



# McGraw Elementary Program of Inquiry 2024-2025



	Who we are	Where we are in place and time	How we express ourselves	How the world works	How we organize ourselves	Sharing the planet
	<p><i>An inquiry into identity as individuals and as part of a collective through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being;</li> <li>◆ relationships and belonging;</li> <li>◆ learning and growing</li> </ul>	<p><i>An inquiry into histories and orientation in place, space and time through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ periods, events and artifacts;</li> <li>◆ communities, heritage, culture and environment;</li> <li>◆ natural and human drivers of movement, adaptation and transformation</li> </ul>	<p><i>An inquiry into the diversity of voice, perspectives, and expression through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ inspiration, imagination, creativity;</li> <li>◆ personal, social, and cultural modes and practices of communication;</li> <li>◆ intentions, perceptions, interpretations, and responses</li> </ul>	<p><i>An inquiry into the understandings of the world and phenomena through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ patterns, cycles, systems;</li> <li>◆ diverse practices, methods, and tools;</li> <li>◆ discovery, design, innovation: possibilities and impacts</li> </ul>	<p><i>An inquiry into systems, structures, and networks through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ interactions with and between social and ecological systems;</li> <li>◆ approaches to livelihoods and trade practice - intended and unintended consequences;</li> <li>◆ representation, collaboration, and decision-making</li> </ul>	<p><i>An inquiry into the interdependence of human and natural worlds through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ rights, responsibilities, and dignity of all;</li> <li>◆ pathways to just, peaceful, and reimagined futures;</li> <li>◆ nature, complexity, coexistence, and wisdom</li> </ul>
K	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Exploring similarities and differences helps us understand ourselves and others.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Similarities and differences</li> <li>◆ Introducing the Learner Profile</li> <li>◆ Citizenship</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, connection, perspective</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> PE, Music</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Patterns in weather and climate help us learn about place and time.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Observing weather patterns</li> <li>◆ How weather patterns help us learn about time</li> <li>◆ How climate patterns help us learn about place</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, causation, connection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Imagination helps us express ourselves.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Imagination and creativity</li> <li>◆ How we express our thoughts and feelings through imagination</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> connection, perspective</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art, Music, Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Cause and effect can be discovered and applied through exploration.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The effect different forces can have</li> <li>◆ Designing solutions for a problem</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> causation, function, change</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> PE, Music</p>		<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Living things depend on each other and the Earth.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How living things meet their needs to survive</li> <li>◆ How living things change the environment to meet their needs</li> <li>◆ Solutions to reduce human impact on our environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> connection, responsibility</p>
1st	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Individuals' actions can make a difference.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Actions that make a difference</li> <li>◆ People all over the world who are inspirational</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, perspective</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art, PE, Music, Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> The patterns within our solar system determine our natural world.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The motions of the solar system</li> <li>◆ Patterns caused by Earth's movement</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, causation</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Events, celebrations and places reflect the identity of a community.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ What and why people celebrate</li> <li>◆ Elements of celebrations</li> <li>◆ Similarities and differences of celebrations</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> perspective, connection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art, Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Patterns of motion can be a system of communication.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Vibration and sound</li> <li>◆ Waves and light</li> <li>◆ How sound and light are used for communication</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> function and causation</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Music</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Communities depend on the people who live in them.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How people work together in a community</li> <li>◆ How people meet their needs and wants in a community</li> <li>◆ How tools are used by people to provide goods and services</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> causation, responsibility</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Plants and animals adapt to their environment in order to coexist.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Genetic attributes through life cycles</li> <li>◆ Plant and animal adaptations to variable conditions.</li> <li>◆ Relationships between living things in an environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, function</p>



