Notre Dame Preparatory School
A Catholic and Marist Community

Programme of Inquiry

Last updated August 21, 2024

Pre-K (3-year-olds)

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	An inquiry into the nature of the self		An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas.	An inquiry into the natural world and its laws	An inquiry into the structure and function of societies	
Central Idea	Play is used to express our feelings and ideas to come to new understandings		Stories and nursery rhymes are created to express the human experience	Physical features determine means of survival	The structure and function of the classroom provides opportunity for unity and safety	
Lines of Inquiry	Roles and responsibilities are discovered during play (Responsibility) Play develops relationship and creates a sense of identity (Perspective) Play helps express emotion and problem solve (Connection)		People choose different forms of media to express their creativity (form) Hearing stories provides an appreciation of similarities and differences between all humans' experience. (connection) Storytellers play a role in the development of cultural traditions (Function)	Animal characteristics help them to live in their environment (Responsibility) Animals can be classified by characteristics (Form) Changes in the environment can impact animal populations (Change)	What it means to be safe (Causation) Procedures that keep us safe (Function) Adults within the school that are responsible for our safety (Connection)	
Key Concepts	Responsibilities Perspective Connection		Form Connection Function	Responsibility Form Change	Causation Function Connection	
Related Concepts	Relationships, communication consequences teamwork		Similarities Differences Values	Information Properties Comparison Consequences	Behavior Roles Growth	
Learner Profile	Reflective Caring Open-Minded		Communicator Risk-Taker	Inquirer Thinker Knowledgeable	Principled Balanced	
Phase	Phase 2 & 3		Phase 4	Phase 5 & 6 **RESEARCH UNIT**	Phase 1	

Notre Dame Preparatory School
A Catholic and Marist Community

Programme of Inquiry

Last updated September 6, 2024

Pre-K (4-year-olds)

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	An inquiry into rights and responsibility		An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values	An inquiry into the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies		An inquiry into communities and the relationship within and between them
Central Idea	Understanding safety, responsibility and routines helps us take care of ourselves and others		Through play and exploration, we can express our ideas, identity and feelings	The Earth's natural cycles influence the activity of living things		Animals exist in habitats all around us
Lines of Inquiry	The importance of safety in our daily lives (Function) Our responsibility to ourselves and others (Responsibility) Routines help us stay safe and organized (Causation)		Exploring individual identity (Form) Understanding our relationships (Perspective) The ways we learn about ourselves through play and exploration (Function)	Impacts of Earth's natural cycles (causation) Patterns of behavior in living things related to Earths seasons (connection) Actions people take in response to Earth's natural cycles (Change)		Kinds of animals around us (Form) Animals adapt to the habitats they live in (Function) Reasons why animals live where they live (Connection)
Key Concepts	Function Responsibility Causation		Form Perspective Function	Connection Causation Change		Form Function Connection
Related Concepts	Safety, rights, responsibility, rules, roles		Similarities, differences, communication, expression, identity, choices	Cycles, sequence, order, connection		Living vs. non-living, needs, classification, habitat
Learner Profile	Principled Risk-Taker Balanced		Open-Minded Caring Communicator	Reflective Thinker		Inquirer Knowledgeable
Phase	Phase 1		Phase 2 & 3	Phase 6		Phase 4 & 5 **RESEARCH UNIT**

