

Lakeland Joint School District #272

Lisa Sexton, Superintendent of Schools

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LJSD Vision: A community committed to academic excellence ... dedicated to student success.

Board Agenda Item **Request**

AGENDA ITEM: Action Item:

PURPOSE: Approve/Deny Supplemental Curriculum Request

MEETING DATE: October 9, 2024

PREPARED BY: Lynn Paslay

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY:

[Google Form](#)

[Google Form Spreadsheet](#)

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Superintendent Recommendation: We have reviewed all the requests submitted and recommend approving all the items requested.

Supplemental Resources for Board Consideration 10.9.24

Supplemental Curriculum		
Schools	Requests	Concerns
Elementary	https://www.developingdecoders.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● no issues ● I can see this being very useful in the elementary levels to help with reading. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● While these books appear to be very good at teaching reading skills, they say up front that they are "Beautifully illustrated with a focus on Diversity." I think that means they are focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which is not something I think we wanted in our schools because of propaganda in many ways. ● No issues
MS/HS	Quill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● I had a student recommend this to me. They explained that the program was very beneficial to their education due to the in depth training on both writing and reading. I think this would be a great tool to use. ● Yes ● This looks like a wonderful resource for ELA

		<p>teachers in teaching grammar and writing skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Looks like a good program to use with Google Classroom at the middle and high school levels. No Issues or Concerns● no concerns● "Quill has a rating of 2.0 stars from 16 reviews, indicating that most customers are generally dissatisfied with their purchases. Quill ranks 189th among Kids Educational Resources sites." They have zero positive reviews on sitejabber. <p>"I'm a first year English teacher in Texas. We have been using Quill for students to practice the grammar we teach in class. I love Quill because it's easy for students to use, gives them immediate feedback, and has focused practices. So, if they are learning where to put a comma, I can have them do a Quill lesson on commas. Quill is aligned with Common Core Standards. A parent found out that we use Quill and was not happy since it is aligned with Common Core and not the Texas Standards. They went to our district and long story short we can't use it anymore." -from reddit reviews</p> <p>I don't know what the lessons are like because I was unable to sign in, but the reviews sound like it works well but has common core, which some parents don't like, plus they have very low ratings on service, returns, and value on sitejabber. I would</p>
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		<p>check into it more before ordering the materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading through the many topics I wonder about the relatability especially to Middle schoolers. A yes on nonfiction reading and writing prompts but a no on this material.
MS/HS	https://www.5minutemystery.com/archives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● No issues--Seems like a fun way to get students reading ● I'm not sure of this one. I registered and created an account, but the only mystery it would let me solve is one I did not think was appropriate and, in all honesty, was very poorly written. Missing words, sentences that made no sense. Unless I can try one of the other mysteries, I have to say no to this one. I would not recommend it unless there is a way for more access to vet the mysteries. ● no concerns ● I read several of the intro bits that show the first part of the stories. They all look like interesting mysteries for Middle School or High School, though I would like to read all of one to know more. ● No issues
MS	Khan Academy Water Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Absolutely! Anything Khan, in my opinion, is beneficial ● Approve ● no issues

