

Lakeland Joint School District #272

5506 N. Washington St.
Rathdrum, ID 83858
208-687-0431



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

Board Agenda Item **Request**

AGENDA ITEM: February Supplemental Curriculum

PURPOSE: Approve/Deny Request for Student Use

MEETING DATE: Feb 5, 2025

PREPARED BY: Lynn Paslay

INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY:

[Google Form](#)

[Google Form Spreadsheet](#)

[Previous Template](#)

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

Supplemental Resources for Board Consideration 2.5.25

Supplemental Curriculum		
Schools	Requests	Concerns
Elementary	USDepartment ofAgricultureAgLab: https://aglab.ars.usda.gov/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great resource ● Looks really cool and informative. No issues ● This looks like a great resource, i didn't see anything concerning. ● no concerns ● Looks like a great website to use. No issues or concerns. ● This set of lessons appears to be fine for elementary students. ● Do not recommend. I've spoken with medical professionals who are very familiar with the USDA and this website is at risk of containing false, anxiety-inducing climate change propaganda from the government. Case and point: https://aglab.ars.usda.gov/stories?search=climate+change
Elementary	Agriculture in the Classroom Student Center: https://agclassroom.org/student/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great resource ● No issues ● This looks like a great resource, i didn't see anything concerning.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no concerns ● Looks like a fun website to learn about farming. Played one of the games and thought it was quite appropriate for elementary kids. No issues or concerns. ● This set of lessons also appears to be fine for elementary students. ● Do not recommend. This website also has links to climate change propaganda:https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/62848717/climate-change-phenomena
Elementary	<p>Explore agriculture careers, virtual tours, and production information for all 50 states.</p> <p>American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture Lesson Plans:</p> <p>https://www.agfoundation.org/resources/sustainable-agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great resource ● No issues ● This looks like a great resource, i didn't see anything concerning. ● no concerns ● Looked over the website. No issues or concerns ● These lessons are all labeled for grades 9 to 12. This doesn't sound right for elementary students. ● Do not recommend. Full of climate change propaganda. This pdf from the website references climate change 7 times: https://www.agfoundation.org/files/3_AFBFAFullLesson_Environmental_Sustainability.pdf
Elementary	LearningResources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve

	<p>https://www.agfoundation.org/resources/search This is a site of books on agriculture science at different grade levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great resource ● no issues ● This looks like a great resource, i didn't see anything concerning. ● no concerns ● Looked over the website. No issues or concerns. ● These lessons that are labeled for elementary appear to be fine for elementary students. ● Do not recommend. This is the same website as previously listed where there is noted climate change propaganda. Also, this site lists 72+ books- who's to say what is inside them? This is too broad ranging to be approved as supplemental curriculum.
<p>Elementary</p>	<p>Nourish the Future Curriculum Resources: Resource to learn about soil types and nutrients for nourishment https://nourishthefuture.org/curriculum/soil-sustainability/ms *Don't use Soil Your Undies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great resource ● Perfectly lines up with the science ISAT tests; great resource! ● Looks good. ● no concerns ● Everything else looks fine to use. I did not look over the "Soil your undies" as that one is not being used. No issues or concerns. ● These lessons are labeled for middle school and high school. This doesn't sound right for elementary students. ● No concerns, but this is a website and thus is not

