

DATE: June 18, 2018

TO: Ann Owen, Principal, Emerson
Anthony Abbate, Principal, Frost
Eric Stromberg, Principal, Holmes

FROM: Christine Fankell
K-12 ELA and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

SUBJECT: Textbook Recommendations for 7th/8th Grade Social Studies

This memo recommends the adoption of textbooks to support 7th and 8th grade social studies. The details below provide more information about the textbook adoption process as well as information to support the recommendation.

Committee Members**7th Grade**

Jay Jackson, Emerson
Brian Rodgers, Emerson
Ken Braun, Frost
Karen Friske, Frost
Tia Sarandria, Holmes
Nancy Azure, Holmes

8th Grade

Joe Bublitz, Emerson
Will Kramer, Emerson
Dave Russo, Frost
John Strzempka, Holmes

Recommended Textbooks:

7th Grade: World History: Great Civilizations, National Geographic Learning, Copyright 2016

8th Grade: US History: American Stories, National Geographic Learning, Copyright 2018

Terry Harvey, K-8 Sales Consultant**National Geographic Learning**

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Supplemental Materials

- 6-year license for myNGconnect (National Geographic World History: Great Civilizations)
- 6-year digital license for MindTap (US History American Stories: Beginnings to 1877)

Cost proposal is attached.

Distribution of Textbooks

The purchase will include a set of 45 textbooks for each teacher. For the most part, these textbooks will remain in the classroom. Copies are available for check out on an as-needed basis.

Online licenses will be purchased for social studies teachers and students as follows:

Emerson

7th grade teachers - 3 teachers and 2 support staff
7th grade students - 390
8th grade teachers - 3 teachers and 2 support staff
8th grade students - 390

Frost:

7th grade teachers - 3 teachers and 2 support staff
7th grade students - 315
8th grade teachers - 4 teachers and 2 support staff
8th grade students - 345

Holmes:

7th grade teachers - 3 teachers and 2 support staff
7th grade students - 395
8th grade teachers - 3 teachers and 2 support staff
8th grade students - 375

Summary of Course

The Inquiry Arc described in the C3 Framework is center stage in social studies classroom. The C3 (College, Career, and Civic Life) framework has been developed by the National Council for the Social Studies in conjunction with major disciplinary organizations and 28 states including Michigan. The purpose of the C3 framework is to provide states guidance in the development of state standards. The C3 framework is organized around an “Arc of Inquiry” consisting of four dimensions. The four dimensions are:

- Dimension 1: Developing questions and planning inquiries
- Dimension 2: Applying disciplinary concepts and tools
- Dimension 3: Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence
- Dimension 4: Communicating conclusions and taking informed action.

Michigan’s Process Standards correspond well with the C3 Arc of Inquiry and include a strong emphasis on continuing to develop reading, information processing, and communication skills consistent with English Language Arts Standards.

The content of the 7th grade course is focused on history of the ancient world as detailed below:

- The World in Temporal Terms
- Era 1 The Beginnings of Human Society
- Era 2 Early Civilizations and the Emergence of Pastoral Peoples
- Era 3 Classical Traditions, World Religions, and Major Empires
- Era 4 Interactions Across Time and

The content of the 8th grade course is focused on US history as detailed below:

- Era 3, Revolution and the New Nation, 1754-1800
- Era 4, Expansion and Reform, 1792-1861
- Era 5, Civil War and Reconstruction, 1850-1877

Overview

At 7th grade, the course content changed from World Geography to World History. In the 2016-17 school-year, the 7th grade teachers began to use the MC3 (Michigan Citizen Collaborative Curriculum) to support alignment to the World History content. 7th grade teachers recommended that a textbook be purchased as a resource to support the MC3 Curriculum.

The current textbook used for US History at 8th grade was adopted in 1998. The textbook is in poor condition and replacement is needed.

The 7th grade committee recommends the adoption of the National Geographic Learning's *World History: Great Civilizations* textbook. The 8th grade committee recommends the adoption of National Geographic Learning's *US History: American Stories, Beginnings to 1877*. On both committees, teachers believe that National Geographic Learning will further support the Inquiry Arc suggested in the C3 Framework and incorporated in the proposed K-12 Michigan Standards for Social Studies. The resources provided by National Geographic Learning have superior visuals and videos as well support for struggling students through a drop-level text. They also provide access to a digital platform that creates greater access to the textbook and integration with Google Classroom.

