

BOLD indicates cross-curricular learning

Table with 17 columns (Preschool to Eighth Grade) and 17 rows (art, drama, spanish, steam, language arts, mathematics, music, phys.ed., science, social studies). Each cell contains a grid of standards and learning objectives for that subject and grade level.

<p><b>Art</b></p>	<p><b>EXPRESSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal, cultural, and environmental factors affect visual expression and communication.</li> <li>Artists use different media and styles to express what they see, feel, and think.</li> <li>Art is a vehicle that addresses various aesthetic, moral, and political challenges.</li> <li>Art is an aesthetic channeling of an emotional response to an event, cultural or environmental influence.</li> <li>Ideas, emotions, events, and occurrences are communicated through the arts as visual expression.</li> <li>Art is expressed in many different incarnations, such as material culture, ideas, and actions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>INTERPRETATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appreciation and exposure to the arts helps us gain insight into many cultures and the human experience.</li> <li>While aesthetic interpretations may vary from culture to culture, region to region, and genre to genre, many artists have explored the same human experiences and ideas.</li> <li>Personal, cultural, and environmental exposure affects our interpretation of visual expression and communication.</li> <li>Studying art history promotes our understanding of the development of events within cultures.</li> <li>Knowledge of elements and principles of art promotes understanding in art criticism.</li> <li>Exposure to various materials and techniques promotes understanding in art criticism.</li> <li>The evolution of technologies and cultures can stimulate new movements and styles of art.</li> <li>Art reflects and informs the culture that creates it, and it promotes aesthetic interpretations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CREATIVE PRODUCTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artistic production is often influenced by personal experiences, knowledge of materials, and established principles.</li> <li>While aesthetic interpretations may vary based on experimental ideas and risk taking.</li> <li>Design combines expression with specific needs of form, function, and/or communication.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Drama</b></p>	<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drama can be a medium for sharing knowledge and tradition, for illuminating history, influencing events, and entertainment, ultimately synthesizing information for an intended audience.</li> <li>Drama is a constructive form of expressing ideas, integrating the ideas of others, and synthesizing those constructs for playwrights, actors, and audiences.</li> <li>Drama is concerned with understanding the human experience and creating a physical form through which to represent inner meaning.</li> <li>Just as audiences interpret dramatic performances through the lenses of their own culture, expectations, and experiences, dramatic form and performance define and reflect a people's culture.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CREATIVE PROCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In dramatic performance the process is as important and profound as the result.</li> <li>Actors provide insight into the human experience, seeking out intended meaning and interpreting that meaning for a specific audience.</li> <li>Effective drama combines classical techniques with innovative approaches.</li> <li>In theatre, perception is reality. Drama involves the suspension of disbelief and relies on intellectual and emotional participation.</li> <li>Drama is a form of imaginative play, expressing creative ideas physically by means of words, body, and/or voice.</li> <li>To create a more complete environment, effective dramatic performance may be enhanced by the technical aspects of theatre: props, sets, lights, music, and sound.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PERSONAL GROWTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective communication is a life skill; we learn to convey meaning through intonation, physical expression, syntax, and word choice.</li> <li>Listening and responding appropriately to others is inherent in the collaborative structure of drama.</li> <li>Drama engages multiple intelligences and all aspects of the self, both emotionally and intellectually, allowing participants to make physical connections to cognitive tasks and abstract concepts.</li> <li>In the dramatic arts participants can continually challenge themselves from their own level of comfort, building courage, self-esteem, and confidence.</li> <li>Experiences, dramatic form and perspective enables actors to explore, appreciate, analyze, and assimilate different experiences, perspectives, and cultures.</li> <li>Portraying the dreams and desires of others promotes communication across space and time, aiding understanding of what is universal about the human experience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Spanish</b></p>	<p><b>CULTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretation of historical and current events is prejudiced by cultural perspective.</li> <li>The intertwining histories of two or more cultures generate commonalities in their respective languages and cultures.</li> <li>Studying other cultures offers insights into our own.