**Mandan Pubic Schools**

**Professional Learning Communities Guide**

**What is a Professional Learning Community?**

A Professional Learning Community (PLC) is an **ongoing** process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. (DuFour, DuFour, Eaker, & Many)

**What is collaboration?**

Collaboration is a **systemic** process in which we work together interdependently to analyze and impact professional practice in order to improve our individual and collective results.

1. **What are the Essential Elements of Mandan’s PLC Framework?**

* A collaborative venture
* Always focuses on student learning
* Distributes leadership responsibilities
* Narrows the curriculum to its essence
* Shares best practices as a means of improving instruction
* Uses “assessment for learning” in addition to the usual “assessment of learning.”
* Improves instruction
* Utilizes data

1. **How will Mandan PLC’s Function?**

* PLC groups are assigned by principals and can be based upon any of the following logical groupings:
  + Vertical (content/course specific)Teams
  + Grade Level Teams
  + Interdisciplinary Teams (i.e. middle school teaming)
  + Other logically linked teams
* PLC groups will develop norms of operation
* PLC’s will provide an agenda and report proceedings for every meeting to their building principal

1. **What are the Purposes of Mandan’s PLC’s?\***

* Building a common language of instruction (Learn and Utilize the Marzano Framework)
* Building a common understanding of standards
* Building ongoing common assessments and analyzing data from those assessments to inform instruction
* Building a continuum of interventions for students who need extra time and support (RTI)

\*(if the discussion or activity does not fit one of these four purposes, it should not occur during PLC time)