

DATE: May 14, 2022

TO: Kevin Etue, Churchill High School
Pete Mazzoni, Stevenson High School
Andrew Pesci, Franklin High School

FROM: Christine Fankell
7-12 ELA and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

SUBJECT: Textbook Recommendations for AP United States History

This memo recommends the adoption of *A Fabric of a Nation* as a print and digital resource for AP US History. The details below provide more information about the adoption process and information to support the recommendation and potential future steps.

Committee Members

Craig Barker, SHS
Kelly Eddy, CHS
Rick Mestdagh, FHS

Recommended Materials for Adoption

Fabric of a Nation print and digital materials (LaunchPad) from BFW Publishers

Cost proposal is attached.

Sales Representative: Joshua Sukhu
Bedford, Freeman, & Worth
Email: jsukhu@bfpwpub.com
Office: 866-843-3715 ext.1738

Summary of Course

Advanced Placement United States History is a college-level offering of a United States History class, based on the College Board's [Course and Exam Description](#), which was significantly revised in 2015, with minor changes in 2017 and 2019. The course covers the entire scope of United States history from before European contact to the present day. Students taking the course engage in content and skill-based work with the goal of being prepared to successfully complete the Advanced Placement United States History examination in early May to earn college credit.

Overview

Having adopted the 8th edition of *America's History* (BFW Publishers) in 2015 to coincide with the publisher's revisions to that text to better reflect the significant changes in the course, we have since depleted our supply of online access codes for the online component of the textbook. When inquiring as to whether more licenses could be obtained for our students for the 8th edition, it was learned that those codes are no longer available. We were presented a choice of either the 10th edition online access (itself also significantly revised from the 8th edition) or the online platform called *Fabric of a Nation*, which was designed to be an online platform built

around the premise of close alignment to the most up to date version of the College Board’s Course and Exam Description and the content and skill expectations laid out therein.

Evaluation Process

With representation from each high school, AP U.S. History teachers met during the 2021-22 school year. The committee followed the textbook adoption procedures outlined in the Board Policy of Livonia Public Schools and ended the year with a recommendation to presently adopt the print and digital component of *Fabric of a Nation*.

Shared Vision

The committee adopted the vision for “students who are college and career ready” from the Common Core State Standards. Students who are college and career ready will:

- Demonstrate independence
- Build strong content knowledge
- Respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline
- Comprehend as well as critique primary and secondary sources
- Value evidence
- Use technology and digital media strategically and capably
- Come to understand other perspectives and interpretations

Evaluation Criteria

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

- Alignment to College Board AP US History Course and Exam Description Standards
- Units that include scaffolding for AP US History writing and thinking skills.
- The complexity of texts, as well as a variety of aligned primary and secondary sources
- Questions and tasks that require textual evidence and critical thinking
- Analysis of arguments, use of textual evidence, writing in response to reading
- Formative and summative assessment
- Digital platform

Textbooks Considered

Fabric of a Nation, 1st edition (BFW Publishers)

America’s History, 10th edition (BFW Publishers)

American History: Connecting with the Past, 16th edition (McGraw Hill)

American Pageant, 17th edition (Cengage)

Making America: A History of the United States, 7th edition (Cengage)

Evaluation Rubric Outcome

The results of the rubric rating showed the BFW book, *Fabric of a Nation*, to be the frontrunner. The scaffolding of skills in this book and its format was appealing to both students and teachers. The newest edition of our current textbook, *America’s History* (also published by BFW), was a close second but lacked the scaffolding that we are looking for.

Ultimately the decision to recommend *Fabric of a Nation* was based on the ease of navigation, the close alignment of learning targets and thematic focus to the College Board’s CED, and the ability for students to have a customized learning experience with notetaking within the platform.

Student Response

Students favored *Fabric of a Nation* as the choice over *America’s History* 10e platform, even though the latter was much more similar to the digital resource that students had used all year. Comments included praise for the interactive notebook and the color-coded means of demonstrating learning comfort levels, how assigned tasks

were laid out in an easy-to-follow manner, and the speed at which the content loaded on a variety of devices, including smartphones.

Professional Development Needs

For additional information on the adoption recommendation, contact Christine Fankell at x42192.

CC

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