



Customizing Learning,
Nurturing Potential...
Delivering Excellence

Upper St. Clair School District
Spring 2021 Curriculum
Recommendations
June 7, 2021

All approved recommendations are subject to budget constraints. Administrative approval of any recommendation should not be considered as tacit approval for the related expenditures or summer workshops. Workshop could include Flex time, Act 48 hours, and/or paid workshop hours.

Below is a list of the recommendations being presented and indication of those that will require Board approval.

	BOARD APPROVAL	FOR YOUR INFORMATION
ALL AREAS		
Revise the current textbook adoption form to better align with policies, practices, and the evolution of educational publishing.		√
COUNSELING		
Continue revising and broadening the scope of <i>Freshman Seminar</i> beyond the traditional classroom setting.	√	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS		
Continue textual evaluations for grades 5-8 with a focus on reading level, interest, big ideas, genre, age appropriateness, representation of diversity and inclusivity, promotion of empathy, and modern-day interdisciplinary connections.		√
Adopt the use of <i>NoRedInk</i> as a supplemental grammar resource at the middle school level.	√	
Revise the Fourth Grade Spelling Curriculum.	√	
Formally adopt the online subscription service, RAZ-Plus, in grades K-4.	√	

MATHEMATICS		
Extend the pilot of the math portion of the MAP diagnostic assessments in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades to gain understanding of students' mathematical growth and achievement to use in planning small group instruction and interventions.	√	
Adopt <i>IXL Math</i> and <i>Khan Academy</i> as resources to be used in middle school mathematics classrooms for enrichment and intervention.	√	
Formally adopt the online subscription service, <i>Exemplars</i> , in grades K-4.	√	
SCIENCE		
Adopt the textbook <i>University Physics</i> and accompanied resources for use in the courses, <i>AP Physics C Mechanics</i> and <i>AP Physics C Electricity and Magnetism</i> .	√	
Adopt the Pearson resource, <i>Elevate Science: Course 2</i> in 6th and 7th grade.	√	
Adopt <i>Smithsonian Science</i> as a comprehensive new science program to replace our existing science curricula for grades K-4.	√	
Formally adopt the supplemental science programs <i>Mystery Science</i> and <i>Generation Genius</i> .	√	
SOCIAL STUDIES		
Pilot a multi-text/digital platform approach for the 11th grade <i>American Civic Engagement (ACE)</i> course during the 2021-22 school year.	√	
Pilot customized student learning reports in 7th grade Social Studies.	√	
Formally adopt the print magazine and online periodical, <i>Scholastic News</i> , in grades K-4.	√	

ELEMENTARY – Science, Social Studies, ELA		
Formally adopt the online subscription service, <i>BrainPop</i> , in grades K-4.	√	

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All

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Judy Bulazo

Level: All

Area: All

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Revise the current textbook adoption form to better align with policies, practices, and the evolution of educational publishing. *(1 of 2)*

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. The School Board recently revised the textbook adoption policy. Though the policy is generally aligned with our current practices, the current textbook adoption form references our previous policy. Since an update needs to be made to the form so that the appropriate policy is referenced, it is appropriate and timely to review the form in its entirety.
2. With recent technological advances, significant changes have occurred in textbook publishing since the current form was created. A key component to all textbooks now includes robust and strong online resources and functions. Using a hardbound textbook, versus an online textbook and related resources, involves different skill sets. The quality of both products should be a formal part of the form which serves to document the evaluation process.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Research content for the form.
3. Form a small team to review research and develop the form.
4. Review drafts with the curriculum leadership teams and make adjustments based on team input.
5. Seek approval of the form from the superintendent.
6. Begin use of the form in the fall of 2021.

No cost.

Approved.
Given the changes to policies and the advance of textbook materials, it is timely for this revision.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Judy Bulazo

Level: All

Area: All

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Revise the current textbook adoption form to better align with policies, practices, and the evolution of educational publishing. *(2 of 2)*

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

3. Educational practice has also evolved and advanced since the existing form was last revised. Reviewing the form in light of how textbook materials are used with current instructional methods is another reason for this revision to occur.

