The International School of Athens

2017 – 2018 Programme of Inquiry

	An inquiry into: **Who we are**	An inquiry into: **Where we are in place and time**	An inquiry into: **How we express ourselves**	An inquiry into: **How the world works**	An inquiry into: **How we organize ourselves**	An inquiry into: **Sharing the planet**
5 - 6 KDG	**Central Idea** Senses help us to learn about the world around us **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Responsibility **Related concepts:** Health, appreciation **Lines of Inquiry:** • The importance of our senses • What we can do with our senses • How we look after our senses	**Central Idea** Communities are enriched by their members and the different perspectives they bring. **Key concepts:** Change, perspectives **Related concepts:** Continuity, diversity **Lines of Inquiry:** • What is a community • People within a community • The personal stories of community members	**Central Idea** Literacy is an integral part of our lives **Key concepts:** Form, Connection, Reflection **Related concepts:** Communication, expression, characterization **Lines of Inquiry:** • How oral, written and visual communication helps us to learn • What kind of pattern are Leo Lionni stories based on • What messages can we extract from his books	**Central Idea** We receive light from a variety of sources and it's different properties help us to understand it's importance **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Causation **Related concepts:** Energy, properties **Lines of Inquiry:** • The various sources of light (natural and artificial) • Some properties of light • Light as a resource	**Central Idea** Transportation systems are directly related to the needs of a community **Key concepts:** Function, Connection **Related concepts:** systems **Lines of Inquiry:** • Specific purposes of different transportation systems • Factors that affect the kinds of systems that can be developed • Relationship between transportation systems and the environment	**Central Idea** Plants sustain life on Earth and play a role in our lives **Key concepts:** Causation, Responsibility, Perspective **Related concepts:** Appreciation, interdependence **Lines of Inquiry:** • Caring for plants • Products we derive from plants • How plants contribute to life on Earth
Suggested order for 2017 - 2018	1	3	4	2	6	5

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6 - 7 Grade 1	**Central Idea** Making balanced choices about daily routines enables us to have a healthy lifestyle. **Key concepts:** Function, Causation, Reflection **Related concepts:** Balance, Well-being **Lines of Inquiry** • What our daily habits and routines are (hygiene, sleep, play, eating) • Why balanced choices are important • Consequences of choices	**Central Idea** Knowing about how people lived in the past enables us to develop an awareness of the changes over time **Key concepts:** Change, connection, form **Related concepts:** past, traditions, customs **Lines of Inquiry** • What it was like living, playing and going to school in the past • How aspects of the past still influence us today • The similarities and differences between our lives now and theirs	**Central Idea** Societies used stories to express themselves. **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Connection **Related concepts:** communication, expression **Lines of Inquiry** • Why stories were written • How stories have changed • Why stories have changed • Focus: Fairy Tales	**Central Idea** Matter has properties you can discover through investigations. **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Change **Related concepts:** Transformation, similarities and differences **Lines of Inquiry** • What the states of matter are • What the properties of matter are • How matter undergoes physical changes	**Central Idea** Most of the food products we eat go through several stages from their origin to their consumption **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Change **Related concepts:** production, process **Lines of Inquiry** • The origin of food products • The stages of production of food • Jobs that are involved in that process • Different ways products come into our homes	**Central Idea** People can make choices to support the sustainability of the Earth's resources. **Key concepts** Perspective, Responsibility, Reflection **Related concepts:** waste, resources, lifestyle **Lines of Inquiry** • Earth's finite and infinite resources • The impact of people's choices on the environment • The balance between meeting human needs and the use of limited resources
Suggested order for 2017 - 2018	**3**	**6**	**5**	**2**	**4**	**1**

