



**CRITICAL  
THINKING**



**COMMUNICATION**



**EMPATHY**



**COLLABORATION**



**LEARNER'S  
MINDSET**



**ADAPTABILITY**



**PERSEVERANCE**

**NORTH  
DAKOTA'S**  
**PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE**



### CRITICAL THINKING

A North Dakotan...

- Consistently improves the quality of one's own thinking by being socially aware, questioning bias and assumptions.
- Applies disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded.
- Understands the global perspectives while also proposing solutions that are mindful to the impact they may have on the local communities.



### EMPATHY

A North Dakotan...

- Seeks, understands, and productively responds to the points of view, feelings, and experiences of others.
- Embraces, global, local, and personal responsibility for making the world a better place.
- Understands that addressing societal challenges often requires compromise while promoting understanding of complex issues and varying perspectives.



### PERSEVERANCE

A North Dakotan...

- Understands the relationship between effort, attitude, and achievement.
- Embraces the idea that failure is a part of success and quickly pivots to keep moving forward.
- Navigates adversity by identifying its source and duration, utilizing strengths and available supports.
- Demonstrates grit, curiosity and positive attitudes while on a life-long quest for knowledge and skills.



### COMMUNICATION

A North Dakotan...

- Listens to understand before communicating to be understood.
- Articulates thoughts and ideas effectively in a variety of forms and contexts.
- Uses communications for a range of purposes and audiences (e.g. to self-advocate, build positive relationships, resolve conflict, achieve shared goals,) to give and receive feedback.



### COLLABORATION

A North Dakotan...

- Assumes shared responsibility to utilize strengths to build collective commitment and action.
- Contributes to group effectiveness in pursuit of a shared vision.
- Possesses a team mentality that elicits diverse perspectives and contributions.



### ADAPTABILITY

A North Dakotan...

- Responds productively and positively to feedback, praise, setbacks, and criticism.
- Understands, negotiates, and balances diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions.
- Analyzes conditions to create a plan utilizing self-awareness and self-management to overcome them.



### LEARNER'S MINDSET

A North Dakotan...

- Embraces a commitment to lifelong learning while approaching their pursuits with passion.
- Possesses the desire to learn, unlearn, and relearn.

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