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Khan Academy has always received high praise for its lessons and this is no different. I enjoyed listening to the Water Cycle video and had an a-ha moment when the video mentioned water being older than dinosaurs. I had never really thought about that or that the water on earth is just recycled over and over. I think this is perfect for middle school. Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns● no concerns● Somewhat interesting, and students may enjoy it. However, I was a little concerned with the comment of a scientist who was using it to teach his grandsons. "The sentence appearing at the end of the video seems misleading to me. How does a student should understand the assertion appearing on the screen that "I'm the same water that dinosaurs drank!" It doesn't take into account that water molecules are constantly destroyed and reconstructed. It is what didactic specialists in the natural sciences name a "naive conception." Those specialists recognized those "naive conceptions" as major obstacles to learning scientifically sound knowledge. For example, during cellular respiration, water is a product. On the other hand, during photosynthesis, water is a reactant. How could the water contained in any glass be |
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		<p>considered water previously drunk by dinosaurs if molecules are constantly destroyed and rebuilt?" I watched the video, and it does sound misleading in some ways.</p> <p>The answer from a student who was reading the material was, "We're just kids. I'll admit, it is misleading, but they're just trying to simplify it so we can understand. I understand your complaint, but we aren't scientists. At least not yet."</p> <p>So because they are trying to simplify science, they can make misleading statements? I don't recommend this site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No issues
MS	Idaho Cloud Seeding Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sounds like a great program ● Approve ● Yes ● no issues ● Very interesting read. Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● Very interesting and informative site. Recommended. ● Interesting, no issues
MS	Types of Clouds - Ducksters.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I thought this was a pretty interesting website. Read the article and took the quiz. Missed 3, but I did learn something. No Issues or Concerns. ● no concerns ● I read some of their intro materials about their lessons, and they sound solid. One was this: "Science is the study of the world around us. Scientists learn about their subject by observing, describing, and experimenting. There are many subjects and branches of science. Some study outer space like astronomy. Other sciences study life (biology) or the earth (geology) or even matter and energy (physics). Below are some subjects that you may be interested in or studying in class. The world around us is fascinating and learning about it can be fun and interesting. Much of the science we know today was discovered using the Scientific Method. The Scientific Method is a method scientists use to get accurate results from their experiments." This sounds like an excellent series of lessons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great practical information, no issues
<p>ELEM/MS</p>	<p>Generation Genius</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● no issues ● "I used Generation Genius at the Middle School

		<p>level several years ago when we did a fun project with fossils. I like that the videos are geared towards kids and they are interesting and give out just the right amount of information without overwhelming students. Dr. Jeff may be a bit dorky to an adult, but the kids seemed to enjoy his lessons and and the videos were never boring. No Issues or Concerns."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no concerns ● I read several reviews of these science and math lessons. I also watched some of the video previews. The reviews were pretty good, and they videos are made to be interesting for students. However, there were some of the "science ideas" in some of the previews that sounded DEI to me. I think many of the lessons would be good, but the teachers should preview them and use discretion if it is adopted as curriculum. ● No issues
<p>MS</p>	<p>Weather Forecasting Website - Ventusky</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● great resource/no issues ● Visited the website. Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This looks like a straightforward set of lessons about weather. It should be fine for Middle School.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No issues
MS	N.O.A.A. .gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great resource. Yes ● no issues ● Good website with interesting environmental facts. Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This looks like a good site for students to get information about local and national weather. ● No issues
MS	Rock Formations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● The site has lots of solid scientific information on rock formation. It is not as "dressed up for show" as some of the educational sites, but it does have a great list of facts. It should be good for students to find things out about rocks. ● No issues
MS	Earth's Layers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no concerns ● The lesson looks like solid science and useful information. Recommended. ● If we want our kids to grow up and be unhappy atheists then this is just the material they need. Our creator God is never once mentioned in the intro video, the information may be “currently “ accurate but leaving the creator totally out of the equation is a lie. Our students do not need this type of one sided science.
MS	Rock Cycle Interactive - follow each step!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues ● Like that this is interactive and I learned something about the different types of rocks. Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns. ● no concerns ● Another great lesson on the science of rocks. Recommended. ● No issues
MS	National Geographic- Rock Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anything National Geo should be approved! ● Approve ● no issues ● More information on the different types of rocks. Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no concerns ● This lesson is good. Some of the National Geographic lessons are DEI, so I would review each lesson to decide its use. ● No issues
MS	National Park Service - Rocks and Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● Another really well done lesson on rocks and minerals. Recommended. ● No issues
MS	Igneous Rocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● A nicely well-done lesson, very interesting for Middle School age students. Recommended. ● No issues
MS	Sedimentary Rocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no concerns ● This lesson is also very nicely done, good, solid science and interesting presentation. Recommended. ● No issues
MS	Metamorphic Rocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● no issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● A solid lesson on the science of metamorphic rocks. Recommended. ● No issues
MS	Game and Fossil Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● No issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This lesson is OK, but has some information that may not be accurate, and doesn't seem as good as the others. ● Darwinism, evolution, billions of years, I know this is public school but this is one sided indoctrination, a hard no!