		static and is subject to change. Why can't we just use the science books?
Elementary	<p>Cool.org, Technology and Agriculture Lesson Plans: This sight show how technology is used in agriculture https://cool.org/lessons/technology-and-agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great resource ● No issues ● Looks good. ● no concerns ● Looks ok. No issues or concerns. ● These lessons that are labeled for elementary appear to be fine for elementary students. ● Do not recommend. You can't look at the lesson plan, student worksheet, visual explainer, or teacher content info without having a "cool.org" account. This is a website at risk for climate change propaganda and should be thoroughly evaluated.
Elementary	<p>Massachusetts's Agriculture in the Classroom Technology Videos: This shows students how robots are used in farming https://www.aginclassroom.org/matrix/resource/1239/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great resource ● no issues ● Looks good. ● no concerns ● Pretty cool website with interesting lesson plans and videos of the future of farming. I really liked the video on Hand Free Hectare-harvest of winter wheat. No issues or concerns. ● This lesson (on robots in farming for grades 3 to 5) appears to be fine for elementary students.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not recommend. This lesson includes TED talks and other resources stating, “A Global Food Crisis May be Less Than a Decade Away.” This is disputed by agriculturalists worldwide. At the same time this source lauds genetically modified organisms. This website clearly has a slant. Also, many adolescents these days state that “environmental activism” has led them to have chronic anxiety. I do not recommend
<p>MS/HS</p>	<p>https://newsela.com/about/products/ela/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● I really love newsela. It has great articles that are content appropriate. ● Great resource ● Great resource; have used; no issues ● Yes! I have used this in the past and it has been a great resource. ● Newsela is a GREAT resource for teachers and students, as it allows for different reading levels. ● no concerns ● No issues or concerns. ● The titles of several of these lessons sound like they are DEI, but I am not able to go into the actual lessons to read them. I don't recommend these. ● Do not recommend. This appears to be a literary website with reading and comprehension tools. The content here would change regularly and is likely to contain material that parents and community members would not approve of. One in-depth review states: Leslie Wilson, a

		<p>mother of a seventh-grader said by email that she is concerned that “the articles seem—to me at least—to consistently reinforce a very leftist political view.” She said that for example, “an article about returning the Elgin marbles to Greece quoted a variety of supporters of that view, but did not offer any viewpoint from the British Museum or other informed/interested party for keeping the marbles where they are.” The mother also said she believed that the material was of a poor quality and that her daughter had found two factual errors in them. Do Newsela articles consistently reinforce a leftist point of view? A scan of its daily offerings would suggest this, but the articles were originally published by professional media, so the political slant reflects the original source’s as well as Newsela’s own bias: Newspapers such as The Washington Post, The Guardian, and AP, from which Newsela articles come, already lean left. Newsela cherry-picks the news in such a way as to emphasize ideas sympathetic to progressivism. But when Newsela chooses articles with an ideological flavor, that flavor is distinctly progressive. It abounds with articles that sound the alarm on global warming, pollution, or animal extinction (“The role of climate change in the Louisiana floods”); praise President Obama (“President Obama is protecting more water off the coast of Hawaii”); or focus on racial and ethnic grievance (“Indian tribe sues over river damage”).</p>
<p>HS</p>	<p>positivephysics.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● great resource ● Physics is a tough course and this looks like it would be a wonderful addition to the classroom. <p>No issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This looks like a great resource. ● "Don't recommend."

		<p>Stated ""positives"" from the website: replace textbooks; teacher doesn't need to grade work; students have as many chances necessary to do work, BUT how does teacher know they've grasped the concept? I can see this being a guessing game-keep going til the box turns green. Why do we need teachers in classrooms if this is how they'll teach? Just give them a tablet and set them down. Stop putting students on devices!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● no concerns ● No issues or concerns. ● This set of lessons appears to be fine for high school students. ● Don't recommend. I do not want to replace text books and give students endless chances to do the work. Students would benefit from less "tech" time.
--	--	--

Supplemental Library Books for Classroom Use

Schools	Request	Concerns
MS	Among the Imposters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Looks like an age appropriate novel ● Have read; great book; no issues ● No concerns except the previous problems with dystopian novels makes me wonder if people will find problems with this one- I haven't read it to know.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The students LOVE this series. ● Don't recommend. This is a dystopian novel and while I know students like to read these, after reading the book, I found it discouraging and dark in the way the way the main character was treated-bullying, cruelty, disinterest. ● no concerns ● This is a sequel to Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix which has been approved and our 8th grade ELA classes use it during first semester. The students love the first book and have continually asked the teachers if they may read the second book in the series as part of their novel set curriculum during the second semester. It is a highly sought after and popular series among middle schoolers. It is also a book that our reluctant readers enjoy and anything to get them reading and improve their skills is a must. I have read the entire series and highly recommend the book. No issues or concerns. ● This book series is good science fiction literature to get students into reading. ● Don't recommend. Lots of bullying and cruelty.
<p style="text-align: center;">HS</p>	<p>Strength Finder- used for Leadership class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Good read. Appropriate. We read as a staff. ● Great resource ● I have used this many times and always find it

