

**Diocese of Allentown**  
**Disciplinary Core Ideas: Upper Elementary School Overview**

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE**

Growth and Development of Organisms

Social Interactions and Group Behavior

Inheritance and Variations of Traits

Evidence of Common Ancestry & Diversity

Natural Selection & Adaptations

Biodiversity & Humans

Forces, Motion & Interactions

Weather, Climate and Natural Hazards

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Structure & Function

Information Processing

Energy

Wave Properties

Electromagnetic Radiation

Planet Earth

Natural Resources

Natural Hazards

**5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Matter & Energy Flow in Organisms

Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Structure & Properties of Matter

Chemical Reactions

Types of Interactions

Energy in Chemical Processes & Everyday Life

Universe and Its stars

Planet Earth

-Each teacher has the flexibility to cover the disciplinary core ideas (DCI) in the order which best meets the learning needs of their students.

-Each DCI should take approximately 20 days to complete, allowing for 2-3 DCI to be completed each trimester.