

Livonia Public Schools

Academic Services Department World Languages

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TO: Tony Abbate, Principal, Frost
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FROM: Matthew Miga
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SUBJECT: Textbook Recommendation for German 2

Committee Members

Anastasia McKorwin, Franklin and Emerson
Helga Rom, Stevenson and Holmes
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Recommended Textbook:

Portfolio Deutsch, 2015, Klett-Langenscheidt

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708-689-0409

Estimated distribution of textbooks (Estimated total copies of 111)

Churchill: 20

Franklin: 45

Stevenson: 46

Summary of Course

German 2 continues to introduce students to the Germanic language and culture through the study and use of the three modes of communication (interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive). Students aim to develop proficiency in the five focus areas of second-language acquisition (communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities). Students will develop an intercultural awareness of the world around them and an understanding that proficiency in a world language is a powerful tool to help them succeed in our interconnected world.

Overview

The current textbook represents an outdated mindset of how languages should be taught. Pedagogy has evolved to a more communicative approach which is well-represented by the Portfolio Deutsch textbook. It was developed based on current pedagogical research that will allow students opportunities for interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive communication.

The presentation in the Portfolio Deutsch book revolves around a central thematic question. With a conversational approach to presenting vocabulary and interactive activities that support each mode of communication (interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive), Portfolio Deutsch reinforces the current pedagogical research to create competent speakers of the language who seek to continue on in the content area. The level two German will continue with the Portfolio series to continue the fluidity, spiraling-structure, and consistency of the curriculum.

Evaluation Process

All world language teachers met together to review research and best practices. The committee determined that the best situation would be one in which each language adopted a series, thereby the concepts would flow coherently, and we would anticipate fewer gaps in content coverage. After reading contemporary best-practice research and second-language acquisition research, the team used the same needs assessment summary as for the Level 1 courses.

The German team was composed of teachers from both the high school and middle school level, representing levels 1-5. All of the teachers engaged in the process of selecting the German 1 textbook also served on the German 2 textbook selection committee. The insights of these teachers were carefully considered as the committee made its decision to continue with the textbook series.

Needs Assessment Summary

Based on the best-practice and second-language acquisition research, the team developed the following graphic to guide our needs assessment:

BALANCED			
	Planning with Themes	Instruction via Contextualized Communication	Assessment Continuum
I N P U T	Authentic texts and materials Culturally appropriate Spiraled Age-appropriate/Engaging Cross-curricular connections	Focus on Form (Grammar) Balance (implicit vs explicit instruction, of modalities) Tasks and activities Learning continuum advancement appropriate accuracy	Rubric-based approach Focused on proficiency levels Tasks Can-do vs Knowing Feedback

OUTPUT

Evaluation Criteria

The committee reviewed the materials, evaluations and rubric that the Level 1 committee utilized to determine that Portfolio Deutsch as the recommended text for German 1. The committee concurred with the assessment and is recommending Portfolio Deutsch for German 2.

Professional Development Needs

- Training of all online components
- Overview of print resources
- Time for collaboration and planning
- Time for establishing new common final exams

Supplemental Materials (Additional cost of approx. \$700)

3 of each item listed below:

- Bilderbogen D-A-CH Video Reports (Cultural DVD)
- leicht/logisch Die Sommerferien (Cultural reader)
- leicht/logisch Einmal Freunde, immer Freunde (Cultural reader)
- Leicht / logisch Neu in der Stadt (Cultural reader)
- Leicht / logisch Drei ist einer zu viel (Cultural reader)
- Unheimliches im Wald (Cultural reader)
- Abenteuer im Schnee (Cultural reader)
- Der Schatz von Hiddensee (Cultural reader)
- Gefahr am Strand (Cultural reader)
- Blinder Passagier (Cultural reader)
- Spannende Tour im Schwarzwald (Cultural reader)
- Aufregung and der Nordsee (Cultural reader)
- Ein Basketballer am Main (Cultural reader)

Purpose and Intent of Supplemental Materials

- Bilderbogen DVD
- Mini-Readers to accompany Portfolio Deutsch A1-A2
- Mini-Readers covering authentic culture and geography
- After one year of using the Portfolio Deutsch the gap of culture was evident. These supplemental readers and DVD will enhance the students' knowledge of geography, history, and culture of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. These materials can be used with the German levels 1 and 2. Additionally, these readers elevate the students' ability in reading comprehension and aid in acquisition, using best-practices and contemporary language acquisition research which emphasizes the need for reading as a key component for acquisition.

Additional Considerations

- Need for increased access to technology, especially to Chromebooks.
- This is for an eight-year license to the online component and e-book; in seven years, the district will need to evaluate the availability of online resources.