

IMAGINE ND

Its Role in the Classroom

Imagine ND – What is it?

Imagine ND is a professionally developed program designed to raise career awareness among North Dakota students. This program introduces social studies educators to Career Clusters, a grouping of occupations and industries, which provides tools for enhancing student learning in the discipline of social studies in general and North Dakota Studies in particular.

The components of Imagine ND include:

- A top quality, professionally produced video
- A fully interactive CD
- Lesson plans that are standards-based
- An excellent website, which highlights opportunities, corporate profiles, career development resources, and other exciting information about North Dakota.

Imagine ND is a powerful piece of software that encourages students to consider a variety of exciting careers in North Dakota. This valuable resource offers professional development support for social studies educators who are familiar with Internet technology and willing to integrate Internet resources into their lesson plans and classroom instruction.

Imagine ND – What does it do?

Imagine ND presents students and educators with content for the social studies classroom that is based on the North Dakota Social Studies Standards. As educators guide their students through the North Dakota Studies curriculum students are introduced to Career Clusters which provide them the opportunity to investigate and explore a variety of careers that exist in North Dakota. This leads to more genuine, authentic learning which in turn provides the students with a greater motivation to learn.

Imagine ND allows classrooms to explore a variety of web sites and standards-based resources for social studies. Instructors are provided with a vast array of lesson plans that incorporate inquiry-based, problem-based, and project-based learning. Imagine ND presents instructional strategies for integrating the Career Clusters into lesson planning for social studies and for interdisciplinary thematic instruction.

While the lessons offered in Imagine ND target eighth grade students in social studies classes, simple modifications would allow instructors to utilize these lesson plans in the intermediate classroom as well as high school. The lessons in Imagine ND can easily be

used across the curriculum allowing educators the opportunity to collaborate with other instructors in science, mathematics, language arts, fine arts and career and technical education courses.

Imagine ND – How do I use this in my classroom?

Imagine ND lessons are organized around the 16 Career Clusters and are tied to the North Dakota Social Studies Standards. The lessons can either be used throughout the year or as a stand-alone unit of social studies issues and career exploration. The beauty of Imagine ND is that it requires very little of your preparation time. The lessons are fully laid out in a format that includes:

- Introduction
- Warm-up activities
- Procedure
- Assessment ideas
- Resources

Imagine ND also allows the educator a great deal of flexibility. Lessons range from a single class period to a full week of instruction.

The lessons included in Imagine ND encourage authentic learning. For instance, while teaching students about the symbols inherent in North Dakota, the instructor could have the students design a brochure or a multimedia presentation of these symbols and incorporate the Career Cluster of Information Technology. While studying state landmarks such as the capitol building, students could also be introduced to the Career Cluster of Architecture and Construction. The possibilities are endless. Students can learn about becoming entrepreneurs and marketing products that are uniquely “North Dakota.”

If students are provided the opportunity not only to learn about their state, but to learn about their state in a way that they see themselves playing a role, authentic learning will take place and student motivation will soar. Imagine the potential. Imagine the possibilities. Imagine ND.

Duane R. Eichele, B.A., B.S.