		<p>impactful. Good resource that ALL leaders and those that pretend to be, should read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No concerns. We used this in my previous school. ● No concerns ● not sure if it would work for a class- the reviews said the code only works once so each student would need a copy to take the test. Other than that, no concerns ● No issues or concerns. ● While this book sounds like it is written for adults (from reading the sample), the sample pages are from an earlier edition, according to the preface, and the new edition is not available to read. Therefore, an accurate review is not possible. I don't recommend this book, as there is no way to tell what information has been added. ● No concerns
<p>HS</p>	<p><u>The Grapes of Wrath</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Classic. Everyone should read and discuss. ● Great, classic novel ● Have read, studied and taught. This is a classic for a reason; it is impactful. No issues. ● No concerns. ● No concerns. Shows the value of family in facing incredible, discouraging times. ● I have read a long time ago and don't remember anything concerning about it. No concerns for me.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A classic that is read in most high schools across the country. No issues or concerns. ● As a classic, it is probably important to cover. Not my choice to encourage students to read, but OK. ● No concerns
HS	Civil Disobedience and Other Essays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Excellent essays! ● Have read, studied, and taught this is another classic with no issues. ● I've read it and have no concerns. ● No concerns ● no concerns ● Writings by Henry David Thoreau, used throughout high schools across the country. No issues or concerns. ● This book is a good history of problems in our countries past and what Thoreau (as a philosopher) thought should be done. It encourages students to think for themselves. It may be a difficult read for some high school students, but recommended for teaching. ● No concerns
HS	Little Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● What a perfect classic to read and discuss ● Great, classic novel ● Seriously? No issues; have read

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great book. No concerns! ● No concerns. Celebrates the importance of family through good times and bad. We need more books like this in our library. ● Have read no concerns ● A classic and wonderful book that is read in many schools across the country. No issues or concerns. ● This is one of the great classics. This particular edition apparently is cheaply made and has some complaints about that. Some people had issues with the book's print quality, and some mentioned difficulties in reading through a lot of older-style language. However, it is a good book for history and for a great story over all. ● No concerns
<p>HS</p>	<p><u>The Island of Doctor Moreau</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great, classic novel ● I have read and have no issues. ● I've not read this novel. ● No concerns ● no concerns ● Classic by H.G. Wells. No issue or concerns ● "This seems to be another book that is cheaply made and has issues with readability. Here is what one reader said: ""Filiquarian Publishing, LLC published this book under the idea that it is in ""public domain status.""

		<p>Meaning, it is not any better than you would find online. The book is readable, but emphasis (bold or italics) are done by an underscore before and after the word(s). Example: '_His_ is the lightning flash, we sang. _His_ is the deep, salt sea.' (page 82) To me, it is annoying to read it this way. You occasionally find extra quotation marks and a double dash (--) in the place of an ellipsis (...). The binding is right up there with self-published titles...</p> <p>Anyway, if you are looking for an inexpensive copy of this book and don't care about the bindery or text issues, then this book is for you."</p> <p>Perhaps an online version from public domain would be better? This book is also not one of the best of H.G. Wells, though it is considered a classic.</p> <p>No concerns</p>
<p>HS</p>	<p>All Quiet on the Western Front</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great, classic novel ● This has been on our approved list for at least 20 years and no one has had issues with it. Have read; it is fine. ● I've not read this novel. ● No concerns ● have read no concerns ● Classic literature. No issues or concerns. ● This book is a clear anti-war story and considered a