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7 - 8 Grade 2	**Central Idea** Our actions influence our relationships with others **Key concepts:** Function, Responsibility, Form **Related concepts:** Cooperation, interaction, rules **Lines of Inquiry:** • How classroom rules and routines help us work as a community • How to use materials purposefully • How to cope with transitions successfully at school • How our actions influence our friendships	**Central Idea** People can orient themselves in space by using maps **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Perspective **Related concepts:** context, location, orientation **Lines of Inquiry:** • The different kinds of maps that describe our space • How we use maps to help us move about • What the rules and structure of map-making are	**Central Idea** People can express beliefs and values through literature **Key concepts:** Form, Perspective, Reflection **Related concepts:** Creativity, imagination, communication **Lines of Inquiry:** • The different forms and structures of folk literature • Stories from around the world • The power of folk literature	**Central Idea** Simple machines allow us to do work without expending much physical energy **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Reflection **Related concepts:** Forces, similarities and differences, predictions **Lines of Inquiry:** • The attributes of simple machines • The uses of simple machines • How they have evolved over time	**Central Idea** In a workplace people share responsibility towards a common purpose **Key concepts:** Causation, Function, Connection **Related concepts:** Cooperation, Employment **Lines of Inquiry:** • Purpose of a workplace • Interconnectedness of people in a workplace • Importance of a shared vision or common purpose	**Central Idea** Ecological systems affect living and non-living things and can be affected by them. **Key concepts:** Form, Causation, Responsibility **Related concepts:** characteristics, conservation, appreciation **Lines of Inquiry:** • The concept of the ecosystem • How the ecosystem works • Life in the ecosystem • The importance of having and preserving the ecosystem **Focus:** Rainforest
Suggested order for 2017 - 2018	**1**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**6**

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8 - 9 Grade 3 Suggested order for 2017 - 2018	**Central Idea** Resolving conflicts helps people to live in harmony **Key concepts:** Causation, Responsibility, Reflection **Related concepts:** Cooperation, balance, resolutions **Lines of Inquiry:** • How conflicts arise • How conflicts can be solved • Consequences of personal choices and actions **1**	**Central Idea** Inventions impact history **Key concepts:** Perspective, Function, Change **Related concepts:** progress, impact, technology **Lines of Inquiry:** • People whose inventions have lived on beyond their own time • The need for inventions • The need for further inventions **2**	**Central Idea** We express our ideas, hopes and values through our choice of heroes **Key concepts:** Form, Perspective, Reflection **Related concepts:** identity, perception **Lines of Inquiry:** • The qualities that make a hero • Ways our choice of heroes reflect our values • The difference between being famous and being a hero **5**	**Central Idea** Human survival is connected to understanding the continual changing nature of the Earth **Key concepts:** Change, Causation, Connection **Related concepts:** Erosion, Geology, Adaptation **Lines of Inquiry:** • How the different components of the Earth are interrelated • How the Earth has changed and is continuing to change • Why the Earth changes • Human responses to the Earth's changes **3**	**Central Idea** Artifacts provide us with clues to how people lived in the past **Key concepts:** Form, Causation, Reflection **Related concepts:** culture, discoveries **Lines of Inquiry:** • How archaeologists collect and study artifacts • What information an archaeologist can collect from an artifact • Evaluating artifacts to help us understand life in Ancient Egypt **4**	**Central Idea** Water is essential to life, and is a limited resource for many people. **Key concepts:** Function, Responsibility, Reflection **Related concepts:** appreciation, resources, characteristics **Lines of Inquiry:** • Sources of water and how water is used • What happens to water after we have used it • Distribution and availability of usable water • Responsibilities regarding water **6**

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9 - 10 Grade 4 Suggested order for 2017 - 2018	**Central Idea** In an attempt to meet human needs, societies have determined human rights and responsibilities **Key concepts:** Form, Perspective, Connection **Related concepts:** Human Rights, Perception, Diversity **Lines of Inquiry:** • The connection between rules in a community, rights and responsibilities • Ways that nations and international organizations aim to protect human rights **6**	**Central Idea** People's lives are shaped by the regions in which they live. **Key concepts:** Form, Change, Causation **Related concepts:** Continuity, Impact **Lines of Inquiry:** • The different geographic regions • The reciprocal relationships between lands and peoples • The similarities and differences of people living in comparable regions around the world **2**	**Central Idea** The media can be used to inform and manipulate **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Responsibility **Related concepts:** interpretation, creativity, perception **Lines of Inquiry:** • The different kinds of advertising • The devices used to make advertising effective and to influence our choices (use of language, images, sound) • How to be a responsible consumer • The impact of advertising on society **5**	**Central Idea** Energy exists in different forms and is changed, stored and used in different ways **Key concepts:** Function, Causation, Connection **Related concepts:** transformation, conservation **Lines of Inquiry:** • How we use energy • The different forms of energy (renewable and non-renewable) • The impact of energy use on the environment and society • Renewable and Sustainable energy practices **4**	**Central Idea** Ancient civilizations had systems of organizations **Key concepts:** Function, Connection, Perspective **Related concepts:** systems, governments, beliefs **Lines of Inquiry:** • Governmental organization of ancient civilizations • Social organization of ancient civilizations • Organization of daily life Case study: Ancient Greece **3**	**Central Idea** Human actions have a direct impact on the world's oceans **Key concepts:** Causation, Reflection **Related concepts:** Consequences, Evidence **Lines of Inquiry:** • The ocean as an environment • Environment concerns of the ocean • The impact of humans on the ocean environment • Our responsibility towards protecting the ocean environment **1**

