



Birchwood Elementary Program of inquiry 2017-2018



Trans-disciplinary Themes	Who We Are <i>Inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; person, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.</i>	Where We Are in Place and Time <i>Inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationship between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.</i>	How We Express Ourselves <i>Inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.</i>	How the World Works <i>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.</i>	How We Organize Ourselves <i>Inquiry into the interconnected-ness 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</i>	Sharing the Planet <i>Inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and other living things; communities and the relationship within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.</i>
K	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit # 2: I am Unique</p> <p>Central Idea Self-identity develops through personal awareness.</p> <p>Key concepts connection, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical, social and emotional characteristics Similarities and differences between ourselves and others Personal strengths and interests 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #3: There's No Place Like Home</p> <p>Central Idea People live in different places and in different ways.</p> <p>Key concepts form, connection, function</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter as a basic need Different kinds of houses Environmental influences 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit # 4: Hello from the Inside</p> <p>Central Idea Senses allow people to communicate.</p> <p>Key concepts connection, function, perspective</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human senses How we use our senses to communicate Aesthetic response to senses 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit # 5: Life Cycles</p> <p>Central Idea Animals and plants grow and change in predictable ways.</p> <p>Key concepts form, change, causation</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life cycles How living things change over time Similarities and differences between species 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #1: Our Community</p> <p>Central Idea We are all part of a community.</p> <p>Key concepts function, perspective, responsibility</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a community Contributing to a community Roles and responsibilities within a community 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #6: Living Things</p> <p>Central Idea Living things have a role on our planet.</p> <p>Key concepts form, connection, responsibility</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The difference between living and non-living things What living things need to survive Ways living things are connected Our responsibility to protect living things
1 st grade	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #1: Choices</p> <p>Central Idea The choices we make in our learning community affect ourselves and others.</p> <p>Key concepts causation, perspective, responsibility</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What it means to be a friend What it means to be a learner Cause and effect 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #3: Celebrate Good Times</p> <p>Central Idea Families are shaped by their traditions and experiences.</p> <p>Key concepts form, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family celebrations Similarities and differences between families Family traditions 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #5: All the World's a Stage</p> <p>Central Idea Music, art and drama enhance the way stories are told.</p> <p>Key concepts form, function, connection</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different ways of telling stories Performing arts Stories from different cultures 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #4: Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head</p> <p>Central Idea Weather and seasons have an impact on human life.</p> <p>Key concepts function, causation, connection</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why weather and seasons change Observing, recording and predicting weather changes Severe weather How weather affects our daily lives 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #2: Money, Money, Money</p> <p>Central Idea Family economics and access to resources impact how we meet our needs and fulfill our wants.</p> <p>Key concepts causation, responsibility, perspective</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs and wants Outcomes of choices Economic justice Our responsibility in supporting those in need 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 6: Habitats</p> <p>Central Idea Habitats support many different plants and animals by meeting their basic needs.</p> <p>Key concepts function, connection, responsibility</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic needs of plants and animals Local habitats Ways animals and humans can impact their environment Our responsibility to protect natural habitats
2nd grade	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #2: Healthy Living</p> <p>Central Idea The choices we make affect our health and well-being.</p> <p>Key concepts causation, change, reflection</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food groups and a balanced diet The role of sleep and exercise in a healthy body How to build a healthy mind and self-esteem 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #6: Landforms and Waterways</p> <p>Central Idea Dynamic processes change the earth over time.</p> <p>Key concepts causation, change, connection</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties of rocks Different factors that change the land Local natural landforms and waterways 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #3: Artistic Expression</p> <p>Central Idea People express themselves artistically in many ways for different reasons.</p> <p>Key concepts form, function, perspective</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study of art and artists Forms of artistic expression The process of creating art to communicate 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #5: Forces and Motion</p> <p>Central Idea Different types of forces affect the motion and position of an object.</p> <p>Key concepts form, causation, change</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pushes and pulls Change of speed Change of direction How an object's shape and size can affect motion 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #1: Needs of a Community</p> <p>Central Idea A community helps people meet their needs.</p> <p>Key concepts function, connection, responsibility</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What defines a community and what its needs are Roles within a community How maps can help us better understand communities 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit #4: The 5 R's</p> <p>Central Idea Humans' use and disposal of materials impacts the environment.</p> <p>Key concepts causation, responsibility, reflection</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use and disposal of materials Reducing, reusing, recycling, refusing and repurposing Our responsibility in protecting the environment