</li> <li>Analyzing a culture's aesthetic and moral values facilitates communication and a understanding of its people.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different meanings are conveyed through combinations of word choice, syntax, intonation, and physical expression.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cultures of different countries, regions, and neighborhoods may dramatically influence language.</li> <li>Language is subject to a constant evolution dictated by geographical, cultural, and linguistic trends.</li> <li>The ability to communicate with people in a given population is key to exploring the culture.</li> <li>Language acquisition is facilitated by applying repeated grammatical patterns, observations, and immersions within spoken language.</li> <li>Reading proficiency in a target language requires consistent practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.</li> <li>Spoken language is not a pure reflection of written language.</li> <li>Translation does not involve a one to one correspondence of words from the target language to English but rather the idiomatic understanding and conversion of "chunks" of meaning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orthographic symbols, such as accents, alter a word's pronunciation and are often clues to its origin or evolution.</li> </ul> <p><b>PERSONAL GROWTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-discipline is exercised through the rigors of learning grammar rules and memorizing vocabulary.</li> <li>An acquisition of the cultural background and Spanish language opens doors in the academic, political, and professional worlds.</li> <li>Communication in a second language gives a sense of accomplishment and enriches our lives.</li> <li>Studying a target language contributes significantly to our understanding of the structure of our native language.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STEAM</b></p> <p>STEAM is taught in many different settings and integrated as part of the curricula of most subjects at Quest. There are also specific STEAM classes where students have the opportunity to dive deeply into an area of passion or explore in a wider spectrum of technology concepts and applications that lead to personal innovations.</p>	<p><b>INQUIRY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Internet offers everyone the power to change the world.</li> <li>Digital information requires investigation to establish authenticity.</li> <li>Use of information comes with the responsibility of acknowledging the source.</li> <li>Effective synthesis of information can lead to higher levels of knowledge.</li> <li>Computer applications are ideas crafted with skill.</li> <li>Building, creating, and making are the processes to improving the lives of those around us.</li> <li>Machines and technology need math, science, and logic to function.</li> </ul>	<p><b>IDEAS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal passions often inform the best designs, and create the best solutions.</li> <li>Engineering is a form of art.</li> <li>Simple solutions often have the largest impact.</li> <li>Math and logic inform design and artistic work.</li> <li>Evenness is a potential designer.</li> <li>Originality takes hard work.</li> <li>Ideas are crafted and advanced a collaborative environment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>INNOVATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The principles of science can inform our work as designers and artists.</li> <li>Innovation becomes more valuable through presentation and marketing.</li> <li>The value of data collection is in its interpretation and application towards innovation.</li> <li>The process of creation can improve self-worth and self-esteem.</li> <li>The invention of a new idea is often rooted in many failures.</li> <li>Communicating a complex idea deserves our time and effort.</li> <li>With the right tools, the individual has the power to change the world.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Language Arts</b></p> <p>At Quest, writing is taught as a process with multiple stages, including revision, proofreading, and editing. At every grade level, students are encouraged to look at their own writing critically, considering the purpose, the audience, and all the elements of style, grammar, and mechanics when revising in any genre. In order to facilitate all students' development in writing, vocabulary and grammar instruction at Quest is differentiated according to ability and learning style.</p>	<p><b>READING COMPREHENSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading is an active process of constructing meaning based on a combination of prior experiences, background knowledge, understanding written language, and the intention of the author.</li> <li>Good readers employ a variety of reading strategies that vary with the task and the genre.</li> <li>The more we read, the better readers we become, and the more our imagination is engaged and enhanced.</li> <li>The effectiveness of reading depends on the reader's mental, emotional, and physical commitment.</li> <li>Responding to reading through discussion and writing enhances the reading experience.</li> <li>Analysis of literary elements leads to a deeper understanding and appreciation of what we read.</li> <li>Literature contains universal themes.</li> <li>Overall comprehension of written communication encompasses literal, interpretive, and critical comprehension skills.