

Dear Alumni of Litchfield Community Schools,

I am writing to you to thank you for your continued support of the school and of the Social Studies Department. Your generous donations from last year purchased a class set of thirty-five US History textbooks. These textbooks are brand new and are useful additions to the Social Studies curriculum. The information in the textbook is up to date and includes resources more aligned to current Michigan State Standards for Social Studies. Enclosed in this letter is a before and after picture of the US History textbooks your generous donations purchased last year.

To begin, I would like to explain to you a bit about what Social Studies is. What I teach has been called many different names but today, it is called Social Studies because it is a more encompassing term. This includes geography, US History, World History, Economics, and Government/Civics.

I teach both 7th and 8th grade history, geography, and culture. The 7th grade focuses on the Eastern Hemisphere. These subjects pertain to Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The 8th grade curriculum focuses on US History from the discovery of the United States through Reconstruction after the Civil War.

In addition to middle school Social Studies, I teach US History to freshmen, World History to sophomores, government/civics to juniors, and economics to juniors. Both the government/civics and economics courses are one semester each. The other courses are a full yearlong.

In US History, the content picks up where 8th grade left off. This course begins with a recap of the Civil War and Reconstruction and ends with present day. In World History, the course begins with the Dawn of Civilization and ends with modern day. This course is a survey course of history with greater emphasis on ancient Greece and Rome, the Age of Exploration, the Age of Imperialism, and globalization. In my government/civics course, topics cover the structure of American government, types of government, and foreign policy. In my economics course, topics include government involvement, the stock market, international economics, and personal choices in the economy.

Again, I would like to thank you for your generous donations to purchase new US History textbooks. This year, I am asking for your help again. The government textbook is outdated and in poor physical condition. The government textbook was published in 1996. Many things have changed in American politics and international relations since 1996. For example, the September 11 Terrorist Attacks changed the way the government handles international relations. I am looking to purchase a class set of 35 textbooks published after 2008. In order to purchase a used set of textbooks for this subject within the guidelines aforementioned, I estimate the cost to be \$1,500.

I am also asking for your donations to purchase new economics textbooks. Like the government textbooks, the economics textbooks are outdated and in poor physical conditions. The textbook was published in 1997. As you are aware, the economy has changed greatly since the 1990s. This is especially true considering the 2008 recession. I am looking to purchase a class set of 35 textbooks published after 2008. In order to purchase a used set of textbooks for this subject within the guidelines aforementioned, I estimate the cost to be \$1,500.

Enclosed in this letter are pictures of the current textbooks for your review.

Sincerely,
Arielle Smith
MS/HS Social Studies Teacher

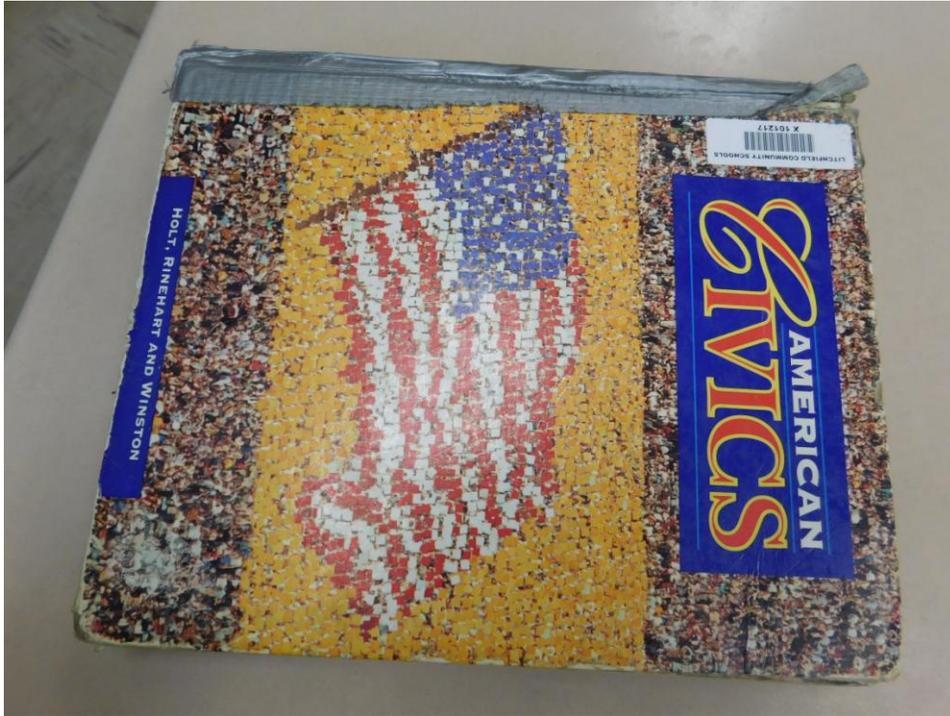
Before:



After:



Current Government Textbook:



Current Economics Textbook:



