



Livonia Public Schools

DATE: June 13th, 2023

TO: Rob Witherspoon, Principal, Cooper
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Thomas Traub, Principal, Johnson
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FROM: Jen Cory
Elementary Curriculum Coordinator

SUBJECT: Upper Elementary Social Studies Textbook Adoption

This memo recommends the adoption of textbooks to support 5th and 6th grade social studies. The details below provide more information about the textbook adoption process as well as information to support the recommendation.

Committee Members

The committee consisted of a six-member social studies CAL team, including an instructional coach and curriculum coordinator.

Cooper Upper Elementary: Wendy Martin, Kitty Yost
Johnson Upper Elementary: John Santi
Riley Upper Elementary: Anna Burris, Dan Vlcko
Instructional Coach-Tara Daraskavich
Curriculum Coordinator-Jen Cory

Recommended Curricular Materials:

TCI: Social Studies Alive! America's Past-Fifth Grade
TCI: Geography Alive! Regions and People-Sixth Grade

Matt Moorman, Account Executive Office: 800-497-6138 ext. 126

Included Materials

- Digital Courseware 6-year license
- Teacher Resource Package
- Student Consumable Texts-Fifth Grade
- Activity Cards-Fifth Grade
- Student Hardcover Texts-Sixth Grade
- Placards-Sixth Grade

Overview

The 5-6 Vision Committee began in 2018 and continued throughout the spring to develop an updated shared vision for upper elementary programs. One of the goals of this committee was to identify a resource to support the concepts expressed in the C3 Framework for Social Studies Standards. In order to provide effective instruction, the staff needs a curricular resource that centers on an Inquiry Arc and includes rigorous content, complex and engaging texts and learning tasks, common assessments and robust instructional supports to help students achieve high levels of learning. The CALs spent the greater part of this year researching the C3 Framework and Inquiry Arc, reviewing resources, and piloting two promising curricular resources.

Shared Vision for Upper Elementary Social Studies

- Grade-appropriate texts and tasks that support inquiry
- Appropriate funding and materials
- Technology infused in learning
- Meaningful, engaging, authentic activities that develop critical thinking
- Realistic timeline that provides opportunities to meet with students, discuss topics, argue about ideas, etc.
- Aligned to standards
- Student-centered
- Opportunities for differentiation
- Formative, summative, and self-assessment provided in the materials

Recommendation

The Social Studies CALs recommend the adoption of *Social Studies Alive! America's Past* (fifth grade) and *Geography Alive! Regions and People* (sixth grade). The CALs believe that the complex texts and tasks included in the TCI resource will support the shifts called for in the C3 Framework and Inquiry Arc. The resource provides opportunities for students to engage with digital and print texts, hands-on activities, and investigations. An essential question anchors every unit and primary sources and activities are embedded throughout the unit lessons.

The resource also includes an array of instructional supports to guide responsive teaching such as videos, news articles, vocabulary games, adjustments for English Learners and Learners with Special Education Needs. In addition, the resource contains instructional guides with teaching language and prompts, integrated literacy activities as well as support for struggling students. The digital platform creates greater access to the textbook and integration with Google Classroom.

Evaluation Process

The team met ten times between October 2022 and June of 2023. The first half of the adoption process involved professional learning in which members met with David Hales, social studies consultant from RESA, to learn about the C3 Framework and Inquiry Arc. The team members also reviewed *Essential Instructional Practices for Disciplinary Literacy in the Secondary Classroom: Grades 6 to 12*. In addition, the team attended virtual sessions presented by individual vendors to orient us to their products. Each person reviewed hard copies of the resources and used a rubric to analyze its contents.

The second half of the process involved reviewing five resources and piloting the top two resources selected by the team.

- TCI: *Social Studies Alive! America's Past* (fifth grade) and *Geography Alive! Regions and People* (sixth grade)
- McGraw Hill: *IMPACT Social Studies and Exploring Geography and Global Issues* (sixth grade)

Each pilot began with professional development provided by a consultant from the organization. The teachers taught a 6-week block of instruction. The 6-week block also included assessment and differentiated instruction. While teachers taught the lessons, they completed a weekly feedback form in which they recorded the strengths and challenges of the program. This evidence, along with the rubric and student surveys, was used to engage in discussions that ultimately led to a unanimous decision.

Student Rating

At the conclusion of the elementary pilot for each set of materials, students were given a survey and were asked questions relating to their perception of their growth in social studies as well as their opinions on the ease of use and overall desirability of the program. *TCI* was the strongest program in the student survey results. One student commented, "My favorite thing about this program was the hands-on activities and all the conversations we had." Another student commented, "My favorite thing about this program was the interesting lessons." When students were asked if they would recommend this program to future students, 81% said yes.

Professional Learning

The professional learning from TCI is offered through an application (on-demand training) for teachers that live right inside their TCI application. Teachers can complete their courses and earn certification anytime they choose. Administrators will also be able to see who has completed the courses too. The courses are always available for review.

Below are the introductory courses:

TCI 101: Basic Navigation of the TCI digital resources and Teaching with TCI.

TCI 102: Assigning, assessing, and grading online

TCI 201 Using TCI with Google Classroom

Future Considerations

- Time to roll out the curriculum map
- Specific plan for incorporating literacy coaching into the successful implementation
- Time for collaboration and planning for each social studies teacher
- Time for periodic data analysis