



McGraw Elementary Program of Inquiry 2026-2027



	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
	<i>An inquiry into identity as individuals and as part of a collective through:</i> ♦ physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being; ♦ relationships and belonging; ♦ learning and growing	<i>An inquiry into histories and orientation in place, space and time through:</i> ♦ periods, events and artifacts; ♦ communities, heritage, culture and environment; ♦ natural and human drivers of movement, adaptation and transformation	<i>An inquiry into the diversity of voice, perspectives, and expression through:</i> ♦ inspiration, imagination, creativity; ♦ personal, social, and cultural modes and practices of communication; ♦ intentions, perceptions, interpretations, and responses	<i>An inquiry into the understandings of the world and phenomena through:</i> ♦ patterns, cycles, systems; ♦ diverse practices, methods, and tools; ♦ discovery, design, innovation: possibilities and impacts	<i>An inquiry into systems, structures, and networks through:</i> ♦ interactions with and between social and ecological systems; ♦ approaches to livelihoods and trade practice - intended and unintended consequences; ♦ representation, collaboration and decision-making	<i>An inquiry into the interdependence of human and natural worlds through:</i> ♦ rights, responsibilities, and dignity of all; ♦ pathways to just, peaceful, and reimagined futures; ♦ nature, complexity, coexistence, and wisdom
KINDERGARTEN	Central Idea: Exploring similarities and differences helps us understand ourselves and others. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Similarities and differences ♦ The IB Learner Profile ♦ Citizenship Key Concepts: form, connection, perspective Related Concepts: identity, similarities and differences Specialist Support: PE, Music, Art	Central Idea: Patterns in weather and climate help us learn about place and time. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Observing weather patterns ♦ How weather patterns help us learn about time ♦ How climate patterns help us learn about place Key Concepts: change, causation, connection Related Concepts: patterns, adaptations Specialist Support: Spanish	Central Idea: Imagination helps us express ourselves. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Imagination and creativity ♦ How we express our thoughts and feelings through imagination Key Concepts: connection, perspective Related Concepts: imagination, creativity Specialist Support: Art, Music, Spanish	Central Idea: Cause and effect can be discovered and applied through exploration. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ The effect push and pull can have on an object ♦ Understanding and applying a design process Key Concepts: causation, function, change Related Concepts: cause and effect, processes, force Specialist Support: PE, Music, Art		Central Idea: Living things use the Earth to meet their needs. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How living things meet their needs to survive ♦ How living things change the environment to meet their needs ♦ Actions to reduce human impact on our environment Key Concepts: change, connection, responsibility Related Concepts: interdependence Specialist Support: Spanish



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1 S T G R A D E	Central Idea: Individuals' actions can make a difference. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Actions that make a difference ♦ People all over the world who are inspirational Key Concepts: change, perspective Related Concepts: action, inspiration, progress Specialist Support: Art, PE, Music, Spanish	Central Idea: The patterns within our solar system determine our natural world. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ The motions of the solar system ♦ Patterns caused by Earth's movement Key Concepts: form, causation Related Concepts: systems, patterns, motion	Central Idea: Events, celebrations and places reflect the identity of a community. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ What our community celebrates ♦ How celebrations are alike and different ♦ How communities create symbols Key Concepts: perspective, connection Related Concepts: celebrations, community, culture, beliefs, values, Specialist Support: Art, Spanish	Central Idea: Patterns of motion can be a system of communication. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Vibration and sound ♦ Waves and light ♦ How sound and light are used for communication Key Concepts: function, causation Related Concepts: communication, sound, light Specialist Support: Music	Central Idea: Communities depend on the people who live in them. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How people work together in a community ♦ How people meet their needs and wants in a community ♦ How tools are used by people to provide goods and services Key Concepts: causation, responsibility Related Concepts: communities, service	Central Idea: Plants and animals adapt to their environment in order to coexist. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Genetic attributes through life cycles ♦ Plant and animal adaptations to variable conditions ♦ Relationships between living things in an environment Key Concepts: form, function Related Concepts: characteristics, environment, interdependence Specialist Support: Spanish



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2 N D G R A D E	Central Idea: Personal reflection leads to growth. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Developing and acquiring skills that impact our well-being ♦ Creating a balanced life ♦ Reflection and decision making Key Concepts: connection, reflection Related Concepts: well-being, balance, identity Specialist Support: Art, PE, Music	Central Idea: Events cause change to our world over time. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How people study and understand the past ♦ The influence people in the past had on an area ♦ Events that led to change in a community Key Concepts: change Related Concepts: growth, geology, discovery Specialist Support: Art	Central Idea: By communicating our points of view, we can actively participate in a community. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Communicating and acknowledging a variety of perspectives ♦ Being aware of my own and other people's emotions ♦ Utilizing strategies to solve problems Key Concepts: perspective, connection Related Concepts: opinions, teamwork, problem-solving, Specialist Support: PE, Spanish, Music	Central Idea: Human action can change the natural world Lines of Inquiry: ♦ The positive and negative impacts of human action on the environment ♦ Relationships between plants, animals and habitats Key Concepts: function Related Concepts: roles, behavior, organization Specialist Support: Spanish	Central Idea: Environment impacts community organization. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How the environment impacts communities ♦ How communities are organized based on natural resources Key Concepts: causation, form Related Concepts: natural events, geography, organization	Central Idea: All living things depend on each other. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Diversity of living things in a habitat ♦ Resources living things need Key Concepts: form, connection, causation Related Concepts: diversity, habitats, interdependence Specialist Support: Spanish



