

Curriculum/Instruction Subcommittee

Monday, May 22, 2023 7:00 PM

Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (5/22/23 at 7:00 p.m.) Web:
<https://zoom.us/j/91931913594> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 919 3191
3594, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

II.A. April 24, 2023 – Regular

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

III.A. 2023-24 Curriculum & Instruction Priorities (A
Look Ahead)

III.B. Curriculum & Instruction Restructuring as a Result
of Required Budget Reductions

IV. ACTION ITEMS

IV.A. Proposed Paris + Orleans Exchange Trip

IV.B. Textbook Adoption - Middle School Science
Resource: Mosa Mack Science

V. **OTHER**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 4/24/23

Minutes submitted by: Kathy Baker

Members present: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Stephanie Strazza

Members absent: Greg Flanagan

Other attendees: Julie Luby, Alyce Misuraca, Ken Crow, Cathy Hall, Ed Sbordone

Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (4/24/23 at 7:00 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/99474244042>

Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 994 742 44042

Meeting called to order: at 7:02 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 27, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of March 27, 2023, as presented

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of vote: Passed by consensus

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Content Area Philosophy Statements - Julie Luby presented that every teacher in the district participated in developing the philosophy statements. Julie updated this on the website, under curriculum. Each discipline has articulated the philosophy of the discipline, including who and why we do the things we do.

B. Performance Index Scores in ELA, Math & Science – Julie shared the data that shows the wellness of the whole - 75 is a great goal. We have significantly improved our scores in the state. This is great news, especially in light of COVID.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Textbook adoption: *EdGems*

Motion: To move the textbook adoption of *EdGems* to the full Board for approval

Made by: Kathy Baker

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza

Recording of vote: All in favor

V. OTHER – Ed Sbordone asked a question about the textbooks for *EdGems* and if the costs have already been budgeted. There is a three-year plan - \$21,500 is in 2023/24 budget and \$21,500 is in the 2024/25 budget. Stephanie clarified how the ESSER funds have affected the curriculum budget over the past couple of years.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 7:41 p.m.



USA: 1-800-304-9446

CAN: 1-800-657-7754

INFO@PROMETOUR.COM

FRANCE

Paris + Orleans Exchange

New Fairfield Schools
February 15 - 24, 2024
10 DAYS

Jennifer Page
Tour Consultant

✉ jennifer.page@prometour.com

DAY 1:TRAVEL TO FRANCE

Thursday 15-Feb-2024



Board your **flight** from **New York** and begin the journey to **Paris, France**.

DAY 2:PARIS

Friday 16-Feb-2024



Bienvenue en France!

Meet your **French Prometour Tour Director** at the **arrivals** section of the **airport**.

Transfer by **motor coach** to the **hotel** to drop off your luggage, check-in will be done later.

While in Paris, travel as the locals do by **walking** or taking **public transportation**.

With your **Tour Director**, discover some of the highlights of the **Quartier Latin** such as **Luxembourg Gardens**, the Pantheon, Sorbonne University, the famed Shakespeare & Co. bookstore, and the Petit Prince Store dedicated to St-Exupéry's masterpiece.

Have lunch on your own.

Make a **photo stop** at **Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris** to see the progress of its restoration from the 2019 fire.

Enter **Sainte Chapelle**, a masterpiece of flamboyant Gothic architecture with its unique stained glass windows, rendering the air iridescent with light and color. **(non guided)**

Enjoy dinner with your group in a local restaurant.

Overnight accommodation in Paris.

DAY 3:PARIS

Saturday 17-Feb-2024



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel with your group.

Have a **guided visit** of **Musée d'Orsay**. Originally a railway station, it now houses some of the best and most-known 19th and 20th century works from artists like Renoir, Cezanne, Degas, Monet, and Van Gogh. Have time after the tour to **explore** the collections at your **own pace**.

Have lunch on your own.

Stroll along the **Champs-Élysées** where luxury boutiques mix with French brand stores, and is lined with majestic monuments like the **Arc de Triomphe**.

Admire the architecture of Paris as you cruise along the **River Seine** on board a **Bateau Mouche**.
(on board commentary)

Enjoy dinner with your group in a local restaurant.

Get a bird's eye view of Paris from the observation platforms of the **Eiffel Tower**.
-3rd floor access is included but subject to availability

Overnight accommodation in Paris.

DAY 4:PARIS

Sunday 18-Feb-2024



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel with your group.

With your **Tour Director**, discover some of the highlights of the **Quartier de l'Opéra**. Walk along rue Rivoli, admire the spectacular ceiling at Galeries Lafayette, enter the grande Eglise Madeleine, walk through Paris' oldest coverage passage (Passage des Panoramas), and explore the numerous boutiques like *À la Mère de Famille*, Paris' first sweets shop.

