

**DATE:** May 3, 2023

**TO:** Kristen Quesada, Churchill High School  
Andrew Pesci, Franklin High School  
Pete Mazzoni, Stevenson High School

**FROM:** Lindsay Rousseau, 7-12 ELA & Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Textbook Recommendation for the High School Introduction to Psychology Course

This memo recommends the adoption of *Psychology In Your Life, 4th High School Edition* digital and physical textbook for the high school Introduction to Psychology course . The details below provide more information about the adoption process and information to support the recommendation.

### **Committee Members**

Franklin: Michelle Hruska

Stevenson: Robyn Mackson

In the original committee (before covid shut down) Churchill had Ron Zapalski and Kelly Granowicz

### **Recommended Materials for Adoption**

*Psychology In Your Life, 4th High School Edition* print and digital materials from Norton Publishing.

Cost proposal is attached.

### **Summary of Course(s)**

The Introduction to Psychology course is open to any high school student in grades 11-12.

### **Overview**

The current textbook used in the Introduction to Psychology course is Psychology - Principles in Practice, Copyright 1998. It is not up to date on disorders and the DSM-5 and new research about the brain and positive psychology, which is necessary information in the course to ensure it aligns with the National Psychology Standards.

### **Evaluation Process**

The committee of high school Psychology teachers began in 2019 with a search of textbooks and materials written for use at the high school level. This search presented nine different options, and, after evaluating each resource using the committee created rubric, the committee decided to pilot a unit from three of the nine options: *Thinking About Psychology* from BFW, *Psychology in Action* from Wiley, and *Psychology In Your Life* from Norton.

### **Shared Vision**

In LPS we have a vision for psychology in which students are exposed to multiple perspectives about human behavior and why we do the things that we do. It is a psychological science, which relies on empirical evidence and adapts as new data is discovered. Through a focus of research, behaviorism, cognition, and the brain, students will understand how these processes affect human behavior.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

We evaluated the textbooks using a rubric with the following criteria:

- Alignment to the C3 Framework, Inquiry Arc, and the National Psychology Standards
- Balance of skill development, conceptual understanding, and applicable tasks
- Reflect the needs and diversity of LPS students
- Offer reteaching and extensions opportunities
- Discourse, engagement, critical thinking
- Assessment (formative and summative)
- Digital platform/ Student paper journal

## **Textbooks Considered**

*Psychology, Cengage (2022)*

*Discovering Psychology, Cengage (2019)*

*Essentials of Psychology: Concepts and Applications, Cengage (2018)*

*Psychology, HMH (2018)*

*Psychology in Everyday Life, BFW (2017)*

*Thinking About Psychology, BFW (2019)*

*Psychology in Your Life, Norton (2019)*

*Psychology, Pearson (2016)*

*Understanding Psychology, McGraw-Hill (2014)*

## **Independent Evaluation**

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, the Psychology curriculum committee met to begin the textbook adoption process, utilizing the resources listed above. When the pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, this conversation stopped and was then started up again during the 2021-2022 school year. After looking at all the resources above, the committee agreed to pilot three of the textbooks, which took place during the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year. The three chosen were *Thinking About Psychology* from BFW, *Psychology in Action* from Wiley, and *Psychology In Your Life* from Norton. In the spring of 2022, when the committee determined the frontrunner was *Psychology In Your Life* from Norton Publishing, the district learned that there would be an updated version of this textbook available in January 2023. Having this information, the committee decided to wait until receiving the updated version of the text to make the final recommendation for adoption. When the updated version of the textbook was released in early 2023, the committee took a look at the updated version and, seeing that the updates were minimal and consisted mainly of single word and/or phrase changes as well as some diagram/illustration changes, the committee decided that *Psychology In Your Life* is still the best option for LPS students.

## **Evaluation Rubric Outcome**

The results of the rubric that was created by the committee, prior to piloting, showed *Psychology In Your Life* to be the frontrunner. This resource was chosen unanimously because of its ability to engage students in challenging tasks, promote classroom discussion, and helped students understand real-world applications of the material.

## **Student Response**

Students favored *Psychology In Your Life* over the other textbooks that were piloted. Over 75% of the students who participated in the pilot said they enjoyed how much classroom discussion this textbook and curriculum encouraged, as well as the amount and rigor level of the collaborative work they provided. Students also frequently commented that they enjoyed how the textbook connected to real-life situations, which made the material and concepts easier to understand.

**Professional Development Needs**

Psychology teachers would need a fall PD for platform navigation and resources offered by Norton Publishing and possibly a PD second semester for teachers who teach the class only in that semester.

For additional information on the adoption recommendation, contact the ELA/Social Studies Coordinator, Linday Rousseau at x42594.

CC  
Theresa O'Brien  
Kevin Etue  
HS Social Studies Department Chairs