

Board of Education Study Session Template

School District of Seward

410 South Street

Seward, NE 68434

Monday, April 8, 2024 5:30 PM

Attendance Taken at 5:37 PM.

Paul Duer: Present

Matt Hastings: Present

Jill Hochstein: Present

Ryne Seaman: Present

Danielle Shipley: Present

Shawn Svoboda: Present

1. Preliminary Procedures

1.1. Call meeting to order & announce Open Meetings Act is Posted

1.2. Public Notice as publicized per board policy

The public notice was publicized in the Seward County Independent and posted at city hall, library and courthouse. The public notice was dated April 3, 2024.

1.3. Roll Call

1.3.1. Action to excuse board members if necessary

2. Possible Discussion Items

2.1. Legislative Update

Dr. Fields updated the board on legislative issues. Sunset the Nebraska Property Tax Incentive Act created under LB 1107 (2020) and the property tax relief package (LB 388 and LB 1331) are now on Select File.

2.2. Summer Projects Update

Dr. Fields and Adam Dowling updated the board on summer projects. The Preschool Playground Pour and Play will start the last week in May first week in June. The Roof Project at the Elementary will be done in the 4th grade wing but don't have a start date yet. We are also doing flooring and painting in the elementary cafeteria and five classrooms. Concrete work will be done throughout the district. We will refinish the gym floors all at once during the moratorium along with the stage. The bathroom needs to be redone at the bus garage, and we are working on taking down the radio tower at SHS and moving our repeater. We need to do some construction on the west storage building down the road with the help of our construction class.

2.3. School Safety Discussion

Dr. Fields updated the board on the safety grant that included video camera software, Stop the Bleed, and Safe to Defend Kits. We are beginning to have talks about a part-time SRO.

2.4. Committee on American Civics

We had our committee of American civics meeting which is part of Nebraska state regulations, that we must have two American Civics Committee Meetings per year. Dr. Dominy also went through the work the committee has done on the social studies curriculum process this year.

3. Public Comment on the Americanism Committee

There was none.

4. Adjournment

President Seaman adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Please publish the following legal notice in the April 3, 2024 edition of the Seward County Independent. Thank you.

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The board of education of the School District of Seward will meet in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. for a board study session to be followed by the 7:00 p.m. regular business meeting. The meeting will be held at the Administrative Offices located at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours.

To view the agenda go to <http://SewardPublicSchools.org/> and find the eMeeting link.

Committee On American Civics Agenda
4-8-24
Seward Public Schools District Office

The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

*Public Testimony is offered at this meeting

1. Appoint three board members to the Committee On American Civics

2. Celebrations of Holidays identified in LB 399
 - George Washington's Birthday
 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
 - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
 - Native American Heritage Day
 - Constitution Day
 - Memorial Day
 - Veteran's Day
 - Thanksgiving Day

3. The Civics Test- American Government and 8th Grade- Results

Fall 2023- American Government

50 American Government students took the test and 100% passed.

Fall 2023- 8th Grade

101/107 scored at least a 60%

4. Social Studies Curriculum

Social Studies Teachers and Dr. Dominy will update the Board regarding instructional materials for the 24-25 school year.

5. Adjourn

Holidays Recognized in Civics Law:

Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public, private, denominational, and parochial school on George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

Civics Test/Paper/Meeting Requirement

(i) Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student.

Social Studies and Art Curriculum Review

The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

Curriculum Review Process

Beliefs

Philosophy

Curriculum Guide Template

Standards analysis

Instructional material review/selection

Parent review

Board Review

Board Approval

Curriculum Mapping

Implementation

Social Studies

Beliefs

**We believe that the state standards provide the framework for guiding our curriculum.*

**We believe in a systematic, collaborative and consistent K-12 social studies curriculum. (consistent vocabulary, grade level progressions, when concepts are introduced and mastered.)*

**We believe instruction should focus on the strands of social studies, geography, history, citizenship, government, economics, culture and science, technology, and society.*

**We believe in immersive instruction to develop critical thinking and skill application within the scope of Social Studies.*

**We believe in developing a depth of understanding of key concepts and topics within the breadth of overall knowledge.*

**We believe that social studies instruction provides an opportunity to make connections to other curricular areas, including the use of close reading strategies.*

**We believe citizenship should be infused in the social studies curriculum to help develop interactive and responsible citizens.*

**We believe instruction should establish relevance, application, and connection to the present while assisting students to see how they can help shape a better future.*

**We believe in a social studies curriculum including exposure to multiple points of view and filtering strategies to help identify accurate and reliable information in order to encourage critical discussion and actions over content areas.*