Counseling

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020-2021



Name: Lauren Madia and Jennifer Kirk

Level: High School

Area: HS Counseling

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Continue revising and broadening the scope of *Freshman Seminar* beyond the traditional classroom setting. (1 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. Freshman Seminar was first implemented in the 2014-15 school year. This offering takes place once a week in the first semester of the ninth grade year. The goal of this program is to provide support and education that will assist freshman in their acclimation to the high school learning environment.
2. Reconfiguration of the HS Counseling Department which has resulted in two dedicated 9th grade counselors for 2020-21 school year and beyond allows for the opportunity to provide more comprehensive and targeted transitional supports.
3. Formal and informal data indicates the need for continued transitional support for 9th grade students throughout their freshman year.
4. Given the recent development of a ninth grade teaching team, further collaboration with the Counseling Department is warranted to provide cohesive and timely programming.

1. Administrative approval.
2. Program review in consultation with HSLT, ninth grade teachers, counselors, and with input from students to identify needed updates.
3. Articulate a revised plan of instruction and programming, with consideration to potential scheduling implications.
4. Share revised plan with HSLT, ninth grade teaching team, and counseling department.
5. Solicit input from the Assistant Principals.
6. Freshman Counselors revise curriculum and programming in Summer 2021 reflective of input and feedback.
7. Evaluate the effectiveness of changes made.

Counselor summer work hours (12 hours x 3 counselors = 36 hours at workshop rate)

Needed resources up to \$500. (academic resource books, access to curriculum, etc.)

Teacher summer work hours (2 hours x up to 12 teachers = up to 24 hours at workshop rate)

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020-2021



Name: Lauren Madia and Jennifer Kirk

Level: High School

Area: HS Counseling

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Continue revising and broadening the scope of *Freshman Seminar* beyond the traditional classroom setting. (2 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

5. The recent adjustments to the counseling structure has provided the opportunity to address a variety of student needs (academic, career, social-emotional) through a consistent delivery of service.

6. This recommendation is aligned with the continued district focus on student well-being.

7. Research supports the critical role that formal transition programming plays in the middle to high school transition. This programming promotes connectedness to the school community, supports a school culture that is nurturing and caring, and provides clear expectations. Roybal, V., Thornton, B., & Usinger, J. (2014). Effective ninth-grade transition programs can promote student success. *Education (4)*, 475-487.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020-2021



Name: Lauren Madia and Jennifer Kirk

Level: High School

Area: HS Counseling

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Continue revising and broadening the scope of *Freshman Seminar* beyond the traditional classroom setting. (3 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

8. During the 2020-2021 school year, student feedback included:
 - a. The restructured 9th grade transition program was needed and effective.
 - b. The semester long Freshman Seminar was helpful in easing the transition to high school.
 - c. Specific topics addressed student need throughout the freshman year.

9. During summer 2020, teacher feedback indicated additional needs relative to content areas, prompting consideration of an expanded Freshman Seminar which might include additional topics that would enhance student preparation for the freshman year experience

Language Arts

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019-2020



Name: Kate Ruth

Level: Middle School

Area: English Language Arts

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Continue textual evaluations for grades 5-8 with a focus on reading level, interest, big ideas, genre, age appropriateness, representation of diversity and inclusivity, promotion of empathy, and modern day interdisciplinary connections.

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. Numerous texts have been piloted and adopted since spring 2013 and spring 2014 in grades 5-8. Selection and sequencing of these texts has occurred over the past years, most recently as a component of a spring 2017 curriculum recommendation.
2. The pairing and sequencing of titles has led to the identification of potential needs to adjust pairings and/or sequencing in order to expose students to a range of genres through rigorous and engaging texts. In addition, there has been an identified need for titles that represent diverse characters and promote inclusivity.
3. This process has led to the need for continued review of some novels and pairings in grades 5-8.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Evaluate additional titles to pilot through the District's novel adoption process through a summer work project.
3. Seek approval for novels.

Up to 12 hours of summer work time.

Funds for possible book purchases have been included in 2021-22 budget.

Approved.

Genre variety and appropriately complex texts continue to be important and critical to the enhancement of our middle school comprehension curriculum.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019-2020



Name: Kate Ruth

Level: Middle School

Area: English Language Arts

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt the use of *NoRedInk* as a supplemental grammar resource.

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. As teachers continue to look for ways to customize students' learning experiences based upon their individual needs, grammar instruction has been identified as an area that is well suited to students' independent practice and mastery at their own individual levels.
2. As part of a spring 2016 curriculum recommendation, *NoRedInk* was piloted. *NoRedInk's* premium paid version contains components that offer practice, remediation, and assessment of grammatical concepts. This pilot was ended due to data sharing issues which have since been resolved.
3. *NoRedInk* premium was again piloted for spring semester 2020 and for the 2020-21 school year. Teachers provided feedback on the use of *NoRedInk* premium and have determined it to be a valuable practice resource for students.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Continue implementation of the resource.

