

Middle School French Textbook Replacement Recommendation

Rationale:

The text series we are currently using, Allez, viens!, was published in 1997. Beyond the wear and tear of nearly thirty years of hard use by students and the lack of availability of replacement parts, the materials are shamefully outdated. They are rife with references to currency and technology that no longer exist and cultural practices that have long since evolved. To illustrate, the videos that accompany this text series are on VHS. In this light, the pictures and accompanying video segments are as laughable and distracting to students as would be yearbooks of thirty years ago.

World Languages has as its mandate the communication of ideas and activities currently practiced throughout the modern world. The current text series not only does not support this goal, it in some ways actively impedes it.

Process:

Three possibilities were reviewed in depth by Richard Glencross and our middle school French teachers (Jae Hubbard and Alessandra Cunha). Using the rubrics from the "[RSU 26 Textbook Selection Procedures](#)," they rated Bien Dit from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), D'accord from Vista Higher Learning, and EntreCultures from Wayside Publishing. D'accord was ruled out based on the review for "Content and Standards." Bien Dit and EntreCultures were considered further, however, it was discovered that HMH was in the process of phasing out Bien Dit while Wayside Publishing was updating EntreCultures. Hard copies of the newer EntreCultures texts were requested and received.

In addition to using the rubrics included in the RSU 26 Textbook Selection Procedures, Ms. Hubbard and Ms. Cunha reviewed EntreCultures (on-line and hard copies) using Draft #2 of the [RSU 26 Rubric for Textbook/Material Review for Culturally Responsiveness](#). This process and selection is supported by our other World Language Teachers; Chris Crocker and Angela Slate.

Recommendation:

While no single instructional resource/textbook is perfect, we feel EntreCultures is a high-quality resource that meets the needs of the district. It was rated very high for Content Standards and its alignment to national standards; Instructional Support, including opportunities for critical thinking; and Organization/Layout. EntreCultures does not include materials for English Language Learners, but it met the expectations for providing materials for interventions/accommodations and exceeded expectations for including materials for accelerated learners.

Critical questioning and alternative viewpoints are presented in EntreCultures, but there are not strong connections between learning and social change. There is some evidence of poetry, music, and other forms of art. EntreCultures was rated as having broad representation of ethnicities (but few examples of people with physical disabilities). It is relevant in that a variety of real-life situations are portrayed through multiple perspectives and connections to students' lives.

It is recommended that we purchase Level 1A EntreCultures this summer (July 2024) for use in Grade 7 next school year (2024-25). Funding for 1A is included in the current draft of the FY25 Budget. See below for future anticipated needs.

30 copies of Level 1A for 7th (need 2024-5)

Level 1B for 8th (need 2025-6)(probably 30?)

Level 1 for 9th (need 2025-6)(min 10, prefer 20)

Level 2 for 9-12 (need 2026-7)(max 40 - we'll see how many 1/1B students we have in 2025-6)