Birchwood Elementary Program of inquiry
2017-2018



	Who We Are <i>Inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; person, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.</i>	Where We Are in Place and Time <i>Inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationship between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.</i>	How We Express Ourselves <i>Inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.</i>	How the World Works <i>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.</i>	How We Organize Ourselves <i>Inquiry into the interconnected-ness 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</i>	Sharing the Planet <i>Inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and other living things; communities and the relationship within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.</i>
3rd grade	Unit #6: Cultural Diversity Central Idea Communities are impacted by cultural diversity. Key concepts connection, perspective responsibility Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attributes of a culture Similarities and differences between cultures How contributions can shape communities 	Unit #3: The Land and its People Central Idea The environment impacts the way humans live. Key concepts function, connection, responsibility Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of natural resources The relationship between the environment and its people Beliefs and attitudes of indigenous peoples 	Unit #1: Stories Central Idea Stories connect to our lives. Key concepts form, connection, reflection Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story Plot Development of character Setting 	Unit #5: Matter Central Idea Matter is everywhere and comes in different forms. Key concepts form, causation, change Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> States of matter Describing and classifying matter by its properties Chemical changes caused by heating or cooling 	Unit #2: Economics Central Idea Economic systems are influenced by a variety of factors. Key concepts function, connection, perspective Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People's use of money or trade The exchange of goods and services Ways to earn money 	Unit #4: Adaptations Central Idea Plants and animals adapt to their environment to survive. Key concepts function, change, causation Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal and plant adaptations How living things respond to changes in the environment Survival and reproduction
4th grade	Unit #2: Self Identity Central Idea Self-identity is shaped by a variety of factors. Key concepts connection, causation, reflection Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morals, beliefs and values The impact of external influences on oneself Being true to oneself 	Unit #5: Human Movement Central Idea The movement of people is influenced by many factors. Key concepts change, causation, perspective Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reasons people migrate, explore and settle The impact of migration and exploration How migration and exploration have changed over time 	Unit #4: Cultural Expressions Central Idea The beliefs and values of a culture can be expressed in different ways. Key concepts form, connection, perspective Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artistic cultural expressions Rituals, traditions and celebrations How culture is reflected in language 	Unit #3: Oceans Central Idea Our ocean is a complex and changing system. Key concepts form, function, connection Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ocean as an ecosystem The impact of currents and waves The role of science and technology in understanding our oceans 	Unit #1: Systems Central Idea Systems are a way of organizing people and resources. Key concepts function, perspective, responsibility Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What defines a system Different kinds of systems The function of government The development of one's own systems 	Unit #6: Species in Danger Central Idea Humans and other species are interconnected. Key concepts causation, connection, responsibility Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interdependency of species within ecosystems Species who are at risk, endangered and extinct How humans impact other species Our responsibility to protect species
5th grade	Unit #4: Role Models Central Idea Individuals and societies select role models based on beliefs and values. Key concepts perspective, responsibility, reflection Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining beliefs and values How and why role models are chosen How role models influence people How role models reflect different society's beliefs and values 	Unit #2: Conflict Central Idea Throughout history, conflict has been influenced by a variety of factors that results in change. Key Concepts: causation, change, perspective Related Concepts: conflict, freedom, change, revolution, peace Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes of conflict Strategies used to resolve conflict Changes resulting from conflict How conflict influences an individual's decisions and actions 	Unit #6 Transitions Central Idea As people transition through various stages of life, they express themselves in a variety of ways. Key Concepts: change, perspective, reflection Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How transitions can begin with endings Beliefs and values that guide choices The feelings and behaviors that result from our choices 	Unit #3: Energy and Motion Central Idea Energy transfers and transforms to solve energy needs. Key concepts function, change, connection Lines of inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of energy The impact of Earth's motion The transfer and transformation of energy Innovations in harnessing energy 	Unit #1: Seed to Table Central Idea Sustainable food production involves human decisions based on a variety of factors. Key concepts form, function, connection Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors that affect plant growth How the natural environment impacts the ability to grow and sustain food The role of government in the production and distribution of food The choices people have and make about food consumption 	Unit #5: Water Central Idea Finite water systems sustain human life. Key concepts form, causation, responsibility Lines of Inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water cycles around our earth Systems to manage and capture freshwater Human treatment of the environment and the impact on water quality

Commented [GH1]:



Birchwood Elementary Program of inquiry
2017-2018