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3 R D G R A D E	Central Idea: Human and geographic diversity shapes communities. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Diversity in the human world ♦ Geographic diversity ♦ My unique identity as a member of a community ♦ Diversity and its impact on access to educational resources Key Concepts: change, causation Related Concepts: identity, diversity, relationships, community Specialist Support: PE, Music, Spanish, Art	Central Idea: Culture and geography define what makes a region unique. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Characteristics of a region ♦ Similarities and differences between cultural and geographic regions ♦ Opportunities and challenges of living in different regions Key Concepts: form, connection Related Concepts: regions, resources, sustainability, orientation, persuasion, attributes/features Specialist Support: Spanish	Central Idea: Storytelling provides opportunities to learn about the beliefs, values, culture and perspectives of others. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How storytelling has evolved over time. ♦ How storytelling conveys and develops our own/others' ideas, beliefs and values ♦ The connection between the lessons we learn in stories and our everyday lives Key Concepts: connection, perspective Related Concepts: storytelling, creativity, structure Specialist Support: Art, Spanish	Central Idea: Scientific discoveries about the natural world lead to improved technologies. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Types and patterns of forces and motions ♦ The relationship between force and motion ♦ Simple machines in our daily lives Key Concepts: form, causation, function Related Concepts: discovery, energy, forces and motion Specialist Support: Music, PE	Central Idea: Awareness of changing conditions helps people prepare and make decisions for their community. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Changing weather and climate patterns ♦ Causes of climate change ♦ The response of individuals, local government and businesses to our changing environment Key Concepts: change, causation, responsibility Related Concepts: patterns, impact, systems, interdependence	Central Idea: Natural and human influences affect organisms over time. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How organisms and their habitats have changed over time ♦ Consequences of human actions on the life cycles of other organisms ♦ How where animals live impacts their physical and behavioral adaptations Key Concepts: change, causation, connection Related Concepts: human impact, adaptations, cycles, habitats



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4TH GRADE	Central Idea: Understanding yourself is foundational for personal development. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Understanding who you are as an individual ♦ How goal setting can drive accomplishments ♦ The connections between positive and negative incentives and growth Key Concepts: form, connection, reflection Related Concepts: individualism, positive and negative incentives, goal-setting Specialist Support: Art, Music, PE, Spanish	Central Idea: People move in response to their natural environment to seek opportunities. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ The connection between physical environments and migration ♦ Ways in which nature provides resources for survival ♦ How exploration leads to change Key Concepts: change, form, connection Related Concepts: human migration, survival, exploration Specialist Support: Art, Spanish	Central Idea: Creativity drives our expression. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Ways in which people draw inspiration ♦ How poetry is different than prose ♦ (student-created line/s of inquiry) Key Concepts: causation, form, connection Related Concepts: creativity, inspiration, poetry Specialist Support: Art, Music	Central Idea: Living things adapt to survive the interactions and changes between Earth's systems. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How living things interact with and adapt to Earth's spheres ♦ Patterns and features of the four major Earth spheres ♦ Human and natural effects on Earth's spheres ♦ Preparing for and reducing the impacts of Earth's natural processes Key Concepts: causation, change, form Related Concepts: Earth Systems, patterns, human impact, interactions	Central Idea: Different perspectives over the value and use of resources lead to conflicts and unintended consequences. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Different perspectives over the value of resources ♦ Changing demand for resources over time ♦ Impact of human activity on the availability of resources ♦ Competition and conflict over resources Key Concepts: function, connection, perspective, responsibility Related Concepts: resources, competition and conflict, consequences Specialist Support: Spanish, Music	Central Idea: In a defined state, people make decisions and work together to solve problems. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Attributes of a state ♦ Functions and connections between governing bodies ♦ Individual and group decision-making ♦ Analyzing inequalities to take action in a community Key Concepts: change, connection, perspective Related Concepts: decision-making, problem-solving, inequalities, governing bodies



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5TH GRADE	Central Idea: Our health and wellness depend on informed decisions and a balanced lifestyle. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ The impact of our choices on ourselves and others ♦ Prevention and risk management ♦ Social and emotional wellness ♦ Physical and personal wellness Key Concepts: function, change, responsibility Related Concepts: Lifestyle choices, human growth and development Specialist Support: PE, Art	Central Idea: People of different cultures and backgrounds may struggle for rights and freedom. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Human rights in different places and times ♦ How people respond to threats against human rights ♦ Treatment of migrants and refugees Key Concepts: form, perspective, connection Related Concepts: equality, immigration Specialist Support: Spanish, Music	Central Idea: Individuals are shaped by and can shape society. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ How people use their platforms to effect change. ♦ Ways to express ideas and beliefs ♦ Influential positions that come with risks and rewards ♦ How communicating our ideas affects people's lives Key Concepts: perspective, change, responsibility Related Concepts: advocacy, equity, opportunity Specialist Support: Art, Music	Central Idea: The interaction of Earth's systems affects access to resources. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Earth's spheres ♦ Protection of Earth's resources ♦ Value of water as a natural resource ♦ Design and use of models Key Concepts: connection, form, function Related Concepts: interconnectedness, cycles Specialist Support: Spanish	5TH GRADE EXHIBITION Central Idea: (TBD with students) Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Choose, act, reflect ♦ Civic responsibility and philanthropy ♦ Impact of economic decision-making on societies, the environment, and individuals Key Concepts: all Related Concepts: stewardship, activism	Central Idea: Every living thing has an impact on its environment. Lines of Inquiry: ♦ Interdependent relationships in ecosystems ♦ Sustainability of ecosystems ♦ How changes in biodiversity affect the entire ecosystem ♦ How human interaction with the environment affects the balance of ecosystems Key Concepts: causation, connection, responsibility Related Concepts: biodiversity, sustainability Specialist Support: Spanish