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10 - 11 Grade 5	**Central Idea** Systems that define beliefs and values offer explanations about the world around us and what it means to be human **Key concepts:** Form, Perspective, Reflection **Related concepts:** diversity, perception, commitment **Lines of Inquiry:** • Why religions exist • The similarities and differences between belief systems • The impact of spiritual traditions on society	**Central Idea** Human migration is a response to challenges, risks and opportunities. **Key concepts**: Causation, Change, Responsibility **Related concepts:** Population, Settlement, Diversity, Refugees **Lines of Inquiry**: • The reasons why people migrate • Migration throughout history • Effects of migration on communities, cultures and individuals	**Central Idea** Literature has the power to influence and structure thinking **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Reflection **Related concepts:** self-expression, communication, perspective **Lines of Inquiry:** • Critically evaluating individual choices in books • The distinguishing features for commendable literature • Personal preferences in books	**Central Idea** The fact that materials can undergo permanent or temporary changes poses challenges and provides benefits for society and the environment. **Key concepts:** Form, Function, Change **Related concepts:** measurement, transformation **Lines of Inquiry:** • Nature of chemical and physical changes • Practical applications and implications of change in materials • Ethical dilemmas associated with manufacturing processes and by-products	**Central Idea** In order for societies to thrive, they have economic organizations **Key concepts:** Function, Causation, Connection **Related concepts:** tourism, produce, organizations **Lines of Inquiry:** • How economic organizations are organized • The impact of tourism on economic organization • How produce has an effect on the economic organization • Why economic organizations are important	**Central Idea** Reaching a resolution during periods or moments of conflict is influenced by the actions and reactions of all involved **Key concepts:** Causation, Perspective, Responsibility **Related concepts:** peace, reconciliation, exploitation, grief **Lines of Inquiry:** • Local and global causes of conflict • Human rights and equity • Strategies used to resolve conflict • Consequences of resolutions
Suggested order for 2017 - 2018	**5**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**4**	**6**

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11 - 12 Grade 6 Suggested order for 2017 - 2018	**Central Idea** Individuals face changes as they grow and develop **Key concepts:** Change, Responsibility, Reflection **Related concepts:** Growth, Choice, Diversity **Lines of Inquiry:** • The changes that occur during puberty • Our responsibilities in dealing with these changes **3**	**Central Idea** Evidence of past civilizations can be used to make connections to present-day societies. **Key concepts:** Causation, Change, Perspective **Related concepts:** Continuity, Progress, Technology **Lines of Inquiry:** • Aspects of past civilizations that have survived • Reasons these systems and technologies developed • Why modern societies continue to use adaptations of these systems and technologies • Implications for the future **4**	**Central Idea** A person's behavior and how they choose to present themselves project aspects of their identity. **Key concepts:** Change, Perspective, Reflection **Related concepts:** Identity, Status, Image, Impression **Lines of Inquiry:** • How appearance and behavior influence our perception of others • The influence of cultural and social norms on how we choose to present ourselves • Fashion as a form of expression **1**	**Central Idea** Reproduction of living things contributes to the continuation of the species. **Key concepts:** Change, Connection, Form **Related concepts:** Cycles, Growth **Lines of Inquiry:** • Reproduction as part of a life cycle • Reproductive processes • Genetics and hereditary factors **5**	**Central Idea** Governmental systems and decisions can promote or deny equal opportunities and social justice **Key concepts:** Function, Responsibility **Related concepts:** Equality, Government or governance **Lines of Inquiry:** • Types of governance • Principles of human rights and social justice • The effect of institutional behaviors and attitudes on social justice **2**	**Central Idea** Biodiversity relies on maintaining the interdependent balance of organisms within systems. **Key concepts:** Connection, Responsibility. **Related concepts:** balance, biodiversity, interdependence **Lines of Inquiry:** • Interdependence within ecosystems, biomes and environments • Ways in which organisms are interconnected in nature • How human interaction with the environment can affect the balance of systems **6**

Every Year, one of the 6th grade units is replaced by the 6th grade exhibition.