<p>MS</p>	<p>Idaho rocks!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● This is really cool. No issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● Another set of good, scientific information, though not as fancy looking as some of the educational sites. It has well-researched facts, so is recommended. ● No issues
<p>MS</p>	<p>Phase Change Labxchange</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● no issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● It looks like a good lab program for simulating phase change to the Middle School student. It wouldn't do the whole program for me, but I can see where it is going. Recommended. ● Not enough information to evaluate.
<p>MS</p>	<p>Melting, Boiling Point Simulation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● No issues ● Information that will work with the new science

		<p>curriculum. No Issues or Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no concerns ● This is another well-done simulation and description of the science process of the melting point and boiling point of water. Recommended. ● No issues
MS	States of Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● No issues ● Information that will work with the new science curriculum. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● I love the way these companies have made science labs students can do online. This is also a good lesson. Recommended. ● No issues
MS	Phases of Matter Escape Room -TPT Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Creative. Yes ● No issues ● No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This appears to be another good online science lab. I am not able to watch this one, but it seems good. ● No issues
MS	Any/All Units- resources provided by Sara Tolman Science Instructional Coach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve

	Idaho Science Phenomena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Sara worked with our science teachers in the buildings last year and was amazing. She no longer works with the dept so this is a good way to help our science teachers navigate the science ISAT since we no longer have her to help guide us. Her materials are directly aligned with the state science standards and blueprints for ISAT. It is supported by the Idaho Dept of Education; it behooves us to use this resource. ● No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This set of lessons sounds OK. I can only review the outlines of the lessons, not the actual lessons. ● Interesting, no issues
<p>MS</p>	<p>Time for Kids https://www.timeforkids.com/your-hot-job/families-educators/about/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● no issues ● Looks like something to use in the Careers class. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This set of lessons on career choices sounds reasonable from the titles. I don't want to download the lessons onto my computer (lack of space) to look at them, though, so I can't recommend or not recommend. ● No issues

<p>MS</p>	<p>Texas Workforce Commission https://lmci.state.tx.us/shared/PDFs/Careers_Are_Everywhere.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● no issues ● Looks like something to use in the Careers class. No Issues or Concerns ● No concerns ● I really like this lesson plan for teaching career choice. It looks interesting and comprehensive. Recommended. ● No issues
<p>MS/HS</p>	<p>Varsity Tutors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● Using tutors for students who need help is a great idea! ● With parents permission only.
<p>All Schools</p>	<p>Reading Intervention BUNDLE: Leveled for Differentiation Reading Strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● no issues ● No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This looks like a straightforward and useful set for students who need extra help on reading. Recommended. ● No issues

<p>Special Education</p>	<p>INDEPENDENT LIVING Life Skills for Older Students - Worksheets & Google Digital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes, more like this. ● No issues ● No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● These books in the bundle look excellent. I do recommend the set. ● Good info for students with limited parental support or involvement.
<p>Elementary/Special Education</p>	<p>Number Talks Bundle Grade 2: Dot Talks and Math Conversations, Thinking Tasks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● No issues ● No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● This set looks like a helpful way for students to get more understanding of mathematics. Recommend. ● No issues
<p>HS</p>	<p>https://www.amazonfutureengineer.com/careertours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● This is interesting! No issues ● Looks like something to use in a Careers class. No Issues or Concerns ● no concerns ● Although I generally would not consider Amazon a place for education, this looks like it could be good. However, it's all about jobs at Amazon, which may

		<p>not be truly objective, but more centered on trying to get students to be interested in working for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No issues
HS	https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Custom-Bundle-for-Sarah-12042753	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● Not exactly sure what is being purchased here but everything I looked at, looked great. ● No Issues or Concerns ● not sure the link went to the right place ● I like these books for considering the culinary arts for a career. They should be helpful to students who are interested in that field. Recommended. ● No issues
Supplemental Library Books for Classroom Use		
Schools	Request	Concerns
Elementary	Love That Dog by Sharon Creech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Yes ● Have read/used/taught with/no issues ● This was already approved at the Aug 14, 2024 board meeting. ● no concerns ● This is a good book for teaching students interest in poetry. ● No issues

Highschool	William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approve● Have read/used/taught with/no issues● It's Shakespeare. No Issues or Concerns● no concerns● Given the state of the "trans" movement, this play, though a classic, doesn't seem like the best thing for students if the district is looking for non-DEI material. It seems to make light of the subject, even though it was written many years before this current fad. Not recommended.● If one must...no issues
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