Discover **Opera Garnier** at your **own pace**. It is probably the most famous Opera house in the world, and known to be the inspiration for Leroux's "The Phantom of the Opera". (**non-guided**)

Have lunch on your own.

Discover **Quartier Montmartre**, "La Butte", with your **Tour Director**, it was and still is the source of inspiration to many artists such as Pissarro and Delacroix. Enter **Sacré Coeur Basilica** to admire its mosaic interior, take a selfie at the Wall of Love, and spend time in the always lively Place du Tertre.

Enjoy dinner with your group in a local restaurant.

Overnight accommodation in Paris.

DAY 5:PARIS - ORLEANS Exchange Program Begins

Monday 19-Feb-2024



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel with your group.

Say a fond *Au Revoir* to your **Prometour Tour Director** and continue on to the next part of your trip.

Transfer by **motor coach** from the **hotel** to your **exchange partner school**.

Your **host family** will **welcome you at the school** and take you to their home to settle in.

Get to know your host family over dinner followed by overnight accommodation

New Fairfield High School will organize the program in Orleans. Meals, activities & associated transportation costs are not included in your Prometour cost (unless otherwise mentioned)

*Lycee Saint Charles
31 Avenue Saint Fiacre, 45100 Orleans
Tel: 011 33 2 38 51 98 00
www.stcharles-orleans.com*

DAY 6 & DAY 7: ORLEANS

Tuesday 20-Feb-2024
Wednesday 21-Feb-2024

Enjoy breakfast with your host family.

Spend the day with your host family.

Dinner and overnight accommodation with your host family.



DAY 8:ORLEANS Chartres

Thursday 22-Feb-2024



Enjoy breakfast with your host family.

Board your **motor coach** and travel to **Chartres**, most known for its massive Gothic cathedral.

Meet your **local guide** for a **walking tour of Chartres** including the **Cathedral**. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Cathedral is a still place of historical and religious significance for Christian pilgrims.

Have lunch on your own.

Have time to explore the **local shops of Chartres** at your **own pace**, there is always something to look at in this charming town.

Board your **motor coach** and return to **Orleans**.

Return to your host family for dinner and overnight accommodation.

DAY 9:ORLEANS Loire Valley

Friday 23-Feb-2024



Enjoy breakfast with your host family.

Meet your **local guide** for today's **Loire Valley** excursion.

Board your **motor coach** and travel to **Chambord**, though it is the largest château of the Loire Valley, the town itself has a population of less than 100.

With your **visioguide (tablet)** in hand, enter the royal **Château de Chambord**, one of the most recognizable châteaux in the world due to its very distinctive French Renaissance architecture.

Board your motor coach and continue on to **Amboise**, a small market town.

Have lunch on your own.

Have a **guided tour** of **Clos Lucé**, the former residence of Leonardo Da Vinci containing a collection of some of his marvelous inventions and works.

Board your **motor coach** and return to **Orleans**.

Return to your host family for dinner and overnight accommodation.

DAY 10:ORLEANS - PARIS - RETURN HOME Exchange Program Ends

Saturday 24-Feb-2024



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Enjoy breakfast with your host family.

Say a fond *merci* to your host family and be sure to take lots of photos to show back home.

Transfer by **motor coach** from your **exchange partner school** to **Paris airport**.

Board your **flight** from **Paris** and begin the journey back home.

PRICE PER PERSON SHEET

This is a privately operated tour - you will not be combined with another group

Student Price Per Person

20 participants + 2 free **3 090 USD**
20 participants + 3 free **3 190 USD**

18 to 19 participants + 2 free **3 190 USD**
18 to 19 participants + 3 free **3 290 USD**

16 to 17 participants + 2 free **3 290 USD**

14 to 15 participants + 2 free **3 390 USD**

12 to 13 participants + 2 free **3 590 USD**

SUPPLEMENTS

Adult Insurance Premium \$ 15 per day, per person
Adult Activity Supplement \$ 15 per day, per person
Twin Room Supplement \$ 45 per night, per person
Single Room Supplement \$ 90 per night, per person

This trip is quoted as a student tour, prices are subject to increase if number of adults exceeds 30% of group size

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Based on Dates of Travel

30-Jun-2023 \$ 500 pp
15-Aug-2023 \$ 1000 pp
30-Sep-2023 \$ 1000 pp
15-Nov-2023 Balance (determined by final group size)

Monthly installments available at time of online registration.

Please check with your credit card company and/or financial institution for any extra applicable fees.

