



# PARENT HANDBOOK

Quick Reference for how we teach in Jackson Main  
(Curriculum Framework)

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## ? How do we teach in Jackson Main School?

- JM students are taught **WHY** they should know something and how it connects to other subjects and the world around them.
- Students can inquire about things that interests them.
- Challenging learning experiences for the students to gain knowledge of things happening around them and the world.
- Encourages students to take actions after reflecting on their learning at school.



## ? What are the Learner Profile Attributes?

- These are 10 qualities that prepare students to respect themselves, others and the world around them
- It prepares students to contribute to a better world
- According to the PYP, an internationally minded person is someone who demonstrates the qualities in the **Learner Profile**.



**?** What will my child be learning at Jackson Main Elementary School?

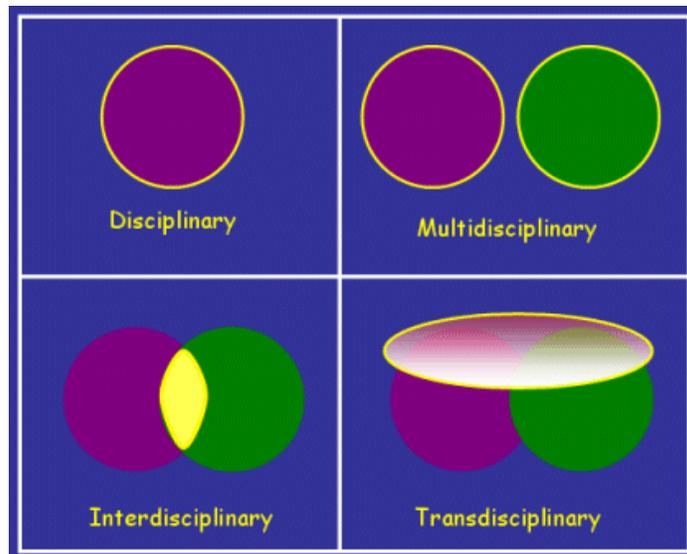
- Jackson Main's curriculum throughout the school meets the current New York State Standards
- We teach through a structured inquiry using the Six Transdisciplinary Themes
- Teachers design lessons of inquiry for exploration and study
- Through this process students understand important ideas, acquire skills and knowledge, develop certain qualities and learn to take socially responsible Action.

## ? What does transdisciplinary mean?

- Transdisciplinary is the word used to describe connections between all subjects and applied to the real world. For example: the idea of change is found in all subjects - teachers are asked to connect it to the real world.

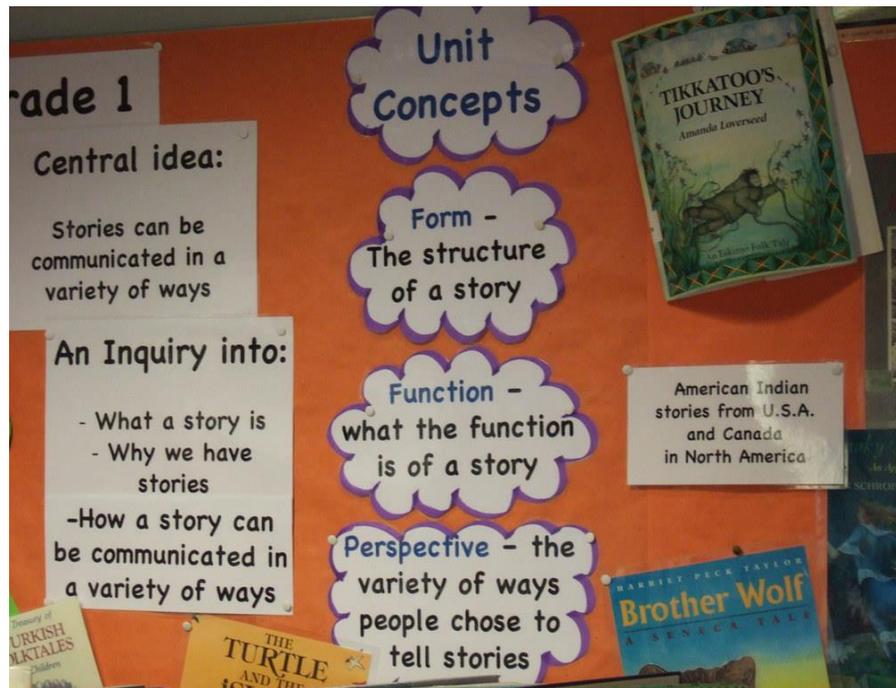
Trans + disciplinary

Above & beyond + Specific subject = transdisciplinary



## ? What is a Unit of Inquiry?

- There are six units of inquiry or themes that needs to be covered in a year
- A unit of inquiry lasts from 4-6 weeks
- For example: in the unit of inquiry "how the world works" students may inquire into the natural world and its laws and how it applies to people around us and around the world. All along, encouraging students to take action, where possible in their own small way.



## How does Jackson Main as a candidate school implement the units of inquiry?

- The unit provides the structure for teachers to build students' knowledge.
- Students are taught to rely on a variety of resources to gather information from and gain new understandings. They are not taught using a textbook.
- From looking at the Program of Inquiry you can figure out what the students will be learning in the unit.
- The program of inquiry (POI) is on the school website by grade.
- At any time students and the teacher may decide to deviate and delve into another inquiry inspired by the student curiosity.

Program of inquiry displayed by grade level in the Jackson Main hallway.  
Also, on the school website.



## **?** How will Jackson Main assess our students?

*The goal of assessments in JM is to check for understanding and how that understanding is applied in the real world.*

- Written test, projects, presentations and written reports
- NWEA (North Western Evaluation Association) MAP (measure of academic progress) is administered twice a year
- iReady Math and Reading computer tests
- Our curriculum is "criterion referenced" assessment. Students are scored against a rubric which is a set of expectations and a score given for achieving those expectations
- Summative assessment is given at the end of each unit to check for understanding.
- NYS annual assessments for grades 3-5 in Reading and Math and Science in grade 4.

## **?** How can you help your child at home?

- Make sure you check to see what homework your child has.
- Help your child manage time so they don't get overwhelmed.
- Help them with larger projects but DON'T do it for them. Conversations to help them think and come up with ideas is a great way to support your child.
- Have regular communication with your child's teacher.
- Use resources on school website on the PYP page:
  1. **Support for parents**
  2. **Being a JM parent.** These resources have plenty of ways you can support your child including online books in different languages.



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