Cost of NoRedInk Premium access for all students in grades 5-8 = \$8,000/School;

These costs have been included in the 2021-22 budget

Approved.
The new board policy supports this recommendation

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021-2022



Name: Kristy Berrott

Level: Fourth Grade

Area: ELA

Date: March 14, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Revise the Fourth Grade Spelling Curriculum.

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. Our knowledge of the PA Core Standards and the expectations necessary for the upper elementary levels continues to grow. Data from student performance and evidence-based information gained through professional development experiences has prompted a need and desire for continued refinement of this curricular area.
2. The ability to spell correctly is an essential trait of literate people. It is our responsibility to best educate our students how to spell effectively and accurately within their writing.
3. Spelling instruction needs to be systematic and explicit. Research supports that word study needs to be an integral part of a spelling program in order for students to derive patterns within words.
4. Teachers have expressed a need to revise the existing spelling curriculum to incorporate word study and developmentally appropriate materials in order to better meet the needs of their learners.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Research best practices in spelling and word study instruction.
3. Convene a team of teachers with representation from each building to begin the curriculum revisions during the summer.
4. Implement and provide professional development surrounding the revised curriculum during the 2021-22 school year.

Summer workshop time for 6 teachers at \$30.20 per hour for 2 days = \$2,174

Approved.
This is a good next step in the development of the elementary ELA curriculum.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019-2020



Name: Kristy Berrott and Megan McGrath

Level: Elementary K-4

Area: ELA

Date: March 6, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Formally adopt the online subscription service, RAZ-Plus, in grades K-4.

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. This current recommendation results from the 2019-20 pandemic instructional needs. During that time, teachers and students needed to utilize digitized and differentiated supplemental websites in order to provide remote instruction to students.
2. During the 2020-21 school year, teachers and students have utilized and continued to benefit from the following instructional features of this resource:
 - a. Access to short texts at student specific guided reading levels
 - b. Exposure to genres that reflect whole group comprehension skills
 - c. Access to decodable text to apply weekly phonics skills
 - d. Resources centered upon foundational literacy skills
 - e. Ability to gather student-specific reading data to inform instructional decision making
 - f. Fostering of independent reading and growth both at school and at home
3. As a result of teacher feedback on the instructional benefits of these resources, a formal adoption is being recommended.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Purchase product.
3. Plan for professional development sessions with RAZ-Plus representatives during the 2021-22 school year.
4. Survey teachers going into the 2022-23 school year on use of Raz Plus.

\$17,740.00

Approved.
The new board policy supports this recommendation

Math

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Andrew Lucas

Level: Middle School

Area: Mathematics

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Extend the pilot of the math portion of the MAP diagnostic assessments in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades to gain understanding of students' mathematical growth and achievement to use in planning small group instruction and interventions. *(1 of 3)*

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. Pennsylvania adopted the PA Core Standards in July 2013. A recommendation was made in 2013 to begin the process of converting our curriculum to the PA Core. The District has been working in the area of math to align our curriculum and instructional practice to allow our students to reach and exceed these standards.
2. PVAAS data provided by the state measures students' growth in their knowledge and understanding of the PA Core Standards. Teachers and schools are assessed according to these growth measures. Middle School math teachers have been using this data to inform and refine instruction each year since the scores were released.
3. Unfortunately, since these scores are only released once each year, any changes that are driven by these data points are reactionary. Teachers have found it difficult to use PVAAS data to help plan instruction and intervention for individual students.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Schedule training times over the summer and/or during the first in-service days to teach teachers how to read and interpret the data they have on their students (last year's data will already be available to them).
3. Provide additional time throughout the 2021-22 school year to determine how to best deploy interventions and enrichment based on collected data.
4. Determine best practices for discussing this data with our students and families so that students can begin to set and reach individual mathematical growth goals.

\$12.50 each for each student at Boyce and Fort Couch = \$16,250 (cost is for both ELA and Math MAP testing)

This cost have been included in the 2021-22 budget.

