

## **JET Program Motivates High School Students to Enter Teaching Profession**

All states across the nation are looking for ways to encourage more youth to enter the teaching profession. A program called “JET”, which is being implemented in the Oakes Public School District, is designed to address this issue. JET stands for Junior Educator in Training.

Oakes high school principal, Brandon Bata, oversees the program in their district, which currently has five high school students participating. The purpose of the program is to provide high school students with the opportunity to get firsthand experience in the teaching profession. Students often provide support to classroom teachers by working with small groups of students. In Oakes, students also are required to teach at least one lesson.

This program also provides valuable support to current teachers. Students receive a half credit for their participation, and Oakes uses a pass/fail grading system. The program is cost-free and relatively easy to administer, so it is an ideal way to recruit students into the teaching profession.

Two educators in North Dakota who are products of the JET program are Anna Sell, Oakes Elementary Principal, and Laurie Matzke at the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). Both have stated that the JET program was instrumental in leading them into the teaching profession.

Anyone with questions on the JET program can contact Brandon Bata at [brandon.bata@k12.nd.us](mailto:brandon.bata@k12.nd.us) or (701) 742-3234. The Oakes Public School District has shared the following JET resources:

- [JET Expectations](#)
- [JET Monthly Rubric](#)
- [Monthly JET Reflection](#)