

PYP Program of Inquiry

Revised November 30, 2009

Grade level (Age)	Who We Are An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.	Where We Are In Place & Time An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; relationships between and interconnectedness of individuals and civilization, from local to global perspectives.	How We Express Ourselves An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express our ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.	How the World Works An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.	How We Organize Ourselves An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.	Sharing the Planet An inquiry into the rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.
5 (10-11)	Central Idea The human body is an intricate system that is constantly changing. Key Concepts Causation Connection Responsibility Related Concepts Values, Initiative, Systems, Relationships, Impact, Consequences Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The human body has specialized structures to support the transport of materials. The systems of the human body work together. Making healthy or unhealthy choices affects how the human body functions. 	Central Idea The geography, weather and climate of a region affect the function and form of a community. Key Concepts Function Causation Connection Related Concepts Responsibility, Reflection Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of geography, weather and climate on communities North American Native cultures and communities Global cultures and communities 	Central Idea Humans express their ideas and use persuasion to influence others. Key Concepts Perspective Reflection Related Concepts Opinion, Truth, Influence, Interpretation, Evidence Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persuasive techniques used in writing How the media uses persuasive techniques Identifying of an issue, as well as how to take action 	Central Idea Elements and their combinations account for all the varied types of matter in the world. Key Concepts Form Change Related Concepts Identification, element, reaction, properties, structure Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> States and properties of matter Changes in matter Atoms, elements, molecules Examples of chemistry in our world 	Central Idea Political, religious, social, and/or economic struggles influence patterns of immigration. Key concepts Change Perspective Related concepts Empathy, Conflict, Prejudice, Opinion, Adaptation Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colonial America Immigration Discrimination and how it can lead to persecution 	Central Idea Water is limited and its availability can be extended by recycling and decreasing its use. Key concepts Form Responsibility Related concepts Patterns, Initiative, Citizenship, Alternatives, Rights Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of local water Water conservation Access to water throughout the world
4 (9-10)	Central Idea In an attempt to meet basic needs, communities determine human rights and responsibilities. Key Concepts Connection Responsibility Related Concepts Basic needs, Community, Rights, Responsibilities Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights and responsibilities and how are they connected Various communities we belong to Different types of rights and responsibilities and their various purposes Human needs 	Central Idea Migration can influence the cultural structure, economic structure, and/or the governing systems of a region. Key Concepts Function Causation Change Related Concepts Government, Economy, Culture Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes of migration How the migration of diverse groups of people impact a region's economy and culture How a region's political and social systems are affected by migration 	Central Idea The scientific method is a means of discovering and expressing new ideas. Key Concepts Form Function Reflection Related Concepts Scientific method, magnetism, electricity Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps involved in the scientific method and the understanding of their cyclical nature How scientists use the scientific method to prove a hypothesis and ask further questions Various ways that scientists can express the data they have obtained through the scientific method 	Central Idea Natural and unnatural processes shape and reshape the Earth's land and surface, affecting the way people live. Key Concepts Change Responsibility Connection Related Concepts Erosion, adaptation Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth's different types of land and surfaces The impact of natural and unnatural processes on Earth's landforms The affect of landforms on the way people live 	Central Idea Understanding the structures, functions, and powers of government and how it empowers individuals and groups to make decisions that impact the broader community. Key Concepts Form Perspective Responsibility Related Concepts active citizens issues persuasion Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How government addresses community and global issues. The power of the government affects the decision-making of its citizens. Structure of government dictates how citizens participate in decision-making. How to state and compose a clear position in support of a proposal. 	Central Idea People depend on, adapt to, and/or modify their physical environment in order to meet their needs. Key Concepts Change Connection Related Concepts environment regions Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical environment in which a people live determines the resources available to them. How and why people adapt to their physical environment How and why people modify their environment
3 (8-9)	Central Idea We can learn from the values, attitudes, and actions of individuals who influenced society in a positive way. Key Concepts Causation Change Perspective Related Concepts Community, Influence, Persuasion, Freedom Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How and why individuals shape our society The kinds of values and attitudes good role models have What we can learn from role models 	Central Idea People develop national identities through religious beliefs, customs, and various traditions. Key Concepts Form Causation Connection Perspective Related Concepts Similarities and Differences, Culture, Interdependence Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of geography on the Native American Cultures Early Native Americans in California How Native Americans used trade Beliefs, customs, or stories of early Native Americans 	Central Idea Reflecting upon and expressing our emotions leads to self awareness and empathy for others. Key Concepts Perspective Reflection Form Related Concepts Subjectivity, Responsibility, Behavior Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding our feelings/emotions and the feelings/emotions of others. Communicating our feelings/emotions to others. 	Central Idea Energy takes many forms and is stored and used in many ways. Key Concepts Form Function Related Concepts Properties, Structure, system Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms of energy Human's use of stored energy How energy travels Affects of energy on our lives 	Central Idea Local and global communities are interconnected through trade. Key Concepts Form Causation Change Related Concepts Systems, Communication, Structures, impact Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact the global economy has on the local economy The impact local economy has on the global economy How supply and demand affect trade 	Central Idea The choices people make have an impact on our world. Key Concepts Causation Change Responsibility Related Concepts Consequences, patterns, cycles, growth Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes of pollution Our responsibility in the causing, reducing, or preventing pollution How we can affect change
2 (7-8)	Central Idea Making sensible choices about how we care for our bodies and minds helps us to thrive. Key concepts Connection Responsibility Reflection Related concepts	Central Idea Your family's history influences who you are today. Key concepts Form Connection Reflection Related concepts Properties, structure, similarities,	Central Idea Authors use common themes to express feelings and cultural beliefs. Key concepts Form Connection Related concepts Structure, similarities,	Central Idea All living things change within their life cycle. Key concepts Form Causation Change Related concepts Properties, structure, similarities,	Central Idea Humans establish laws and develop systems to enforce and maintain social order. Key concepts Causation Responsibility Related concepts Consequences, impact, Rights,	Central Idea Natural resources provide humans with the necessary materials to survive. Key concepts Form Function Reflection Related concepts

