

# FAD 70 Curriculum Update

May 2, 2019

## 1. April 22nd Institute Day Update

- a. Design thinking and empathy activities and solutions
- b. Topics: Innovation, Self-Direction or Differentiation
  - i. Purposeful focus on topics that can enhance engagement
  - ii. Creating positive relationships with and among students and teachers was a common theme
- c. Staff, committees and administrators will review and select solutions to implement
- d. Additional areas of focus included CPR recertification, special education legal updates, and site visits

## 2. Curriculum Update

- a. Elementary Social Emotional Learning
  - i. <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Social-Emotional-Learning-Standards.aspx>
    1. Goal 1 - Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success.
    2. Goal 2 - Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
    3. Goal 3 - Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.
  - ii. Character Counts! Committee will create a transition plan that reviews Character Counts! while focusing on new areas of focus for SEL, positive behavior, and community engagement
  - iii. K-5 SEL Committee reviewing feedback from field tests and planning next steps
    1. Second Step
    2. Caring Classroom (Collaborative Classroom)
  - iv. Next year, Highland will expand on what is done in elementary
- b. Social Science (Social Studies)
  - i. <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/K-12-SS-Standards.pdf>
    1. Inquiry skills
      - a. Developing questions and planning inquiries
      - b. Evaluating sources and using evidence
      - c. Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

2. Disciplinary concepts
  - a. Civics
  - b. Geography
  - c. Economics and financial literacy
  - d. History
- ii. K-5 Committee is reviewing feedback from field tests and planning next steps
  1. As expected, there was not consensus on recommended materials for next year, but we continue to work towards the goal of enhancing inquiry social studies activities that align with Illinois standards and skills in 2019-2020.
    - a. TCI (Updated edition of current materials)
    - b. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Social Studies (field tested)
    - c. Pearson
    - d. Create inquiry units
- iii. Highland
  1. Alignment with new Illinois Social Science Standards and Skills enhances focus on inquiry skills
  2. Current materials are five years old. Online access expires in June of 2019. Options included renew or review resources.
  3. Department researched options in 2018 and 2019, reviewed multiple programs, talked with other school districts, and field tested materials from National Geographic
  4. Requesting School Board approval of purchase of National Geographic Social Science resources
    - a. 6th grade: World History
    - b. 7th and 8th grade: US History
    - c. 6th-8th grade: Global Issues (6 copies of inquiry issues at three reading levels)
    - d. 6th-8th grade: World Culture and Geography access for teachers
  5. Overview of strengths of National Geographic resources
    - a. Art and artifacts bring history to life
    - b. Inquiry begins with the Essential Questions
    - c. Empathy and Empowerment
    - d. History is contextualized and presented with a global perspective
    - e. Rigor with Accessibility
    - f. Modified Text provides access for striving readers with the same content at two levels
    - g. Students examine human impact both locally and globally.
    - h. Putting students at the center of their own learning empowers them to approach a task, create a plan, collaborate with others, and emerge with a solution that can be articulated and shared
    - i. Assessments that Inform Teaching and Learning

iv. Highland Language Arts/Literature

1. Requesting School Board approval of purchase of Into Literature resources by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH)
  - a. Alignment with Illinois Language Arts Standards and Skills continues to be a focus
  - b. Current materials are more than ten years old
  - c. A 2017 review of options resulted in no purchase
  - d. Department researched options in 2018 and 2019, reviewed multiple programs, talked with other school districts, and field tested materials from Pearson and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
  - e. Recommend purchase of Into Literature by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Brand new program with 2020 copyright.

v. Overview of strengths of Into Literature by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

1. The HMH series is a 6-12 thematic literature and language program aligned to Illinois Learning Standards.
2. This program should enhance and strengthen student writing, mechanics, and ability to analyze author's purpose and complex text. The questions, mechanics and grammar, and writing components are scaffolded for instruction and require students to analyze and apply their knowledge to and from the text.
3. The literature book is a consumable, thus students will be able to dissect and respond to the written word by working with the text itself. This will allow our students exposure to the authors' purpose analysis of the text, and the why and how behind writers word choice.
4. The HMH series is compatible with Google Classroom, has a user-friendly landing page, and provides online assessments and connections.
5. Effective strategies for deeper reading and meaningful annotation to develop independent readers
6. Engaging, high-quality novels and literature that students love to read and teachers love to teach
7. Expanded writing instruction to help students develop and share their voice
8. Flexibility for differentiated instruction and embedded English learner support