Notre Dame Preparatory School
A Catholic and Marist Community

Programme of Inquiry

Last updated August 21, 2024

Kindergarten

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	An inquiry into what it means to be human		An inquiry into how we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values	An inquiry into the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies	An inquiry into the structure and function of organizations	
Central Idea	Growth is essential to being human.		Ideas and feelings can be expressed by the written word.	Scientific principles are used to explore and understand the world around us.	Participation impacts the success of any group.	
Lines of Inquiry	Where traditions and celebrations come from (Causation) Impacts of traditions and celebrations (Connection) Traditions and celebrations around the world (Perspective)		Stories come in many forms (Form) Elements of a story (Connection) Stories help us to imagine and remember places and events (Function)	Living and Nonliving things make up our world (Form) Living Things have basic needs (Function) Non-living things can impact our world (Change)	Characteristics of effective groups (Form) Rules create ownership within a group (Function) Problem solving within a group leads to collaboration and unity (Responsibility)	
Key Concepts	Causation Connection Perspective		Form Connection Function	Form Change Function	Form Function Responsibility	
Related Concepts	Growth Identity		Culture Values, Beliefs	Growth Behavior Impact	Structure, Systems, Interdependence, Citizenship	
Learner Profile	Open Minded Inquirer Knowledgeable		Communicator Thinker	Balanced Reflective	Risk Taker Principled Caring	
Phase	Phase 3		Phase 4	Phase 5 & 6(RESEARCH)	Phase 1 & 2	

Last updated August 29, 2024

1st Grade

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	An inquiry into what it means to be human.	The relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, form local and global perspectives	An inquiry into the ways we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values	An inquiry into the interactions between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies	An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities	An inquiry into the rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other living things
Central Idea	Our characteristics and experiences make us unique	Environmental cycles mark the changes of time	A person's location can affect their affect their culture	The human body reacts to the world around it	Rules and consequences impact a learning environment	Humans understanding of plants and animals impacts their survival
Lines of Inquiry	Understanding things that make each person unique (Form) Similarities and differences impact our sense of self (Perspective) we have commonalities (Connection)	Things change as time progresses (Change) The sky patterns represent the passing of time (Connection) Cycle differs from progress (Function)	Geography impacts culture in many ways (Causation) A community's values and beliefs have a connection to individual families (Connection) Reasons for celebrations and traditions (Perspective)	Light and sound serve as messengers to the brain (Function) Stimuli elicit a reaction in humans (Causation) Impacts of reacting to outside Stimuli (Responsibility)	Classrooms are mini communities (Function) Rules create order (Causation) Organization skills transfer to our lives outside the classroom (Responsibility)	Role of key parts of plants and animals (Function) The life cycle of plants and animals (Change) Ways to support the health of wildlife (Responsibility
Key Concepts	Form Perspective Connection	Change Connection Function	Causation Connection Perspective	Function Causation Responsibility	Function Causation Responsibility	Function Change Responsibility
Related Concepts	Environment Relationships Development	Cycle Progress Change	Prediction Lifestyle Culture Geography	Interaction Choice Purpose	Structure Behavior Role Systems	Survival Transformation Interdependence
Learner Profile	Balanced Risk-Taker Open-minded Caring	Knowledgeable Reflective Thinker	Communicator Open-minded Risk-taker	Caring Communicator Thinker	Inquirer Communicator Principled	Inquirer Principled Knowledgeable
Phase	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 5	Phase 4	Phase 1	Phase 6 **RESEARCH UNIT**