</li> <li>Reading a variety of sources solidifies our understanding of a topic.</li> <li>New responses can occur each time we revisit a text.</li> <li>Different genres of literature have different purposes and require different comprehension strategies.</li> <li>The length or reading level of a book does not necessarily correspond with its complexity or value.</li> <li>A good book offers many levels of communication, providing multiple understandings to different readers at various times in their lives.</li> <li>Reading completes the process of written communication.</li> <li>Every author and reader has a bias, both of which can be discovered through analysis.</li> <li>We engage in the process of reading as a dialogue or social activity.</li> </ul>	<p><b>BENEFIT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading is a tool for understanding all subject areas.</li> <li>We read to understand ourselves and other people.</li> <li>Reading strengthens and expands our vocabulary and language skills.</li> <li>Reading fuels our imaginations, can evoke feelings and help us deal with a wide range of emotions.</li> <li>Reading is a lifelong pursuit that helps us understand the ever-changing world in which we live.</li> <li>The effectiveness of reading depends on the reader's mental, emotional, and physical commitment.</li> <li>Reading carefully selected resources provides credible evidence to support our claims.</li> <li>Reading can be a form of recreation.</li> <li>Literature are ancient and essential parts of all human cultures. Reading is one way to fulfill the basic human need for stories.</li> <li>Reading empowers us to make individual choices and decisions.</li> <li>The shared experience of reading can build bonds and common knowledge to create a cultural base.</li> <li>Close reading can provide models for writing conventions and writer's craft.</li> <li>A love of reading can evolve over a lifetime.</li> <li>Reading for recreation allows us to escape our reality, can amuse and stimulate us.</li> </ul>	<p><b>WRITING</b></p> <p><b>STRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing relies on conventions.</li> <li>Writing entails different formats and elements (such as character development and setting for fiction) depending on its intent and purpose.</li> <li>The effectiveness of written language depends on organization.</li> <li>Details make writing more convincing.</li> </ul> <p><b>PROCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading and listening are important in the development of writing skills.</li> <li>Writing is a process with a series of essential stages, such as brainstorming, organizing, drafting, and publishing.</li> <li>Revision allows a writer to improve the way she communicates her ideas.</li> <li>Writing is a tool for learning.</li> <li>We write better when we are comfortable (when we have the necessary tools and accommodations) and when we understand the topic.</li> <li>We grow as writers over time.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The written word is powerful (and therefore empowering).</li> <li>Writing increases the spatial and temporal reach of language.</li> <li>The reader's response contributes to the effectiveness of written communication.</li> <li>Writing cultivates bonds between people.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p>	<p><b>CONCEPTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning mathematics is a process of actively building new knowledge from experience and prior knowledge.</li> <li>Memorization of facts or procedures is not a substitute for understanding underlying concepts; likewise, understanding underlying concepts is not a substitute for the memorization of facts.</li> <li>A calculator enables mathematicians to focus on understanding number concepts and modeling procedures used in solving problems rather than on computation alone.</li> <li>Some problems are easy to solve, and some concepts are easy to master, but others require patience and perseverance. Often such persevering will yield great rewards.</li> </ul> <p><b>NUMBER SENSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental math and estimation empowers people to be educated consumers.</li> <li>All mathematical calculations are rooted in the four operations.</li> <li>Computation is an essential foundation of mathematical growth.</li> <li>Utilizing patterns facilitates easier computation.</li> <li>Having number sense means knowing when to use the right tools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROBLEM SOLVING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We must apply and adapt a variety of strategies to solve problems.</li> <li>The process of solving problems from the simple to the complex solidifies and extends skills.</li> <li>Persistence, curiosity, as well as, risk-taking develop confidence and understanding in deciphering and interpreting problems.</li> <li>Skills developed through mathematical problem solving help clarify, answer, and explain problems people encounter in the real world.</li> <li>Reflecting on the problem-solving process helps to prepare us to better attack new problems in the future.</li> <li>In computation there is only one correct answer, but there are many ways to approach the problem.</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using mathematical language allows us to be more precise in the communication of mathematical ideas.</li> <li>Mathematical symbols are a universal language.</li> <li>Communicating mathematical thinking clarifies and deepens knowledge.