assessments to reach those outcomes (planning backwards).

Assessment is integrated into teaching and learning from the beginning of every unit to the end. Teachers assess students' prior knowledge, student progress toward the learning outcomes, and student mastery of the intended learning outcome. Report cards at our school follow this emphasis on assessment according to learning outcomes (standards). Your child is rated on the report card according to how she performs relative to the standard (learning outcome): does not meet, meets, or exceeds the standard.

Our aim is student mastery. AISF is dedicated to making certain that every student can move on to build successfully on their learning at AISF whether that means at the next grade level or in their new school elsewhere. Your child's growth and success motivate all curriculum development.

Irene Epp  
AISF Director