Approved.
Careful consideration of data usage and communication is a thoughtful approach before adopting extensive assessment systems.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Andrew Lucas

Level: Middle School

Area: Mathematics

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Extend the pilot of the math portion of the MAP diagnostic assessments in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades to gain understanding of students' mathematical growth and achievement to use in planning small group instruction and interventions. *(2 of 3)*

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

4. Tools like EasyCBM have been used at Boyce in the past to help plan Response to Intervention (RtI) support, however teachers always felt that the information provided by this assessment provided minimal feedback regarding students' strengths and needs.
5. The math portion of the MAP test was piloted by all teams in grades 5, 6, and 7 last year. The data produced was robust and provided a more immediate view of what students know and are able to do. Teachers were able to begin using this data to meet their students' immediate needs.
6. MAP data will assist us in being more effective in determining which students we target for intervention and enrichment and will provide more immediate feedback about what specific PA Core strands these students are struggling with. These data could be used in concert with our Sumdog, Buzzmath, and Khan Academy programs to provide additional practice and instruction on these concepts.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Andrew Lucas

Level: Middle School

Area: Mathematics

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Extend the pilot of the math portion of the MAP diagnostic assessments in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades to gain understanding of students' mathematical growth and achievement to use in planning small group instruction and interventions. *(3 of 3)*

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

7. Correlations between math and reading ability can be established by comparing MAP reading and math scores. This will help to determine which students are struggling with mathematical concepts and which are struggling with reading comprehension.

8. Unfortunately, given the unique nature of the 2020-21 school year, teachers were not able to invest the time and attention to this pilot that they would have in a normal school year. More time is needed to extend the pilot and make sound recommendations.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Andrew Lucas

Level: Middle School

Area: Mathematics

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt *IXL Math* and *Khan Academy* as resources to be used in middle school mathematics classrooms for enrichment and intervention.

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. *IXL Math* is a web-based math resource that helps students to gain fluency and confidence. Students are able to work at their own pace and are provided support as they work. Teachers also have the ability to assign specific tasks to students in their class. This resource is currently being used as intervention for students who exhibit gaps in their learning.

2. *Khan Academy* is a free web-based math resource that provides video tutorials and self-paced practice. Teachers also have the ability to assign specific tasks to students in their class. This resource is currently being used to provide stronger students with an opportunity to explore additional math concepts for enrichment. It is also being used as a way to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom for those students who may need second-chance learning opportunities.

1. Administrative approval.

2. Continue to collaborate as a department to decide how best to implement these resources.

Cost for IXL: \$599 for up to 50 students (used in both regular ed and resource math classrooms)

This cost have been included in the 2021-22 budget

Approved.
The new board policy supports this recommendation

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Shannon Dominick

Level: Elementary

Area: Mathematics

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Formally adopt the online subscription service, *Exemplars*, in grades K-4. (1 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. This resource provides support to teachers in finding and creating rigorous math problems that correlate strongly with the PA Math Standards and expectations for problem solving.
2. The value of this supplemental resource has been found to be the following:
 - a. Access to an extensive library of problem-solving tasks that are aligned to each of the 5 domains of mathematics and Common Core Standards
 - b. Printable resources which offer challenges that are more rigorous than story problems included within enVisionMath's core program
 - c. Exposure to math problems that are non-routine in nature and require students to apply their mathematical skills in a variety of contexts

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Purchase product.

\$1,500

Approved.
The new board policy supports this recommendation

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Shannon Dominick

Level: Elementary

Area: Mathematics

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Formally adopt the online subscription service, *Exemplars*, in grades K-4. (2 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

- d. Teacher resource materials including teacher planning sheets, rubrics, student anchor papers and assessment rationales, and professional development videos on instructional techniques for these types of questions.
- 3. As a result of teacher feedback on the instructional benefit of this resource, a formal adoption is being recommended.

Science

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Lynn Kistler

Level: High School

Area: Science

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt the textbook *University Physics* and accompanied resources for use in the courses, *AP Physics C Mechanics* and *AP Physics C Electricity and Magnetism*. (1 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. A 2020 Fast Track recommendation initiated an investigation into new texts and resources for the AP Physics C courses.
2. AP Physics C is a college-level science course that is intended for those pursuing careers in the physical sciences and engineering. This rigorous course demands a quality text to provide the rigor that the coursework necessitates.
3. The *University Physics* text was selected from four texts reviewed for the following reasons:
 - a. The text is clearly written and aligns with the AP Curriculum.
 - b. It is a college level text commonly used in higher education.
 - c. Purchase provides both a text book and an e-book; student access to the online platform Mastering Physics and online laboratory experiments. The instructor is also able to use Grade Scope to create secure tests for in-person and remote learning.