</li> <li>Mathematical language facilitates problem solving and computation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Music</b></p>	<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music is an evolving form of communication between people and cultures.</li> <li>Music is a universal language.</li> <li>Music expresses and inspires a wide range of emotions.</li> <li>Music can promote an appreciation of other cultures.</li> </ul> <p><b>STRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music is organized sound.</li> <li>Music is based on patterns and mathematical relationships.</li> <li>Music often mimics, interprets, and/or extends the sounds found in nature.</li> <li>Music stimulates both hemispheres of the brain and, therefore, can cause people to respond both intellectually and emotionally.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CULTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music shapes and reflects the society or culture in which it was created.</li> <li>Music is present and purposeful in every culture.</li> <li>Music has political, historical, and cultural themes.</li> <li>Music can promote an appreciation of other cultures.</li> <li>Music can unite or divide cultures.</li> </ul> <p><b>PERFORMANCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing music is an "in the moment" way to express and/or interpret an idea, personal viewpoint, and/or composition.</li> <li>Performing music can make people feel good about themselves by promoting confidence, risk-taking, self-esteem, and self-discipline.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PERSONAL GROWTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music expresses and inspires a wide range of emotions.</li> <li>Music expresses and inspires creativity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physical Education</b></p>	<p><b>FITNESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A fit person functions better both mentally and physically.</li> <li>Fitness is a lifestyle.</li> <li>Fitness improves brain activity, reduces stress, and helps prevent obesity.</li> <li>Total fitness involves strength, flexibility, aerobic conditioning, and endurance.</li> <li>We can improve in all areas of fitness with hard work.</li> <li>All people have different genetic make-ups and will progress at different rates.</li> <li>An initial fitness assessment is the basis for an appropriate plan for improvement.</li> <li>Methods to improve fitness are limitless.</li> </ul>	<p><b>WELLNESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal wellness is based on appropriate life choices.</li> <li>We are responsible for our own wellness and health.</li> <li>Proper nutrition is an integral part of enjoying good health.</li> <li>A good balance between proper rest and appropriate physical activity is necessary for optimum health.</li> <li>Inappropriate use of drugs and/or alcohol limits the potential of our bodies and minds.</li> <li>Wellness involves physical, mental, emotional, and moral components.</li> <li>Our chances of staying safe increase when we make smart decisions.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMPETITION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competition requires ethics as well as personal effort.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To succeed in life, as well as in athletics, we must be able to communicate and work well with others.</li> <li>Teamwork is more important than the outcome of the game.</li> <li>We must challenge ourselves.</li> <li>Proper nutrition is an integral part of enjoying good health.</li> <li>Competition can help us perform at our best.</li> <li>Good competition requires ethical behavior.</li> <li>Game rules make the game possible by leveling the playing field.</li> <li>All players must understand the game's objective and follow the rules.</li> <li>Players must have appropriate knowledge of the use of game equipment.</li> <li>Both winning and losing present learning opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p><b>METHOD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science is not just a body of knowledge; it is a way of thinking and problem-solving that we can use in academic and real-life applications.</li> <li>The principles of science explain the phenomena of the world.</li> <li>By observing patterns and cycles, people learn to make more accurate predictions.</li> <li>There are many ways to approach a problem, and frequently there is more than one solution.</li> <li>Classification is a thought process used to categorize objects.</li> <li>Clear scientific understandings are aided by charts, graphs, formulas, discussions, and written documentations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DISCOVERY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discovery is an ongoing process.</li> <li>The principles of science enhance our ability to explore and discover.</li> <li>Ethical issues arise as science and technology advance.</li> <li>With new technology comes responsibility.</li> <li>An open and creative mind can make connections between seemingly unrelated concepts.</li> <li>Studying other cultures and disciplines can lead to new scientific discoveries.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CHANGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain biodiversity, an ecosystem must be at equilibrium.</li> <li>Any stimulus will cause a ripple-effect in an environment.</li> <li>Because many things are interdependent, organisms that can adapt will survive.