



Textbook Recommendations 2025-2026

April 14 , 2025

Strategic Plan- Instruction & Learning

PRIORITY 3: Through strong district and building leadership, deepen implementation of high-quality practices and programming.

- Enhance core instructional programming PK-12.
- Enhance core instructional practices PK-12.
- Align and enhance supplemental instructional supports PK-12 to meet the needs of each student.

Each text or instructional material selection is an opportunity to move OPS closer to our goal of equitably educating with excellence.



Textbook/Instructional Materials Proposals

- Journalism (OHS)
- Creative Writing (OHS)
- Contemporary Literature (OHS)
- AP Statistics (OHS)
- French I (CMS/OHS)
- Spanish I (CMS/OHS)



OPS Textbook Recommendation Process

1. Teachers review multiple textbooks using the following criteria and tools:
 - a. Readability
 - b. Standards Alignment
 - c. Culturally Responsive Curriculum Scorecard
 - d. Assessing Bias in Standards & Curricular Materials Tool
2. Approval process by Committee (Elementary), Department Chairs (KMS, CMS) or Area Coordinators (OHS)
3. Presentation & approval by District Advisory Council
4. Presentation to Board of Education.





OHS ELA

Journalism Last Approved: NA

Course Information: This course focuses on news, feature, advertising, and editorial writing for the OHS student publication, The OHS Press. Students will also use programs for design, editing, layout, photography, and art. Students will be responsible for writing, selling advertisements, and producing print and online publications. This course requires after-school time commitment.

Current Reality: No current subscriptions

Recommendation:

- *The Michigan Daily*
- *New York Times (previously approved for other courses at the high school)*

Rationale for selection:

- Representation of diverse perspectives and communities, including authentic, real-life narratives.
- High standards of journalistic writing and contributes meaningfully to the course's emphasis on objective, balanced, and representative journalism.

Creative Writing 12 Last Approved: 2013

Course Information: This class will provide models, instruction, and experiences in a variety of creative writing genres, including poetry, creative nonfiction, and short stories. Students enrolling in this course should plan to write every day. This course is designed for those students who really enjoy writing.

Current Reality: This text will supplement the current text, *On Writing, A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King.

Recommendation:

- *Improv for Writers*

Rationale for selection:

- This text offers engaging, interactive strategies rooted in improvisational techniques to help students overcome writer's block, spark creativity, and build confidence in their writing voice.
- Complements the foundational guidance to support a dynamic, student-centered approach to creative expression.

Contemporary Literature- 12 Last Approved: 2018

Course Information: This course will center on outstanding and award-winning contemporary literature reflecting several genres. A variety of books will stimulate exploration, discussion, and reflection of themes in relation to social justice and current issues. Students will reflect on the reading material using group discussions, literary circles, creative projects, analytical essays, book reviews and journal entries. The course is designed for students who enjoy reading and are willing to stretch their present scope of literary taste.

Current Reality: *The House on Mango Street (Cisneros), The Kite Runner (Hosseini), About a Boy (Hornby), Wit (Edson), The Lovely Bones (Sebold), Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Rowling), City of Thieves (Benioff), Looking for Alaska (Green), The Perks of being a Wallflower (Chobsky), The Hunger Games (Collins), Where'd You Go, Bernadette (Semple)*

Recommendation: To replace current texts with "contemporary" novels written in the 21st century that authentically reflect the lived experiences of the students at OHS. There are a total of 22 new texts being recommended.

Rationale for selection:

- Each title has been thoroughly evaluated using the District Textbook Review Tool to ensure alignment with district standards and instructional goals.
- The selected texts reflect a strong commitment to the District vision by amplifying underrepresented voices, addressing complex social issues with thoughtfulness and nuance, and avoiding stereotypes and historical inaccuracies.
- These novels are intended to foster critical dialogue among students around themes of power, privilege, and identity, while cultivating an inclusive classroom environment in which all students feel seen, valued, and empowered to participate meaningfully in conversations about the world around them.

	Book Info	Lexile Level	Notes/Justification/Rationale
1	Circe by Madeline Miller (2018)	660L	Feminist retelling of <i>The Odyssey</i> (Which is read in LC9) & would make for a nice full circle moment, explores power, isolations & resilience
2	James by Perceival Everett (2024)	N/A (Too New)	Reimagines <i>Huck Finn</i> from Jim's perspective, critically engaging with race & American history.
3	Ayesha at Last by Uzma Jalaluddin (2018)	N/A (Couldn't Find)	<i>Pride & Prejudice</i> retelling with a Muslim protagonist, explores cultural expectations & love. Might be more challenging than <i>Pride</i> .
4	Frankenstein in Baghdad by Ahmed Saadawi (2014)	1040L	Examines the impact of war on our identities & moralities through a Frankenstein-inspired narrative. (<i>Frankenstein</i> is read in Brit Lit)
5	Beautiful Little Fools by Jillian Cantor (2022)	No info	Reimagines <i>Gatsby</i> through the female character's (Daisy, Jordan, Catherine, who is Myrtle's sister) perspective, deepening female agency in the story. (<i>Gatsby</i> is read in AmLit)
6	Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel (2014)	930	Set amidst a Pandemic (timely-ish!), literary style dystopian novel that explores art and humanity after the world has collapsed. There is also a TV adaptation of this that could make for good discussion.
7	The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes by Suzanne Collins (2020)	860	Would directly replace <i>The Hunger Games</i> in the curriculum. Timely and relevant, provides insight to the origins of the tyrant in <i>The Hunger Games</i> . Connects the dystopian unit to the Retellings unit.
8	Scythe by Neal Shusterman (2016)	830	Hot book right now, first in a series, engaging, philosophical YA dystopia about immortality and ethics
9	The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune (2020)	620	Wildly popular, first in a series, whimsical and hopeful fantasy exploring found family & identity. Lexile Note: "The book is considered an adult novel, but some say it's accessible to young adult readers. It includes themes like romance and the mistreatment of foster children."

