

Curriculum Council Meeting
Monday, September 24, 2018 6:30 PM
Curriculum Library, 4 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. Curriculum Meeting
1. Mentor Text Proposal--Grade 8 ELA 2
2. Nonfiction Novel Proposal- ELA Grade 12 4

Instructional Resource Proposal Form

Use this form to propose the purchase of new textbooks, software, or other major instructional resources for a new course, grade, or multiple grades.

Date: June 21, 2018

Person(s) submitting: Miranda Wilson

Content Area: Language Arts **Grade(s)** Eighth **Course:** General Education

Recommended Purchase:

Title or Name of Resource: *Hidden Roots* by Joseph Bruchac

Type of Resource: Mentor Text ISBN# 0557711681

Copyright: January 31, 2011 Vendor: Amazon

Address: Amazon.com

Background: (Why this purchase is being proposed?)

Based on a review of the 2017-2018 school year, it has been determined that the Holocaust Unit no longer meets cross-curricular alignment or unit goals as presented in the current curriculum model. As the current unit (Research: The Holocaust) progressed, it was evident instruction in core skills were lacking and did not provide students with a readiness to learn and succeed. Furthermore, students exhibited a confusion of time period when transitioning from the social studies curriculum to the language arts classroom as the year in social studies ends with the Civil War.

In addition, the eighth grade curriculum lacks a mentor text featuring a minority character. This gap alienates many of our students. The inclusion of a Native American protagonist will provide students with an opportunity to expand their worldview and connect with someone who demonstrates the struggles of our minority population.

Process used to select this curriculum resource:

Joseph Bruchac is a celebrated Native American author. Many of his poems and short stories are already a part of our curriculum. In addition, the novel *Winter People* was just added to our summer reading list. This novel directly connects to the social studies curriculum. The title of the unit will be "Embracing Heritage". The unit will provide instruction and monitoring of the core skills necessary to enhance student performance. Furthermore, the novel will strengthen the alignment of the social studies curriculum to the literature/concepts presented in language arts.

Is this the only curriculum resource for this course? No If not, what other resource(s) will be used?

- Supporting Modified Instruction- *Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears* by Sarah Sawyer, *As Long as the Rivers Flow: The Stories of Nine Native Americans* by Paula Gunn Allen and Patricia Clark Smith
- Teacher- *Native Americans Today: Resources and Activities for Educators, Grades 4-8* by Arlene Hirschfelder, *Native Americans: A Thematic Unit on Converging Cultures* by Wendy S. Wilson, *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative* by Thomas King

How was this resource evaluated in terms of providing adequate instructional support for the curriculum?

The novel has been chosen because it provides rigor and aligns with the eighth grade standards, while maintaining a level of content appropriate for middle level students.

Enduring Understandings –By the end of the unit, students will understand that...

- our heritage defines us individually and as a nation.
- our heritage molds our belief systems and influences our traditions.
- background information enhances understanding of literature.
- oral tradition is vital to the survival of culture.
- the experiences of each American populace varies and is influenced by cultural misunderstandings/prejudice.
- genocide occurred in the United States.
- our stories are interwoven and connect us as people.

Attach a standard budget sheet to detail the purchase costs.

*The cost will be covered within the 2017-2018 budget as presented to the staff in June (\$566).

Textbook Proposal Form

Use this form to propose the purchase of new textbooks, software, or other major instructional resources for a new course, grade, or multiple grades.

Date: April 18th, 2018

Person(s) submitting: Erik Serrell-Dube

Content Area: English Grade(s) 12

Course: Academic and College English 12

Recommended Purchase: 15 copies of Extreme Ownership: How Navy SEAL's Lead and WIN for 2018-2019 academic year

Title or Name of Resource: How Navy SEAL's Lead and WIN by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin

Type of Resource: Nonfiction Memoir/Business

ISBN# 1250183863 SKU#

Copyright: 2017 Vendor: St Martain Press

Address: _____

1. Does the text address the content of the curriculum at the appropriate grade level?

Yes

No

Process used to select this curriculum resource:

In adopting this text the goal is to introduce current non-fiction reading into the curriculum for academic seniors that is relevant and allows for deeper discussion and application. The memoir-narrative/application style of the text is highly engaging, which is necessary for academic and college level students.

Is this the only curriculum resource for this course? No **If not, what other resource(s) will be used?** The remaining grade 12 novels will remain in their scheduled places within the curriculum.

How was this resource evaluated in terms of providing adequate instructional support for the curriculum?

This text was reviewed by the department and found to be of appropriate reading level for all 12th grade students. The pedagogical nature of the writing, which goes from memoir in action to application in business, demonstrates the interconnectedness of experiences, consequences of actions, and allows for not only discussion but also extensive projects. This book is currently a number 1 Amazon seller in several categories and a New York Times Bestseller. There may be interdisciplinary possibilities for assignments as well.

Attach a standard budget sheet to detail the purchase costs.

Amazon price is \$18.29. We average 15 students in Academic 12 English where it will be used next year. This puts the cost at \$274.35. This will be purchased through the English Supply budget at the beginning of 2018-19 school year.