PRICE INCLUDES

PROMETOUR PEACE OF MIND PROGRAM

**Please refer to complete policy for all insurance details*

StudentGroup Insurance Program covering group dates of travel

Coverage includes:

Trip Cancellation, Interruption, and Delay

Missed Connection

Emergency Accident and Sickness Medical Expense

Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation

Baggage & Personal Effects

Baggage Delay

+ Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) up to 75% of prepaid, forfeited, non-refundable payments or deposits

Transportation

Round trip airfare* New York / Paris / New York

Motor coach transfer: Paris airport / hotel

Motor coach transfer: Paris hotel / Orleans

Motor coach transfer: Orleans / Paris airport

Full-day motor coach service x 2

Public transportation tickets as required by program

Hotel Accommodation

3 nights' accommodation at a quality hotel in Paris

3-star standard, conveniently located

Students: 3 (& 4) per room, by gender, single beds not guaranteed

Group Leader: single room guaranteed

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Airline baggage charges according to their policies

Motor coach transfer: USA School / Airport / USA School

Meals that are not indicated in the daily program

Service of a hotel night hall monitor

Associated costs for the Orleans program (organized by New Fairfield High School)

Tips, these are standard guidelines

Tour Director: \$6 per day, per person

Bus Drivers: \$3 per day, per person

Personal spending money

Costs associated with travel documents, visas, medical testing, vaccinations, or other as required by your destination(s) or home country

Costs associated with changes to itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances including but not limited to: pandemics, epidemics, natural disasters, or other

Any applicable Prometour processing fees (\$45)

Chaperones: 2 per room, by gender, single beds guaranteed

Meals

3 Breakfasts / 3 Dinners

Restaurant meals are group menu with 1 non-alcoholic beverage
+ vegetarian option

Activities/ Sightseeing

All aforementioned visits, activities, tours and admissions

Tour Guides

Service of a bilingual French Tour Director while in Paris

Service of a bilingual French local guide for Loire Valley
excursion day

Local city / activity guides as indicated in the program

Complimentary Trips

As indicated in the above price grid

Based on full paying participants

Other

Applicable service fees, taxes and FICAV contribution

NOTES

*AIRLINE FUEL SURCHARGE (already included in these prices): Airlines have the legal right to impose fuel surcharges to tickets even after bookings have been made. Departure taxes and airline fuel surcharges at time of this quote = \$550

*Flights can only be researched and booked within 11-months prior to return date and confirmed once the 1st deposits are received. Flight times are subject to airline-imposed schedule changes outside of Prométour's control. Direct flights are not guaranteed.

The final itinerary may differ from this version. When a scheduled activity or tourist site is not possible, Prométour will make every effort to minimize inconvenience by adjusting the itinerary or replacing the item with a suitable alternative.

Special requests such as: specific hotels, restaurants, activities, Tour Director, daily scheduling etc. are subject to availability.

Prométour reserves the right to alter your itinerary before or during your tour for reasons including but not limited to: severe weather conditions, government restrictions, holidays, special events, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Prométour's Green Initiative!

Prométour's target is to be a 100% carbon neutral company. Complimentary CO2 offsetting is included on all tours with bus or air transportation.

EXCHANGE RATE Prométour has quoted this package at an exchange of 1 EUR = 1.10 USD

Useful Information / Documents

[TERMS & CONDITIONS](#)

[PROTECTION PLAN / PEACE OF MIND 2020](#)

Prométour Educational Tours

339 rue Saint-Paul East, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1H3, Canada

www.prometour.com

info@prometour.com

USA: 1-800-304-9446 / CAN: 1-800-657-7754





**New Fairfield Public Schools
Textbook Adoption Form**

"Textbooks are defined as that resource which provides 50% or more of the information upon which the program of instruction is based." (policy 6161)

Date of Recommendation: May 22,2023

Staff Members Making the Recommendation: Amy Twitchell, Dawn Ryan, Rachel Wilson, Casey Olsen, Kate Lowry

Course: Middle School Science

Grade(s): 6-8

Title: Mosa Mack Science

Author(s): Lissa Johnson, Lauren Stoll, Maafi Gueye, Tal McThenia,

Publisher: Mosa Mack Science, INC

Publication Date: launched 2013

Reading Level: The Lexile Level of the resource is roughly at the 5th grade level

Price per book and the number needed: interactive inquiry-based digital platform subscription - 490 subscriptions @ \$9.16

Support for the Recommended Textbook:

The MS science department has been researching a new resource to replace the HMH Science Dimensions program. After reviewing multiple resources and piloting two this year, the department chose Mosa Mack for its engagement and user friendly platform.

Content

1. Describe how the selected textbook is aligned with course curriculum and content standards.

The resource is designed around the Next Gen Science standards and uses design thinking principles to spark engagement for middle school students. There are clearly articulated units that align with our current curriculum.

