

FordPAS Curriculum

Working Toward Sustainability

The modules in the theme Working Toward Sustainability engage students in investigating fuel sources and technologies that can serve as alternatives to fossil fuels and in learning about the importance of current research concerning stable and practical sources of energy. Given the political, economic, environmental, and social concerns over the use of fossil fuels, people around the world are seeking alternative sources of energy for power—alternatives that are cost-effective and sustainable and that will not further damage the environment or unduly affect one group of people more than another.

Foundations in 21st-Century Skills

The modules in the theme Foundations in 21st-Century Skills engage students in developing and applying research, communication, and problem-solving skills to the study of work and the workplace. Students examine topics such as product development, advertising, market research, industrial relations, and careers through activities such as primary document and case study analysis, interviews, and worksite visits. By building academic skills in the context of investigating the world of work, students connect the importance of what they learn in the classroom to their future roles in the workforce.

Getting Smart About Business

The modules in the theme Getting Smart About Business engage students in learning about the many components of successful businesses and understanding the skills needed to build and run a commercial enterprise. From bringing an idea to market and designing a promotional campaign to creating budgets, proposals, and projections, Getting Smart About Business helps students develop their knowledge of decision-making in the world of business, and the module activities encourage students to see themselves taking on business decision-making roles. The series emphasizes that the knowledge and skills taught have numerous applications for students, whether they are interested in starting a business, managing personal finances more effectively, or sharpening skills that will allow them to succeed in higher education or the workplace.

Manufacturing for Tomorrow

The modules in the theme Manufacturing for Tomorrow engage students in learning how products and services are created and brought to market and how such factors as quality, efficiency, and environmental sustainability are managed. Students develop an understanding of the connections between theory and practice in the field of business management and apply their understanding to solve real-world problems. Manufacturing for Tomorrow also demonstrates the importance of planning and extends students' knowledge of planning processes and tools—from flowcharts, PERT charts, and supply chain maps to a variety of data analysis and graphical display methods.

Data, Decisions, and Design

The modules in the theme Data, Decisions, and Design engage students in investigating two key aspects of modern business: how businesses track information and use it to make decisions, and how products are designed, engineered, and refined to meet the needs and desires of users. In their module projects, students carry out tasks essential to both these management and production aspects of industry. They learn methods for organizing and interpreting data in various business scenarios, explore how product design works within different industries, and conduct an analysis of product failure.

Living in a Global Economy

The modules in the theme Living in a Global Economy engage students in learning how economic forces at multiple levels shape the ways in which money, goods, and services are produced, exchanged, and distributed throughout the world. Students gain familiarity with the complex interrelated systems that make up the global economy as they develop financial plans, interpret data on a country's economic performance, negotiate a trade agreement, and create a proposal for improving a company's social responsibility.

Putting Math to Work

The modules in the theme Putting Math to Work engage students in exploring the numerous uses of mathematics in the worlds of business and finance. Students examine how algebra and statistics can enable them to compare sets of data, observe changes over time, and make reliable plans and predictions. Putting Math to Work also enhances students' understanding of how information is converted into numerical data and how, in turn, data can inform both personal and business planning and decision-making.