1. Administrative approval.
2. Purchase texts to meet enrollment needs through the 2021-22 Science Department Budget.
3. Provide summer workshop time to allow professional development and training for the new resources for the course instructor.

Texts/licenses : 60 @ \$175 + shipping = \$11,353

(cost included in 2021-22 Science Budget)

Summer workshop time: 12 hours x 1 teacher x \$30.20/hr = \$362.40

Approved.
The adoption of this text continues to support the needs of our AP science students.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Lynn Kistler

Level: High School

Area: Science

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt the textbook *University Physics* and accompanied resources for use in the courses, *AP Physics C Mechanics* and *AP Physics C Electricity and Magnetism*. (2 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

d. The quality of the writing, along with the rigor of the problem sets, combine for superior resources for the AP Physics C courses.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Caren Falascino

Level: Middle School

Area: Science

Date: March 12, 2020

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt the Pearson resource, *Elevate Science: Course 2* in 6th and 7th grade. (1 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. The sixth and seventh grade science teachers piloted the resource, *Elevate Science: Course 2*, during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. These resources are highly aligned with the USC course objectives and the PA State Science Standards.
2. During the pilot, the 7th grade teachers used the course 2 resource along with access to the online version of the resource. Sixth grade piloted the course 2 resource and also took advantage of the consumable book option.
3. To date, the teachers have integrated the readings, critical thinking questions, labs, activities, demonstrations, engineering challenges and real life examples into their lessons. These resources were determined to be a strong match with, and an enhancement to, our current curriculum.

1. Administrative approval.
2. Continued teacher training during the summer by a Pearson representative.
3. Adopt the Pearson resource, *Elevate Science: Course 2*, as a supplemental resource for the sixth and seventh grade program.
4. Explore related technology resources for the program.

Expansion of the program.
340 @ \$100 = \$34,000
Shipping in Year 1.
(These funds have been budgeted during the 2021-2022 school year.)

Summer workshop training: 5 teachers for 6 hours @30.20 = \$906.00

Approved.
Enhancement to reading and writing in science is an outcome that is anticipated with the use of this new resource.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Caren Falascino

Level: Middle School

Area: Science

Date: March 12, 2020

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt the Pearson resource, *Elevate Science: Course 2* in 6th and 7th grade. (2 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

4. The hands-on lab and the USC objectives that previously have been adopted as part of the USC curriculum are strongly implemented through the use of this resource and are now being enhanced by additional reading and writing within the content of science.
5. This program includes a consumable workbook that provides non-fiction reading opportunities and reading in the content area to support the District and State literacy standards.
6. After implementing the pilot, the science department concluded that the book is appropriate and valuable for use in 6th and 7th grade. The students will receive the workbook in 6th grade. In 7th grade the students will additionally be using the online resources of *Elevate Science: Course 2*.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Caren Falascino

Level: Middle School

Area: Science

Date: March 12, 2020

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt the Pearson resource, *Elevate Science: Course 2* in 6th and 7th grade. (3 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

7. As part of the Pearson adoption, the program will continue to be updated each year to expose our students to new discoveries in science and will include any information resulting from changes to the PA State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Updated resources will be received annually for five years.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Pam Dillie _____

Level: Elementary K-4 _____

Area: Elementary Science _____

Date: March 17, 2021 _____

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt *Smithsonian Science* as the comprehensive new science program to replace our existing science curricula for grades K-4. (1 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. When the District was provided with notice that the organizational support for our current science program, ASSET Inc., was being dissolved, a comprehensive evaluation of new programming options for K-4 elementary science was initiated.
2. During the 2019-20 school year, the process began by researching new programs beginning with consultation with the PA Department of Education and using their existing science program evaluation rubric. Initial research and exploration determined three programs that best met the criteria for excellent science programming: Smithsonian, Full Option Science System, and Amplify Science.
3. During several curriculum meetings, teachers heard presentations from each of the three educational publishers. Teachers completed individual surveys and reflected on all three programs. Next, a committee of teachers and administrators reviewed each of the programs in depth and completed a science resource evaluation.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Pilot two potential science program spring 2021.
3. Adopt Smithsonian or Amplify comprehensive science programs.
4. Schedule professional development spaced throughout the 2021-22 school year. The first training date would be one of our first back to school in-service days.
5. Teachers will be given online access to their teacher's manuals in June, 2021.
6. Teachers will be given the optional opportunity to be trained over the summer though the use of workshop rate hours.