</li> <li>The only constant is change.</li> </ul> <p><b>SCIENCE FAIR and HISTORY FAIR</b></p> <p>Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Quest participate in Science and History Fairs at the school, regional, state, and (in the case of History Fair) national levels in alternate years. For the sake of simplicity, the Information Literacy concepts related to these complex research projects are included under seventh and eighth grades respectively.</p> <p>These experiences offer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-term experiments/research projects to promote confidence in the use of the Scientific Method/ Historical Analysis as powerful tools.</li> <li>An outlet for students to meet other young scientists/historians and learn from their discoveries.</li> <li>A chance for students to explore their passions.</li> <li>A teachable moment to learn spreadsheets, graphing, and the analysis of primary source data.</li> <li>Experience in how to write term papers with specific formatting.</li> <li>An opportunity for students to take their projects as far as they dream.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Studies</b></p>	<p><b>CHANGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the fundamental needs of a society are not met, conflict and/or change will result.</li> <li>Changes in society are catalysts for new opportunities in exploration and invention; likewise, exploration and invention stimulate change in the society.</li> <li>All change has both immediate and long-term roots in the past, as well as branches into the future.</li> <li>Individuals can influence societies and even bring about change by impacting the existing structure in accordance with their beliefs and ideals.</li> <li>The survival of the individual members of a society depends on their ability to adapt to social and economic changes.</li> </ul> <p><b>GOVERNANCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual rights and responsibilities vary depending on the type of government and social and economic conditions of a society.</li> <li>In order to be effective, systems of governance must meet the needs and values of society.</li> <li>Government is structured in accordance to the economic conditions, social, and cultural values of a society.</li> <li>Societies must maintain equilibrium between individual freedoms and the welfare of the community as a whole.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENT/ECONOMICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic systems are formed from the relationships between the physical environment (including, climate, geography, and natural resources), the lifestyles and cultural values of a society.</li> <li>The supply of resources and the demands of society affects the production, distribution, price, and consumption of goods and services.</li> <li>Cultures identify the goods and services that are necessary for survival and those that are considered luxuries.</li> <li>A division of labor enables societies to meet their economic needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>CULTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic stability helps cultural institutions develop, while economic crises can spur important cultural changes.</li> <li>Historical interpretation is influenced by the cultural perspective of the observer.</li> <li>Culture is the product of the collective expression of human work and thought.</li> <li>Societies are held together by common values and ideals.</li> <li>Race, gender, age, and wealth contribute to class distinctions and social stratification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Values, ethical norms, and traditions are communicated through education, the arts, literature, and religion.</li> <li>Each generation challenges, tests, and transforms the values of its culture.</li> <li>The economic, social, and political practices of a society are all interconnected.</li> <li>Differences between cultures often veil similarities.</li> <li>Relationships between cultures involve some combination of conflict and cooperation.</li> <li>Analyzing history allows us to learn about ourselves and make informed decisions that shape our future.</li> </ul>

# Curriculum Guide

A comprehensive and concise guide to the concepts "uncovered" in a curriculum through eighth grade.



## How To Use This Guide

Quest Academy's curriculum is based on the Understanding by Design model (Wiggins and McTighe), in which the desired outcomes (Understandings, Skills, and Knowledge) are determined first, the assessment criteria (evidence of understanding) are identified next, and the learning activities are designed last and on the basis of the first two. While this curriculum chart is not meant to elucidate every detail of the desired learning outcomes, it does serve as a comprehensive yet concise overview of the concepts "uncovered" in the Quest curriculum.

The concepts in bold print indicate cross-curricular learning. Exploring conceptual understandings across a variety of subject areas enables students to uncover more applications of their learning and creatively extend conceptual ideas into innovative thinking.

## Our Mission

Quest Academy provides gifted children with a challenging curriculum and a nurturing environment. Our program emphasizes sound character along with scholarship and creativity in both the academics and the arts. The Quest community values the individuality of each child and encourages each to strive for personal excellence.