2. Describe the accuracy and timeliness of the selected textbook.

The resource is accurate and includes all the standards required to teach at the middle level. It is a digital platform that is updated regularly.

3. Describe how the textbook handles varying perspectives and points of view and demonstrates an unbiased approach to the content.

Mosa Mack Science is built around the Next Generation Science Standards so it specifically sticks to the evidence statements to guide the development of units. With topics such as climate change and evolution, the resource presents students with data, and asks them to come up with their own conclusions. This approach supports varying perspectives and an unbiased approach to content.

Instructional Match

4. Describe how the selected textbook supports our Vision of the Graduate and model of high-quality instruction.

The resource was designed to engage students in their learning through inquiry. It was developed by a middle school teacher looking to change the way students learn science. Moving away from lecture type video to problem solving mysteries, students practice being critical and creative thinkers as well as problem solvers when learning science.

5. Describe elements of the textbook

The online experience for students uses visually engaging design and practice. Teachers can assign steps in chunks to help students move through a lab or mystery.

Accessibility

6. Describe the text features and supplemental materials that provide enhanced accessibility.

Engineering Design Challenges with

- Animated Mysteries
- Comic Book Mysteries
- Graphic Organizers
- Hands-on Activities
- Vocabulary Activities

Lesson Plans/Standards Alignment for teachers using the 3 dimensions of science - engineering practices (SEPs), the crosscutting concepts (CCCs) and the disciplinary core ideas (DCIs)

7. What is the readability level of the textbook?

Approximately grade 5 lexile level

8. Describe how the textbook reflects diversity and inclusion regarding culture, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, education, and religion.

Mosa Mack Science was created to promote diversity in science education. Mosa Mack is a teenager who is not "your average scientist." Instead of lecturing students about science, Mosa Mack models how to think through scientific problems using questioning skills. Throughout each mystery, students will be exposed to characters of varying backgrounds so that the resource promotes diversity and welcomes all students into science.

9. Describe the supplementary materials that accompany the textbook and explain how they support student learning. Describe any errors or glitches that were encountered.

Mosa Mack Science includes phenomena videos, mysteries, labs and engineering challenges. There are no errors on the platform at this time. However, the resource has a live chat button on the site and can support teachers in real time.

Other Textbooks Reviewed: (if less than 2 others, explain)

1. OpenSciEd
2. FOSS Science
3. Inspire Science by McGrawHill

Teachers

Date

Department Chair (if applicable)

Date

Principal

Date

Director of Curriculum or Assistant Superintendent

Date



**New Fairfield Public Schools
Textbook Evaluation Form**

"Textbooks are defined as that resource which provides 50% or more of the information upon which the program of instruction is based." (policy 6161)

Participating Staff Members: Amy Twitchell, Dawn Ryan, Rachel Wilson, Casey Olsen, Kate Lowry

Course: Middle School Science

Grade(s): 6-8

<i>(Use Rubric Below)</i>	Textbook 1 Title: Open Sci-Ed	Textbook 2 Title: Mosa Mack	Textbook 3 Title:
Publisher	OpenSciEd	Mosa Mack Science, INC	
Year Published	ongoing (OER)	launched 2013	
Price	n/a	\$9.16 per student	
Content			
Alignment	4	4	
Accuracy	4	4	
Instructional Match			
Alignment with NF's Vision of the Graduate	3	3	
Design	3	3	
Accessibility			
Clarity	2	3	
Inclusivity	2	4	
Add-ons	2	3	
Total Team Rating			
	20	24	
Notes		more kid friendly/age appropriate for clarity and has better resources to simply print or assign online for add-ons.	
External Rating (informational only)			
Which rating organization was consulted and what rating did the textbook receive?	Meets Expectations edReports	5 star rating from Common Sense Education	

(EdReports or other)			
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	RATING 1 - not at all 2 - somewhat 3 - generally 4 - mostly
Content	
Alignment	Content is aligned with course curriculum and content standards.
Accuracy	Content is free from errors, up to date, and unbiased.
Instructional Match	
Alignment with NF's Vision of the Graduate	Content is presented in an engaging manner and leads students to make meaning, think critically, and ask questions. The text promotes independence.
Design	Textbook contains a variety of instructional materials, including reflective questions, learning activities, and other features which promote learner engagement and active learning. Textbook contains a structured, clear, and logical progression of topics.
Accessibility	
Clarity	Textbook provides accessible and structured text and images to meet the needs of diverse learners. Readability is age/grade/setting appropriate.
Inclusivity	The textbook reflects diversity and inclusion regarding culture, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, education, and religion.
Add-ons	Textbook has high-quality, supplementary materials which support student learning and are free of errors and glitches.