No additional cost beyond the proposed elementary science budget.

Total cost of new science program is \$213, 628.00 for 3 years.

Approved. Leadership is to be commended for the thorough and comprehensive process that was used in making this programming decision.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Pam Dillie _____

Level: Elementary K-4 _____

Area: Elementary Science _____

Date: March 17, 2021 _____

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt *Smithsonian Science* as the comprehensive new science program to replace our existing science curricula for grades K-4. (2 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

4. Based on these processes, the selection was narrowed down to the Amplify and Smithsonian programs. Beginning in the spring of 2021, several teachers piloted and investigated the Smithsonian or Amplify programs. Teachers reflected and completed a rubric similar to the PDE rubric.
5. Review criteria for the program evaluations includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): The lesson or unit aligns with the conceptual shifts of the NGSS.
 - b. Instructional Supports: The lesson or unit supports instruction and learning for all students.
 - c. Monitoring Student Progress: The lesson or unit supports monitoring student progress.

Included in the cost

1. Materials \$210,000
2. Professional development \$23,400
3. 3-year program will reduce replenishment costs.

After 3 years, under 10,000 for replenishment costs.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Pam Dillie _____

Level: Elementary K-4 _____

Area: Elementary Science _____

Date: March 17, 2021 _____

Curriculum Recommendation

Adopt *Smithsonian Science* as the comprehensive new science program to replace our existing science curricula for grades K-4. (3 of 3)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

6. Throughout this evaluation and selection process, NGSS were referenced. NGSS place significant importance on developing scientific thinkers, applying cross cutting concepts, and promoting deep understanding of core ideas.
7. Due to the COVID learning environment, the pilot of these programs was delayed, thus the selection of the program could not be finalized until the end of the spring 2021 curriculum development process.
8. The pilot is currently complete and a review of the two programs was conducted in late May. All teachers involved in the pilot provided input to the team and completed a brief survey.
9. As a result of this review and survey, as well as follow-up discussions with curriculum and administrative leadership, the decision was made to adopt Smithsonian Science as our new K-4 curriculum. Smithsonian will be implemented and taught with fidelity in the 2021-2022 school year.

Additional needed monies:

Summer workshop time for teachers paid at workshop hours
\$30.20 to explore new science modules.
Develop notebooks and flipcharts.

12 teachers
6 hours per teacher
72 hours x
\$30.20=
\$2,174.40
summer pay.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Pamela Dillie

Level: Elementary

Area: Science

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Formally adopt the supplemental science programs *Mystery Science* and *Generation Genius*.

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. This current recommendation results from the 2019-2020 pandemic instructional needs. During that time, teachers and students needed to utilize digitized, supplemental websites in order to provide remote instruction to students.
2. During the 2020-2021 school year, teachers and students have continued to utilize and benefit from the following instructional websites, which both inspire kids to love science.
 - a. *Mystery Science* -offers videos, activities, simulations, and discourse about science.
 - b. *Generation Genius*- brings science standards to life through fun and educational videos paired with lesson plans, activities, quizzes, reading material and more.
3. As a result of teacher feedback on the instructional benefit of these resources, a formal adoption is being recommended.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Purchase products.

Mystery Science-3 schools
\$999.00
Total:
\$2,997.00

Generation Genius
Total:
\$2,146.50

Approved.
The new board policy supports this recommendation

Social Studies

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Doug Kirchner

Level: High School

Area: Social Studies

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Pilot a multi-text/digital platform approach for the 11th grade *American Civic Engagement (ACE)* course during the 2021-22 school year. (1 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. This recommendation serves as an implementation step from our December 2020 (fast-track) curriculum recommendation to “pilot a course for 11th grade social studies students called “*American Civic Engagement*” (ACE) during the 2021-2022 school year.” ([See Implementation Step #3 on the Dec. 2020 rec.](#))
2. Several recently-published, up-to-date textbooks, each with unique benefits, emerged during the vetting process. While piloting *ACE*, it will be instructionally sound to experiment with multiple textbooks and their accompanying digital resources to determine the features and practices that best fit the new course.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Purchase copies of the textbook and digital resource packages for the 2020-21 school year.
3. Utilize summer workshop hours to plan for implementation. This includes training provided by McGraw-Hill and Cengage (free of charge) to learn about the features and functionality of each ebook and digital package. NOTE: These summer workshop hours were suggested previously in the December 2020 curriculum recommendation to pilot ACE in 11th grade. Additional [flex] hours will need to be provided for 11th grade teachers as well.
4. Monitor the pilot during 2021-22 to determine potential full purchase/implementation for the 2022-23 school year and beyond.
5. Complete evaluation/adoption forms and seek text approval.