2nd Grade

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	An inquiry into human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures	An inquiry into orientation in place and time	An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values	An inquiry into how humans use their understanding of scientific principles	An inquiry into the structure and function of organizations	An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other living things
Central Idea	The larger community meets basic human needs	People are affected by choices attitudes, and history	Human inspiration can produce an environment of creativity and collaboration	Properties and attributes of matter affect how materials are used	The Earth's surface is shaped by human interaction and natural features	Living things interact and adapt within their habitats
Lines of Inquiry	Reasons people live in a community (Causation) Common characteristics of a community (Form) Communities work in different ways (Function)	Choices influence our lives (Causation) Attitudes influence our choices (Perspective) A community changes and responds to its members over time (Change)	Combining learned skills with creative thoughts can impact the world both locally and on a global scale (Connection) Civic responsibilities of citizens within a community (Responsibility) Problem solving issues through collaboration (Change)	The properties and characteristics of matter (Form) Energy changes matter (Change) Interrelationship of matter and human societies (Connection)	The impacts of human interaction on the environment and community (Responsibility) Maps show the spatial organization of communities (Perspective) The Earth is made from landforms and bodies of water (Form)	Characteristics of living things determines the community in thrives in (Causation) Diversity enhances a community (Connection) Economic factors influence communities (Function)
Key Concepts	Causation Form Function	Causation Perspective Change	Connection Responsibility Change	Form Change Connection	Responsibility Perspective Form	Causation Connection Function
Related Concepts	Relationships Structure Initiative	Behavior Consequences Impact growth	Properties Pattern Beliefs	Properties Impact Geology Interaction	Systems Consequences Interpretation	Behavior, System, consequences, impact, adaptation, growth, cycles, and interdepedence
Learner Profile	Inquirer Open-minded Principled Reflective	Balanced Reflective Risk Taker	Communicator Reflective Knowledgeable	Knowledgeable Reflective Thinker	Communicator Balanced Principled	Caring Inquirer Reflective
Phase	Phase 1	Phase 3	Phase 6	Phase 4	Phase 2 **RESEARCH UNIT**	Phase 5

3rd Grade

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	An inquiry into what it means to be human	An inquiry into the relationships and the interconnectedness of individuals from local perspectives	An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, values; the ways in which we reflect on our creativity	An inquiry into the human use their understanding of scientific principles	Societal decision making and their impacts on humankind and the environment.	An inquiry into communities and the relationships within and between them
Central Idea	Human life is interconnected with the cycles and systems of nature, influencing our growth, survival, and understanding of the world.	Exploring and understanding how the past can lead us to new understanding and impact the advancement in our lives	Writing and other creative outlets are essential for expressing personal growth and fulfillment	Science and technology help us understand how the natural and human world operates leading to innovations that improve our lives	Government structures and decision-making processes impact communities and their ability to meet shared needs.	Environmental factors influence how populations live and adapt.
Lines of Inquiry	The stages of human life and their connection to natural life cycles. (Function) The role of ecosystems in supporting human life and well-being. (Connection) Human impact on ecosystems and life cycles. (Responsibility)	The transformation of Michigan through technology and industrial advancements (Causation) Creating and understanding fictional stories can allow us to explore historical events and future possibilities (Perspective) History has shaped simple machines to be used in different ways in everyday life (Function)	Humans have a unique voice and story to tell (Perspective) Good writers are able to express themselves through words (Function) Self-expression is the act of giving form to thoughts, ideas, experiences, and emotions (Form)	Letter writing can help us effectively communicate advances in technology (Connection) Real world applications of force and motion in everyday life (Causation) Experiments can lead to new discoveries that can help scientists understand the world (Perspective/Change)	The roles and responsibilities of Michigan's government. (Responsibility) How societal decisions affect local communities in Michigan (Causation) The relationship between Michigan's government and its citizens. (Connection)	How different geographical locations shape the economic activities of communities (Form). The effects of weather and climate on population settlement and daily life. (Change) The interdependence between local economies and global factors. (Connection)
Key Concepts	Function Connection Responsibility	Causation Perspective Function	Perspective Function Form	Connection Causation Perspective Change	Causation Responsibility Connection	Form Change Connection
Related Concepts	Growth Interdependence Cycles wellness	Impact Truth Systems Pattern	Opinion Truth Communication Differences Structure	Relationships Systems Patterns Growth Transformation	Progress Structure Cooperation Rights	Environment Impact Relationships Interdependence Adaption
Learner Profile	Knowledgeable Balanced Reflection	Open-minded Knowledgeable Risk-Taker	Communicator Reflective Risk-Taker	Inquirer Knowledgeable Thinker	Balanced Thinker Principled	Inquirer Caring Reflective
Phase	Phase 6 **Research Unit**	Phase 2	Phase 1	Phase 3	Phase 5	Phase 4

