

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Stephen Buchs, Director of Curriculum 6-12

TO: District 301 Board of Education, Dr. Griff Powell and Dr. Kyle Schumacher, Interim
-Superintendents

DATE: July 15, 2025

RE: Textbook Adoption for HS AP German - \$1,179.69

MATERIALS:

- Wayside Publishing Neue Blickwinkel- Student Editions
 - \$135.90 per units hardcopy and digital, Qty - 7 = total \$951.30
- HMH Science Dimensions Physics 1 yr - Teacher Editions
 - \$129.72 per unit, Qty - 1 = total \$129.72

Rationale:

This title would be specifically for the AP German culture and language. The AP students are in their fifth year of language learning. Many of the students in the AP course have the AP German Culture and Language Exam as their end goal. The College Board requires that the AP curriculum revolves around the 6 AP Themes (Families and Communities; Science and Technology; Contemporary Life; Personal and Public Identity; Beauty and Aesthetics; Global Challenges).

This textbook (Neue Blickwinkel) offers 10 chapters that specifically target the AP themes. This text book could be extremely helpful to students, it provides multiple primary sources to analyze, such as particular articles and videos pertaining to German culture, from the past and today. There are also journal entries from German students and civilians, which could help to draw the students into the German culture and language. Along with this, there is a plethora of AP style multiple choice questions going with the complex readings, writing prompts, and cultural comparisons, which could serve to prepare the students for the AP exam. It would also be very helpful to the instructor. The set up of the chapters and the task would allow the students to work more independently.

Other rationale provided by the instructor (Anette Bliss):

- Multiple contexts to choose from
- A plethora of informational texts but also other text genres like the biographical text

“Mein süßer erster Schultag”

- This topic is at the heart of the AP theme “Alltag”
- Good explanation of the German education system and on cultural practices going with the first day of school in Germany
- Alphabetical vocab guide at the end of the book, including English translations
- Each chapter comes with an authentic video, discussing one aspect of the unit in question

Textbook Information:

- *Neue Blickwinkel: Wege zur Kommunikation und Kultur*, By Wayside Publishing, ISBN 978-1-94240-016-5 Copyright: 2017

Recommendation:

The textbook *Neue Blickwinkel*, by Wayside Publishing, is recommended for purchase beginning for the 2025-2026 school year. This book will be a replacement resource as the current *Netzerk neu B1* book is a Ernst Klett Sprachen product. The purchase will provide one classroom hard copy set and e-versions accessible by the students.