	Book Info	Lexile Level	Notes/Justification/Rationale
10	The Grace Year by Kim Liggett (2019)	810	A feminist dystopian novel that can be compared to LOTF & <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> . Considered the latter for Contemp, but it is given as an option in BritLit, so I think this would supplement it well. Explores the societal control of women.
11	The Things they Carried by Tim O'Brien (1990)	880	Older text comparatively, but can reach reluctant readers & does a nice job blending fiction and memoir to explore memory & trauma. Could be used in conjunction with Nonfic or writing the college essay.
12	Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds (2017)	750	One of my favorite books to teach. Powerful, accessible novel that addresses the cycle of violence and generational trauma. I think this would work well in my Living Poets unit.
13	Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi (2016)	910	Traces the impact of slavery across generations, provides a nuanced look at the lasting legacy of slavery and colonialism. Multi-generational narrative structure & diverse characters offer students a unique lens to analyze complex social issues. Would pair well with Reynolds.
14	Beartown by Frederik Backman (2016)	840	First in a series, has a TV adaptation, complex exploration of sports culture (might hit some reluctant readers), masculinity & justice
15	The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead (2019)	940	Just had a film adaptation come out. Pulitzer-prize winning novel that exposes hidden American history. Powerful and unflinching portrayal of institutional racism and abuse in a reform school during the Jim Crow Era. Would pair well with Gyasi & Reynolds.
16	Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng (2022)	800-1200L	Timely exploration of book banning, propaganda & identity. Encourages students to consider how to create a better world & challenge the injustices that surround them. Connects to real world policies & fears
17	All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir	590L (Ages 14 & Up)	A beautifully written novel that is incredibly easy for students to connect with, while also covering challenging topics. Connects to discussion of the American Dream from LC10 & American Lit. Explores generational trauma & resilience

	Book Info	Lexile Level	Notes/Justification/Rationale
18	Darius the Great is Not OK by Adib Khorram	710	Offers a nuanced portrayal of the life of a biracial teen as he navigates mental health, family dynamics, cultural identity & the challenges of being an outsider. Provides a window into Iranian culture and traditions, while sensitively addressing complex topics.
19	Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay	840 (9-12)	Help students develop empathy towards others, learn about social responsibility & explore their own identity. Provides an interesting, complex lens through which to explore global inequalities.
20	I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika Sanchez	730 (9-12)	Offers a refined exploration of Mexican-American identity, especially for young women. Tackles themes of familial expectations, cultural pressure, immigration, and the struggle to find your voice amidst the chaos.
21	The Midnight Library by Matt Haig	70-750	Portrays a thought experiment on living alternative lives. Encourages discussion on regrets & resilience. Explores self-reflection, the consequences of our choices & finding meaning in life.
22	Girl in Pieces by Kathleen Glasgow	740	Deals with mental illness & resilience in a raw, unfiltered way. Fosters conversation about stigmatized issues, promotes empathy & encourages students to seek help.

AP Statistics

Last Approved: 2018

Current Reality:

Current online licenses have expired.

Recommendation: *The Practice of Statistics, 7th Edition*

Rationale for selection:

- Recommended by the Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics program.
- Proven to be a valuable resource for students enrolled in the AP Statistics course.
- Authored by experienced AP exam graders, the text is specifically designed to align with the expectations and rigor of the AP exam.
- Previous editions have supported strong student performance.
- Offers a comprehensive set of instructional materials and resources to enhance teaching and learning.

OHS Math

World Language

French I Last Approved: 2018

Current Reality: Bien Dit

Recommendation: *Nous Sommes Level 1*

Rationale for selection:

- Specifically designed to align with current research in second language acquisition, which emphasizes the importance of contextual, meaningful learning experiences.
- Supports a more modern, flexible, and acquisition-driven approach to language instruction.
- Demonstrated strong student engagement and accessibility for all learners. Its emphasis on storytelling provides a powerful framework for language acquisition, allowing students to connect with the content on a deeper level.
- The curriculum incorporates a rich variety of cultural materials, including music, art, humor, current events, and history, which enhances both relevance and retention.
- This curriculum represents a significant improvement over the traditional textbook model and is highly recommended for broader implementation within the district.

Spanish I Last Approved: 2018


Current Reality: *Auténtico*

Recommendation: *Somos Level 1*

Rationale for selection:

- Current research in second language acquisition emphasizes the importance of contextualized learning through meaningful, culturally relevant storytelling.
- Well-aligned with research-based best practices, promoting language development through engaging, context-rich instruction that integrates grammar, vocabulary, and cultural understanding.
- Introduces concepts through authentic materials such as music, art, humor, current events, and historical narratives, making language acquisition both relevant and motivating for students.
- Significant advantages over the previous textbook approach, offering a more dynamic and effective pathway for student learning. Based on this experience and its alignment with pedagogical research, SOMOS represents a valuable improvement to our language instruction model.

In Conclusion

- These textbooks and materials will maintain and enhance the instructional excellence and learning at all levels. These materials will help to meet learners needs' academically, provide diverse perspectives and cultures, and utilize the district's 1:1 initiative.
 - The materials will position us well for the future, both in person and online.
 - All of these proposed textbooks have been reviewed by the District Advisory Council.
 - Materials are available for parent review at Central Office for the next two weeks.
 - District textbook review calendars will be reviewed and updated to ensure timely review and implementation of instructional resources.
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Questions?