Last updated August 21, 2024

4th Grade

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	Inquiry into the nature of self: beliefs values and one rights and responsibilities	An inquiry into the orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journey; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind	An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values	An inquiry into the natural world and its laws, the interaction between natural world (physical and biological) and human societies	An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human made systems and communities; Economic activities and the impact on humankind and the environment	An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with resources with other living things
Central Idea	Beliefs, values, and the environment influence life	Human societies shape over time	Art influences thinking and behavior	Systems and energy create order	Communities and economies are shaped by natural processes	Protecting Earth's resources
Lines of Inquiry	What it means to be a good Christian person (Perspective) Humans have rights and responsibilities (Responsibility) Influence on adaption for survival (connection)	Reasons for migration (Perspective) Effects of migration (Change) Natural hazards and risks (Causation)	Art has various forms (Form) Expressions and traditions of culture (Perspective) How sound and light behave (Function)	Purpose of government (Function) Government systems and structures (Responsibility) Effects of speed on an object (Change)	Characteristics of an economic system (Function) Economic decision making (Responsibility) Effects of weathering (Change)	Maps and globes help us navigate (Function) How renewable energy is generated (causation) Conservation and environmental responsibility (Responsibility)
Key Concepts	Perspective Responsibility Connection	Perspective Change Causation	Form Perspective Function	Function Responsibility Change	Function Responsibility Change	Function Causation Responsibility
Related Concepts	Structure Survival Values Procedures Safety Citizenship	Settlement Movement Adaptation Diversity Erosion Weathering	Appreciation Design Communication Beliefs Expression	Community Collisions Impact Rights Order	Systems Supply and Demand Consumer Producer, cause and effect, erosion, weathering	Sustainability Resources Location, perspective, opinion, renewable
Learner Profile	Knowledgeable Caring Balance	Reflective Inquirer Thinker	Reflective Communicator Open-Minded	Reflective Thinker inquirer	Communicator Risk-Taker Principled	Caring Inquirer Reflective
Phase	Phase 1	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 2	Phase 4 (research)	Phase 3

5th Grade

Trans. Theme	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
Descriptor	An inquiry into human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human	An inquiry into the relationship between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations from local and global perspectives	An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values	An inquiry into how humans use their understanding of scientific principles	An inquiry into societal decision making	An inquiry into the access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution
Central Idea	\Human relationships, the natural world and the matter that composes living things are interconnected revealing deeper insights into what it means to be human.	Human activity has had and continues to shape the world	Choices influence the development of our surroundings	The natural world is a series of interconnected systems	All actions result in a reaction	Conflicts within an environment impact its surroundings
Lines of Inquiry	Human Relationships and Identity (responsibility) Indigenous cultures and perspectives (connection) How the properties of matter affect human life and survival. (Form)	Early explorers impacted communities across the globe (Perspective) Habitat loss from human interaction changed plant and animal population (Change) Present choices affect future generations of plants and animals (Responsibility)	Impacts of slavery on society (Causation) Effects of trade on communities (Form) Importance of resources on surroundings (Perspective)	Types of systems (Form) Interaction of systems (Connection) Impacts of systems (Function)	Cause and effect of decision making (Causation) Human interaction with the environment (Connection) The structure of organizations (Function)	Impacts of choices (Connection) Functions of various systems (Function) Stages of Growth (Change)
Key Concepts	Connection Responsibility Form	Perspective Change Responsibility	Causation Form perspective	Form Connection Function	Causation Connection Function	Connection Function Change
Related Concepts	Growth Behavior Interdependence	Impact Relationships Evidence	Consequences Interpretation	Structure Systems Interaction	Systems Consequences	Consequences Systems Imitative
Learner Profile	Communicator Open-minded Caring	Inquirer Risk Taker Thinker	Open-minded Reflective Thinker	Inquirer Open-minded Knowledgeable	Reflective Thinker Principled Balanced	Communicator Risk-Taker Caring
Phase	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 4	Alternative	Phase 6	Phase 3