Evaluation Process

A committee of 7th grade social studies teachers and a committee of 8th grade social studies teachers with representation from all middle schools met monthly throughout the 2017-18 school-year. The 7th and 8th grade social studies committees followed the textbook adoption procedures outlined in Livonia Public Schools Board Policy.

Shared Vision

The 7th grade world history textbook will:

- Support inquiry by posing overarching questions for each unit
- Promote engagement by having the following features:
 - Maps and charts
 - Colorful pictures (artifacts, people, events)
 - Organization to support learning (terms to know, boldface, graphic organizers)
 - Links to literacy
 - Online resources
 - Personal connections to content
- Offer text at appropriate/varying lexile levels to support our students' varied abilities
- Include resources that are rich in content, provide deeper understanding, and provide comprehensive coverage of a topic
- Provide a variety of resources that support teaching and promote critical thinking
- Provide a variety of formative, summative, and modified assessments

The 8th grade world history textbook will:

- Integrate literacy on all four domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through the analysis of a variety of sources and the development of the skills needed to form a claim and defend it with evidence.
- Support the C3 framework with a focus on developing an in-class environment that taps prior knowledge creates an engaging & comfortable classroom that emphasizes discussion and students learning off of one another.
- Develop 21st Century Skills will require that students will be able to collaborate, develop inquiry, and utilize discussion to be engaged citizens.

Evaluation Criteria

We evaluated the textbooks using a rubric that was divided into 5 main categories: Organization/Format, Content, Assessment, and Teacher's Edition/Supplementary Materials. Our rubric was developed by members of the committee. Samples of textbook adoption rubrics were provided to us by David Hales, Wayne RESA Social Studies Consultant. These samples gave us a starting point. Our vision and criteria from the 5D Teacher Evaluation Rubric were used to modify the rubric to align with our needs.

Textbooks Evaluated

7th Grade

History Alive! The Ancient World, TCI

World Civilizations, Houghton Mifflin

A Discovery of the Past: A History of the World, Early Ages, McGraw Hill

World History: Early Ages, Pearson

World History: Great Civilizations, National Geographic Learning

8th Grade

The United States through Industrialism, TCI

US History: Beginnings to 1877, Houghton Mifflin

A History of the United States: Early Ages, McGraw Hill

American History Beginnings to 1877, Pearson

US History: American Stories, Beginnings to 1877, National Geographic Learning

Evaluation Rubric Outcome

The results of the rubric rating showed National Geographic and Pearson to be front runners. The overall scores of the two products were quite close. The decision to ultimately recommend National Geographic was based on teacher and student experience with the product during the pilot.

Student Rating

7th Grade

The student preference survey showed that 90.4% of 7th grade students preferred to learn using National Geographic products over Pearson products.

8th Grade

The student preference survey showed that 65.3% of 8th grade students preferred to learn using National Geographic products over Pearson products.

Student Comment Samples

7th Grade

- “The audio in the digital version helped me comprehend what I was learning, and you also could change some words to understand the material better.”
- “This book was very engaging and fit my learning my experience. The pages were brief but fit with all the knowledge I needed. The charts pictures and graph were all interesting and fit with the text.”
- “I recommend this product because the pages were very colorful and the graphs were very informative. The questions were not to easy and not to hard. I hope this textbook will be used for 7th grade social studies.”

8th Grade

- “I liked the setup of the book, it was like 2 pages a section which is easy to understand the ends of the section. I really enjoyed the questions for the DBQ. And overall I think it's a really good textbook.”
- “Because this type of material is more accurate since it is in the future and there are many different ways of learning and absorbing the material for different types of children so they can learn the best way they are able to.”
- “It was a very good resource & it was easy to navigate. The online book was great & was very easy to use. The text book was very well organized & it overall was great.”

Professional Development Needs

A National Geographic Consultant will provide a half-day of professional development on Aug. 28 and Nov. 6 of the 2018-19 school-year.

For additional information, contact Christine Fankell at x42192.

C

Theresa O'Brien
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