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	Relationships, interdependence Values, initiative, Review, interpretation, behavior Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eating right and how it affects your body Affects of exercise on body Affects on self-esteem when making healthy options (food, exercise, emotions) 	differences, Review, interpretation, evidence, behavior Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different types of families How we are similar/different from our ancestors How family values and experiences contribute to personal choices 	differences, patterns, Systems, relationships Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plots, settings, and characters presented by different authors Different versions of the same stories that reflect different cultures Analyzing common themes and common structural features of several traditional tales 	differences, Sequences, pattern Adaptation, growth, cycles, transformation Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major phases of life cycles of different animals including butterflies and humans Compare and contrast different life cycles to themselves and others 	citizenship, justice Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why we have laws; Consequences when laws are broken; How we monitor if laws are being followed 	Properties, structure, Role, systems, Review, interpretation, evidence, behavior Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitions of a natural resource Using natural resources Natural resources being used on our school campus 	
1 (6-7)	Central Idea Communities are enriched by the traditions, symbols, and heroes of its people. Key concepts Causation Connection Reflection Related concepts Presidents, American leaders, leadership, patriotism, celebrations, and honor. Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressing American ideals through patriotic songs and the pledge Understand American holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them. Identify American symbols, landmarks, and documents (the flag, bald eagle, Statue of Liberty, U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence). 	Central Idea The way people live around the world has changed over time. Key concepts Form Connection Change Causation Related concepts Timelines, colonies, and transportation. Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast everyday life. Examine structures of schools and communities in the past. Study transportation methods of earlier days. Recognize similarities and differences of earlier generations 	Central Idea Artists make choices to communicate different emotions. Key concepts Form Function Connection Perspective Related concepts Self expression, art appreciation, feelings, and technique. Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding human emotions Art appreciation Elements of art 	Central Idea Weather patterns affect our daily lives. Key concepts Form Function Change Causation Responsibility Related concepts Clothing, cycles, patterns, and predictions. Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using Scientific tools to collect data about weather How weather changes Why there are weather patterns and how they are different around the world 	Central Idea Rules, games, and activities that promote fairness work best when everyone cooperates. Key concepts Form Causation Responsibility Related concepts Rules, laws, sportsmanship, and citizenship. Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairness Reaching agreements Purpose of rules and routines Expressing good citizenship 	Central Idea Plants and animals depend on each other for survival. Key concepts Form Causation Responsibility Related concepts Animal classification, plant parts, and adaptation. Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant and animal needs Habitats Conservation 	
K (5-6)	Central Idea Who I am and what I do affects everyone around me. Key concepts Form Causation Change Connection Related concepts similarities and differences, consequences and impact, growth and transformation, relationships and interdependence Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How I express my feelings. How I express myself. My likes and dislikes. What I do and how it affects others. 	Central Idea We can learn about our neighborhood and where it is in the world. Key concepts Form Function Connection Perspective Related concepts properties and structure, role and systems, relationships, beliefs and opinion Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape in a region Settlement of people to a region Lifestyles in different places Contributing to your neighborhood 	Central Idea People celebrate for different reasons. Key concepts Form Perspective Related concepts Pattern, beliefs Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different celebrations from around the world. The reasons people celebrate. How people celebrate. When people celebrate. 	Central Idea Wood has many uses and is a finite resource. Key concepts Form Connection Responsibility Related concepts properties, similarities, and differences, interdependence initiative and values, evidence and responsibility Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The properties of different types of wood and their uses. Interdependence between humans and wood products Understanding the process of how paper is derived from wood. How recycling paper products extends the use of trees and other resources. 	Central Idea Community workers play a role in different communities. Key concepts Form Function Causation Connection Related concepts structure and pattern role and systems, impact networks and interdependence Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The people who work in our school and community. The goods and services that all people depend on. The different jobs in our community and around the world. 	Central Idea All living things, no matter how small, affect human beings and the earth. Key concepts Causation Connection Responsibility Reflection Related concepts consequences and sequences relationships and interdependence, values and initiative, interpretation, responsibility, and behavior Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How bugs help the earth reduce waste. How bugs impact living plants. The role humans have in supporting living things. 	
PreK (3-4)	Central Idea Problem solving initiates change. Key concepts Causation Change Perspective Related concepts Problem-solving, Communication, Initiative Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying problems and solutions How change comes about How folktales convey meaning and solutions 	Central Idea Families have stories that connect them to the world. Key concepts Connection Perspective Responsibility Related concepts Self expression, Communication Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families as the core of society Families help form who we are Being a member of a family affects our lives and is the beginning of our life story 	Central Idea We use self-expression in a variety of ways in order to communicate our ideas and feelings. Key concepts Function Connection Reflection Related concepts Self-Expression, Communication Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self expression through drawing and painting Communicating feelings and ideas with words Expression through music and dance 				Central Idea Living things exist in environments all around us. Key concepts Form Function Connection Related concepts Organisms, Environment Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploration of living things Classification of living things Observing different environments