**We believe in implementing technology throughout the social studies curriculum to develop citizens that are flexible, skilled and competitive in the modern workplace.*

Philosophy

**The purpose of our social studies curriculum and instruction is to develop educated, skilled, responsible citizens who are productive in a global community.*

Art

Art Beliefs:

- We believe that art should inspire and build creativity.
- We believe that students should be exposed to and explore different art mediums, techniques, and concepts.
- We believe that art should allow students to find something that they enjoy and are successful at.
- We believe in a systematic K-12 art curriculum where skills and concepts are built upon each year.
- We believe that when appropriate we should tie in cross-curricular information.
- We believe in creating a safe environment in which students feel comfortable with their own ability level.
- We believe that the art classroom should foster self-expression.

Art Philosophy:

Develop an appreciation of art through fostering creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking skills of each individual student through the exposure of different mediums and concepts.

Elementary Materials

K- 5 TCI (Teachers Curriculum Institute)

K- Social Studies Alive! Me and My World

1- Social Studies Alive! My School and Family

2- Social Studies Alive! My Community

3- Social Studies Alive! Our community and Beyond

4- The Nebraska Adventure- Gibbs-Smith

5- Social Studies Alive! America's Past



Elementary Justification

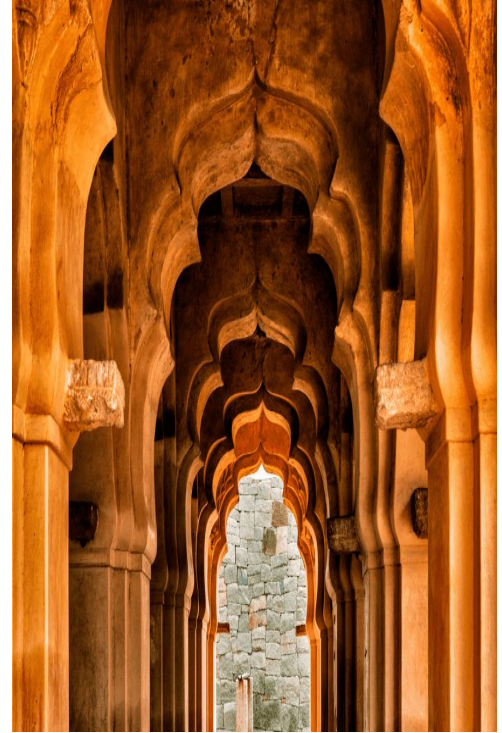
- Great online component
- ease of use
- quality materials for students
- multiple perspectives
- hands-on
- real-life applications
- age appropriate content and layout
- teacher focused

Middle School Materials

Grade 6- TCI History Alive! The Ancient World

Grade 7- The Nebraska Standards released mid-cycle required us to revisit the materials used in the 7th grade course. We purchased new materials (HMH) 3 years ago and recommend continuing with those materials.

Grade 8- TCI History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism.



Middle School Justification

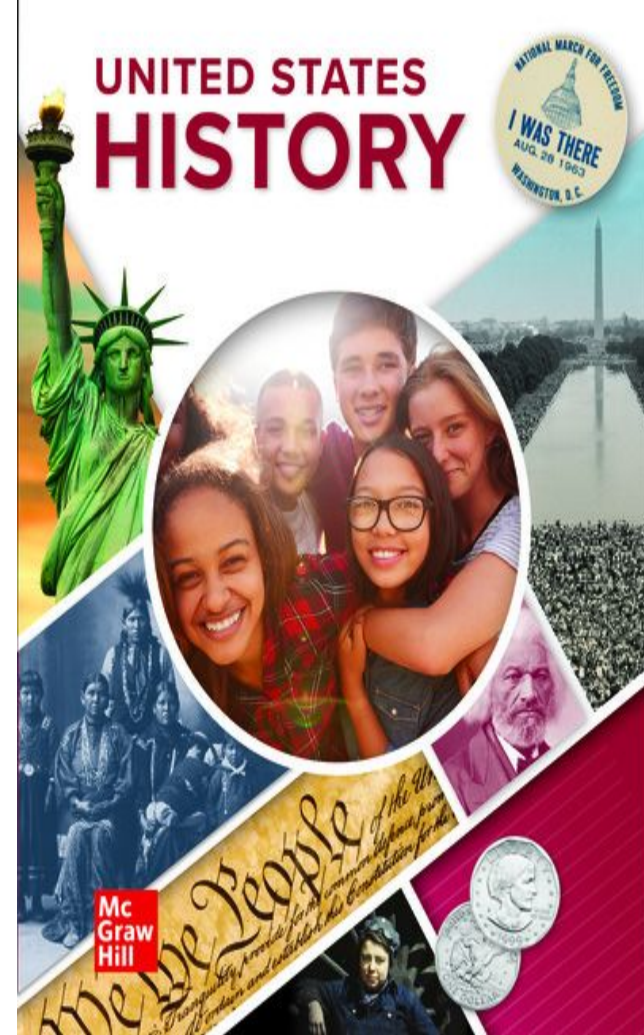
- TCI narrowed the topics into manageable chunks.
- Resources are easily accessible.
- Works well with Google Classroom.
- It seems like the customer service will be good and having teachers create these materials is helpful.
- Interactive games with ancient history was a quality example of interactivity.
- Integrates primary sources, provides high quality text.

High School Core- US History, World History, American Gov.

McGraw-Hill, United States History

McGraw-Hill, World History

McGraw- Hill, American Government

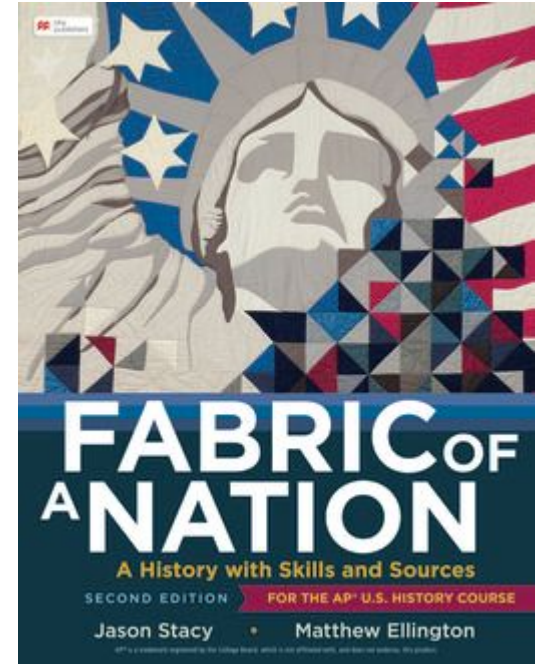


AP Courses

AP US- **Fabric of a Nation- 2nd Edition**

AP Human Geography- **Human Geography a Spatial Perspective, AP Edition-** Cengage/National Geo.

AP European History- Same Materials (Three years old)



Social Studies Electives

Psychology- McGraw-Hill Understanding Psychology

Sociology- Sociology, A Brief Introduction- McGraw-Hill

Economics- McGraw- Hill Economics

High School Justification

Core Materials

- McGraw- Hill is streamlined and the online platform has been updated
- Primary sources offer multiple perspectives within the textbook-
- This program is not tech dependent, it can be delivered with the book while the digital components are helpful.
- The active reader materials are strong and updated and will promote good conversations about historical concepts.
- The lexile level could be adjusted for some learners.
- SmartBook is a great tool for the re-teaching, rel-learning materials to assist in future assessments.
- Current event materials are updated weekly.

AP Materials

AP US- Online look is strong- First textbook that aligns with the course and exam description. Book is centered around historical thinking skills and strategies. Includes several primary resources. Organized by the AP topics.

AP Human Geo- Aligns purposely for the course exam description on Advanced Placement Courses. Has quality case studies that go with the content. More concise in its reading and aligned well with AP philosophy. Good graphics and charts.

HS Social Studies Electives

Psychology- This is an introduction course and the materials in this book are a good match. Materials are part of a familiar format and can be streamlined as necessary.

Sociology- The platform is familiar. Annotation tools are online. This is an introductory course and the book is a better match to the skills learned.

Economics- Has a clear outline of Nebraska standards in economics. Materials are concise and build upon each other. The platform is familiar with staff and students.

Parent Feedback

Parent Open House- Monday March 25th.

5:30-7:00 at the Elementary

Art Curriculum

We will not be purchasing books for our art instructional materials. The teachers have selected some equipment that would help them teach their curriculum maps more effectively, some of these items include:

Printmaking tools

Ceramic tools

Metal Tooling

Drying racks/tables/ Slab Roller/Clay wedger

Digital Cameras

Next Steps

- This will be on your agenda next month for approval.
- We will make the purchases and then map our instructional materials to our curriculum.
- We will present our curriculum maps to you in August.
- We will have some professional development during Fall workshop and implement the programs in the Fall.