		<p>classic. Many students would have trouble plowing through this because of the wordiness and the old-fashioned language, and some would be sickened by the awful graphic details. But if students can have an alternate book to read if they just can't stand it, it could be used. I just would not require all students to read it if it were my classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No concerns
HS	True Grit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great, classic novel ● Have read; no issues. ● I've not read this novel, but don't have any concerns from the reviews I read. ● no concerns ● I have read this book and loved it! Absolutely appropriate for the high school. No issues or concerns. ● This story is a classic Western and a fun read. The writing does have some older style wording which some students may not enjoy, but it's still good overall. Recommended.
HS	Things Fall Apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great, classic novel ● Have read; no issues. ● I haven't read this novel. ● have read no concerns

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sounds like a very interesting read, though I have not read it, but I trust the teachers to know what is appropriate to use in their classrooms. No issues or concerns.● "Although many readers thought this was a great read, I can't agree. This is what one reader said, and I agree:""The main character of this book, Okonkwo, beats his wives, beats his children, shoots at one of his wives, sits on a judicial councils that forces a woman who has been beaten by her husband every day for nine years and run away to return to him, and constantly uses 'woman' as an insult. He's not kind or nice to anyone, just full of pride and ego. In most books he would be the villain, but in this messed up society, where a little boy slave he takes calls him ""father"" because his own father was so much worse, he is considered a hero. Even though he kills the little boy for absolutely no reason except he doesn't want to be thought a coward. I can have very little compassion for a character such as this, even when colonists come, but I was already well-versed in the evils of colonialism. In this book the Ibo aren't really treated any worse than poor people were treated at the time in England." I just cannot see how ""understanding the culture"" can improve with this kind of lead character or how the story could |
|--|--|--|

		positively impact high school readers, even if it's "really like the people" in that country. I don't recommend this book."
HS	The Accidental Tourist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great, classic novel ● No issues. ● I read this a long time ago. I don't remember there being anything concerning. ● no concerns ● I have not read this, but it sounds like an interesting read. I trust the teachers to know what books they need and that they are appropriate. No issues or concerns. ● This sounds like a reasonable story for high school. I would make it one that students can choose to read or choose a different one because the story is slow in some readers' opinions.
HS	The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Great, classic novel ● Have read; studied and used this book with students and have no issues. Impactful and insightful and close to home. ● I haven't read this. ● have read no concerns ● I have not read this, but it sounds like an interesting read, so I just checked it out. I trust the

		<p>teachers to know what books they need and that they are appropriate. No issues or concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This book sounds like a good historical fiction book to bring students some understanding of what went on in Japanese and Chinese cultures in the 1940s in the US during WWII. Recommended.
HS	Earth Abides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve • Great, classic novel • No issues • I haven't read this. • Some reviews made statements about racism and the treatment of women in the book- I would want to read it before making a recommendation • I have not read this, but it sounds like an interesting read. I trust the teachers to know what books they need and that they are appropriate. No issues or concerns. • This sounds like an OK book for high school students. Many people wrote comments that it was well written, though some didn't think so. From reading many comments, it seems like the plot and characters are good, but there are problems with the story's flow. It should be good for those who like science fiction.
HS	This House of Sky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve • Great, classic novel

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No issues ● I haven't read this, but I didn't find anything concerning while researching. ● no concerns ● I have not read this, but it sounds like an interesting read. I trust the teachers to know what books they need and that they are appropriate. No issues or concerns. ● A memoir about the author's experiences in the American West, Montana to be exact. It should be fine for students who enjoy westerns.
HS	Shadowland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● Age-appropriate and high-interest ● No issues ● I didn't find anything concerning about this novel, but again, I haven't read it either. ● no concerns ● I have not read this, but I trust the teachers to know what books they need and that they are appropriate. No issues or concerns. ● This book has elements of a horror novel and some fantasy/science fiction. It sounds like an OK book for students who enjoy that kind of writing, but it's not one I would teach.
HS	Bless the Beasts and the Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve ● If this fits in to a curriculum, I think it should be

		<p>read by all high schoolers!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Great, classic novel● no issues● I haven't read this, but I am adding it to my list. I didn't find anything concerning in my research.● no concerns● I have not read this, but I trust the teachers to know what books they need and that they are appropriate. No issues or concerns.● A commonly used story in high school curriculum. It is a fairly easy read and should be interesting to high school students.
--	--	--