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2nd	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> People can learn skills to develop their well-being.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Developing and acquiring skills that impact our well-being</li> <li>◆ Creating a balanced life</li> <li>◆ Safety awareness</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> responsibility, connection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art, PE, Music</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> People and events change a community or an area over time.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Tools historians use to understand and study the past</li> <li>◆ The influence people in the past had on an area</li> <li>◆ Events that lead to change in a community</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> causation, change</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art, Music</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> By communicating our perspectives and opinions we can participate in a problem-solving process.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Communicating and acknowledging a variety of different perspectives and opinions</li> <li>◆ Being aware of my own and other people's emotions</li> <li>◆ Utilizing strategies to solve problems</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> perspective</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> PE, Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Exploring the properties of different materials helps us decide how to/or not to use them.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How materials are chosen based on their properties</li> <li>◆ Solids, liquids, gasses</li> <li>◆ (student-created line/s of inquiry)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, causation</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Organization of communities is influenced by geography, climate and natural events.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The effect of geography on the organization of communities.</li> <li>◆ How natural events change environments</li> <li>◆ How communities use their environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, causation</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Diverse plants and animals interact and depend on each other in different habitats</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Diversity of living things in a habitat</li> <li>◆ How plants and animals rely and depend on each other</li> <li>◆ (student-created line of inquiry)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, connection, causation</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Spanish</p>
3rd	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Diversity impacts our relationships within the human and natural world.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Different forms of diversity (cultural, perspectives, learning styles)</li> <li>◆ Diversity in the natural world</li> <li>◆ My unique identity as a member of a community</li> <li>◆ Diversity and its impact on access to resources</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, causation</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> PE</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Culture and geography define what makes a region unique.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Characteristics of a region</li> <li>◆ Similarities and differences between cultural and geographic regions</li> <li>◆ Opportunities and challenges of living in different regions</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, connection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Storytelling provides opportunities to learn about the beliefs, values, culture and perspectives of others.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How storytelling has evolved over time.</li> <li>◆ How storytelling conveys and develops our own/others' ideas, beliefs and values</li> <li>◆ The connection between the lessons we learn in stories and our everyday lives</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> connection, perspective</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art, Music, Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Scientific discoveries about the natural world lead to improved technologies.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Types and patterns of forces and motions</li> <li>◆ The relationship between force and motion</li> <li>◆ Simple machines in our daily lives</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, causation, function</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Awareness of changing conditions helps people prepare and make decisions for their community.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Changing weather and climate patterns</li> <li>◆ Causes of climate change</li> <li>◆ The response of individuals, local government and businesses to our changing environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, causation, responsibility</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Natural and human influences affect organisms over time.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How organisms and their habitats have changed over time</li> <li>◆ Consequences of human actions on the life cycles of other organisms</li> <li>◆ (student-created line/s of inquiry)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, causation, connection</p>



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4th	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Understanding yourself is foundational for personal development.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Understanding who you are as an individual</li> <li>◆ How goal setting can drive accomplishments</li> <li>◆ The connections between positive and negative incentives and growth</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> form, connection, reflection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art, PE, Music, Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> People move in response to their natural environment to seek opportunities.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The connection between physical environments and migration</li> <li>◆ Ways in which nature provides resources for survival</li> <li>◆ How exploration leads to change</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, form, connection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Creativity drives our expression.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ways in which people draw inspiration</li> <li>◆ How poetry is different than prose</li> <li>◆ (student-created line/s of inquiry)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> causation, form, connection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Living things adapt to survive the interactions and changes between earth's systems.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How living things interact with and adapt to Earth's spheres</li> <li>◆ Patterns and features of the four major Earth spheres</li> <li>◆ Human and natural effects on Earth's spheres</li> <li>◆ Preparing for and reducing the impacts of Earth's natural processes</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> causation, change, form</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Different perspectives over the value and use of resources leads to conflicts and unintended consequences.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Different perspectives over the value of resources</li> <li>◆ Changing demand for resources over time</li> <li>◆ Impact of human activity on the availability of resources</li> <li>◆ Competition and conflict over resources</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> function, connection, perspective, responsibility</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> In a defined state, people work together to solve problems and make decisions.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Defining the characteristics of a state.</li> <li>◆ Functions and connections between governing bodies</li> <li>◆ Individual and group decision-making</li> <li>◆ Analyzing inequalities to take action in a community</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, connection, perspective</p>
5th	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Our health and wellness depends on informed decisions and a balanced lifestyle.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The impact of our choices on ourselves and others</li> <li>◆ Prevention and risk management</li> <li>◆ Social and emotional wellness</li> <li>◆ Physical and personal wellness</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> causation, function, connection</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> PE</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> People of different cultures and backgrounds may struggle for rights and freedom.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Human rights in different places and times</li> <li>◆ How people respond to threats against human rights</li> <li>◆ Treatment of migrants and refugees</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> change, causation, perspective, responsibility</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Individuals are shaped by and can shape society.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How people use their platforms to affect change.</li> <li>◆ A variety of ways to express ideas and beliefs</li> <li>◆ Influential positions that come with risks and rewards</li> <li>◆ How communicating our ideas affects people's lives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> perspective, causation, change, responsibility</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Art</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> The interaction of Earth's systems affects access to resources.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Earth's spheres</li> <li>◆ Protection of Earth's resources</li> <li>◆ Value of water as a natural resource</li> <li>◆ Design and use models</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> connection, form, function, responsibility</p> <p><b>Specialist Support:</b> Spanish</p>	<p><b>5TH GRADE EXHIBITION</b></p> <p><b>Central Idea:</b> TBD with students (<i>ex - Sustainable practices can improve our lives and the world.</i>)</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Sustainable practices</li> <li>◆ Choose, act, reflect</li> <li>◆ Civic responsibility and philanthropy</li> <li>◆ Impact of economic decision-making on societies, the environment, and individuals</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> all</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Every living thing has an impact on its environment.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Interdependent relationships in ecosystems</li> <li>◆ Sustainability of ecosystems</li> <li>◆ How changes in biodiversity affect the entire ecosystem</li> <li>◆ How human interaction with the environment affects the balance of ecosystems</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> causation, connection, responsibility</p>