3 class sets (90 print copies) of *We the People* + 250 student codes = \$0

3 class sets (90 print copies) of *Nat'l Geo Amer. Gov't* + 250 student codes = \$2,912.50

Total = \$2,912.50

Approved. Utilizing a pilot process will assist in identifying the text that best meets the needs of this new course.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Doug Kirchner

Level: High School

Area: Social Studies

Date: March 24, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Pilot a multi-text/digital platform approach for the 11th grade *American Civic Engagement (ACE)* course during the 2021-22 school year. (2 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

3. The proposed textbooks include the following: 1) [*We the People, 14th Ed.*](#) (McGraw-Hill), a concise, yet historically grounded issues-based approach to American government that emphasizes critical thinking, case studies, and comparative politics and 2) [*National Geographic American Government, 1st Ed.*](#) (Cengage), a brand-new, on-level text whose MindTap digital platform matches what our current 9th/10th students use in *Shaping the Modern World I & II*.
4. Books were reviewed for content that is presented in a way that is unbiased and allows students to think critically about their personal role and responsibilities of being an American citizen.
5. An e-book version of each text, with tiered supports, will be provided to all enrolled students (in addition to our proposed class sets of hard copy textbooks). Digital access includes thorough, yet user-friendly platforms with rich sets of instructor/student resources.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Josh Tobin

Level: Middle School

Area: Social Studies

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Pilot customized student learning reports in 7th grade Social Studies. *(1 of 2)*

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. The Upper St. Clair School District’s tagline is “Customizing Learning, Nurturing Potential, Delivering Excellence”. This recommendation will help social studies teachers better meet this vision through the identification of student-specific growth and mastery of skills and content.
2. The District’s spring 2020 Curriculum Panel included adoption of the redesigned 7th Grade Social Studies course, which includes a focus on skill development as a point of emphasis in the course. Development of this course has included the identification of specific skills, concepts, and content knowledge essential to the particular course as well as student growth beyond 7th grade Social Studies.
3. The District’s learning management system, Canvas, allows for the creation of “Outcomes”, which can be established at the course or District level, to track student interactions with and mastery of items within a course. Outcomes allow for easy tracking of mastery over time as part of the regular grading process.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Continue to develop outcomes to reflect student growth and mastery.
3. Select data to display and design custom learning reports.

Approved.
This process has the potential to inform improvements to other general assessment practices and reporting.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019-2020



Name: Josh Tobin

Level: Middle School

Area: Social Studies

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Pilot customized student learning reports in 7th grade Social Studies. (2 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

4. Since implementing the Canvas Learning Management System, teachers have become increasingly familiar with the use of Outcomes in their Canvas courses. Examples include: PA Career Education and Work Standards, Middle School Work Habits, and IB MYP Assessment Criteria. The use of Outcomes in 7th grade Social Studies has become a consistent practice during our redesign process, providing the data needed to produce customized learning reports.

5. The District's Assessment White Paper and work on revised report cards (beginning in 2018) emphasize: Purpose of Assessment (Pillar I); Learning Targets, Instruction, and Assessment Alignment (Pillar II); Evidence of Understanding (Pillar III); Formative Assessment (Pillar IV). Creating customized student learning reports would support District assessment aims of promoting growth and mastery; focusing learning on 'big ideas', acquiring knowledge and skills, and transferring learning; collecting multiple sources of assessment evidence; and guiding differentiation.

Sample from Custom Learning Report used at Fort Couch Celebration of Learning 2019

Domain	Dimension/Description	XP Earned (Class avg)	Proficiency Level (Class Avg)	This means that I can...
 <p>...the ability to effectively understand the meaning and intentions behind written works is essential.</p>	Theme/Central Idea Determining theme(s)/central idea(s) and explaining how they develop and interact in a text	7 XP <i>(Avg: 15 XP)</i>	Level: 3.7 <i>(Avg: 3.7)</i>	Identifies a theme/central idea in a text and provides a limited explanation of how that theme/central idea is developed through specific details.
	Point of View/Purpose Understanding the point of view or purpose/intent of an author/speaker and how that point of view or purpose/intent shapes the message or meaning of the text	9 XP <i>(Avg: 10 XP)</i>	Level: 3.0 <i>(Avg: 2.9)</i>	Accurately describes author's/speaker's point of view or purpose and generally explains how that point of view or purpose/intent is conveyed through details.
	Word Choice Analyzing the effect of language, specifically word choice, on the meaning, tone, or mood of a text, and explaining how word choice relates to context or medium	0 XP <i>(Avg: 1 XP)</i>	Level: <i>(Avg: 3.6)</i>	Still Working on this skill!
 <p>"Learn to use brain power. Critical thinking is the key to solving problems in business." - Richard Branson</p>	Making Connections & Inferences Connecting ideas and making inferences based on evidence or reasoning	12 XP <i>(Avg: 10 XP)</i>	Level: 4.0 <i>(Avg: 3.8)</i>	Makes relevant inferences based on evidence and attempts to identify the larger significance of the inference. Connections between a specific example and the larger idea are clear and appropriate.
	Critiquing the Reasoning of Others Evaluating arguments, explanations, and solutions, including identifying logical fallacies and missteps	0 XP <i>(Avg: 3 XP)</i>	Level: <i>(Avg: 3.5)</i>	Still Working on this skill!
	Justifying/Constructing an Explanation Using logic and reasoning to justify a response or explain a	6 XP <i>(Avg: 8 XP)</i>	Level: 3.0 <i>(Avg: 3.7)</i>	Provides a description of specific steps, procedures, or phenomena and provides some explanation or justification for

MAKING CONNECTIONS AND INFERENCES

LEVEL 1

NEAR MASTERY

Makes inferences that are based on evidence but may be partially formed with gaps in explaining the connection of a specific example to the larger idea.

LEVEL 2

MEETS MASTERY

Makes relevant inferences based on evidence and attempts to identify the larger significance of the inference.

Connections between a specific example and the larger idea are clear and appropriate.

LEVEL 3

EXCEEDS MASTERY

Makes clear and relevant inferences based on evidence and partially explains the larger significance of the inference.

Connections are made through multiple examples.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Pamela Petrarca

Level: Elementary

Area: Social Studies

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Formally adopt the print magazine and online periodical, *Scholastic News*, in grades K-4. (1 of 2)

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. This current recommendation results from the 2019-20 pandemic instructional needs. During that time, teachers and students needed to utilize digitized, supplemental resources in order to provide remote instruction to students.
2. During the 2020-21 school year, teachers and students have utilized and benefited from the following instructional features:
 - a. Print magazines and digital learning extensions covering the current topics across the curriculum to enhance instruction
 - b. Print and digital access to nonfiction and fiction texts and resources
 - c. Content that is grade and subject-focused and adheres to anchor standards across subjects
 - d. Resources that support classroom curricula in whole class, small group, and independent settings

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Purchase product.

\$10,000
Yearly

Approved.
The new board policy supports this recommendation

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Pamela Petrarca

Level: Elementary

Area: Social Studies

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Formally adopt the print magazine and online periodical, Scholastic News, in grades K-4. *(2 of 2)*

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

3. As a result of teacher feedback, it is recommended that there be a formal adoption of the Scholastic News, paper and digitized subscription.

UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019



Name: Pamela Petrarca, Pam Dillie, Kristy Berrott, Megan McGrath

Level: Elementary

Area: Social Studies, Science, and ELA

Date: March 17, 2021

Curriculum Recommendation

Formally adopt the online subscription service, *BrainPop*, in grades K-4.

Reason(s) for Recommendation

Implementation Steps

Cost

Administrative Reaction

1. During the 2020-21 school year, teachers and students have utilized and benefited from the following instructional features of *BrainPop* and *BrainPop Jr.*:
 - a. Access of new information through simple, clear explanations, meaningful images, and fun, catchy animation
 - b. Extension of their understanding of a *BrainPOP* topic while practicing important reading comprehension skills such as making inferences, identifying main ideas and details, and comparing/contrasting (*BrainPOP*'s Related Reading articles)
 - c. Interaction with content, through games, quizzes, and other activities, they apply, analyze, and evaluate
2. As a result of teacher feedback on the instructional benefit of these resources, a formal adoption is being recommended.

1. Seek administrative approval.
2. Purchase product.

BrainPop
\$1500.00
Subscription
fee

BrainPop Jr.-
\$1995.00
Subscription
fee

Approved.
The new board
policy supports
this
recommendation