

Understanding the IB-PYP

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP) is underpinned by six transdisciplinary themes around which learning is planned. These are:

- **Who we are**
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Students inquire into, and learn about, these globally significant issues in the context of **units of inquiry**, each of which addresses a **central idea** relevant to a particular transdisciplinary theme. **Lines of inquiry** are identified in order to explore the scope of the central idea for each unit. **Key concepts** are powerful, over-arching ideas that transcend individual subject-areas and allow students to develop a coherent, in-depth understanding. These units of inquiry collectively constitute the school's **program of inquiry**. At Valley Prep, the six transdisciplinary themes will be implemented gradually between 2016 and 2019.

Transdisciplinary Theme: **Who we are**

An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and **cultures**; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

Unit Title: **Ourselves and others**

Dates of this unit: August - September

Central Idea

Understanding myself and others helps me grow

Lines of Inquiry

- The five senses
- Individual roles in the family
- Recognizing similarities and differences between self and others

Key Concepts

- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Perspective – What are the points of view?
- Function – How does it work?
- Form – What is it like?

Subject connections

- Science: Understanding the five senses
- Social Studies: Family relationships
- Language Arts: Stories include: Wolfie, The Bunny, Julius, Baby of the World
- Art: Students use dot-markers to fill-in the first letter of their name
- Foreign Language: Vocabulary to name the parts of a family
- Music: Family folk songs
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities



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Unit Title: **How friendships enrich our lives**

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

Friendships enrich our lives and require nurturing in order to develop

Lines of Inquiry

- How friendships can be developed
- What friends do for each other
- Ways we can appreciate and maintain friendships

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Form – What is it like?
- Responsibility – What is our responsibility?

Subject connections

- Social Studies: Human relationships
- Language Arts: Stories include: Should I Share My Ice Cream? My Best Friend, Enemy Pie
- Art: Working with friends to create a group art-project
- Music: Folk and traditional songs, school song, patriotic song
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
- Foreign Language: Different cultures around the world



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Unit Title: **How feelings are a part of being human**

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

Symbols represent us as global citizens

Lines of Inquiry

- Types of symbols
- Spirit of community
- Created meaning with designs

Key Concepts

- Change – How is it changing?
- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Form – What is it like?

Subject connections

- Science: our five senses
- Social Studies: sharing our feelings with others
- Language Arts: Stories include: the Five Senses, Mean Soup, Each Kindness
- Art: How colors can affect how we feel (i.e. the “blues”)
- Music: Folk and traditional songs, school song, patriotic song
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
- Foreign Language: Different cultures around the world
- Technology: 5 Senses Booklets on Wixie; 5 Senses Goosechase Scavenger Hunt



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Unit Title: **How to work cooperatively**

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

Working together cooperatively builds and strengthens a community

Lines of Inquiry

- Roles and responsibilities
- Teamwork
- Accountability

Key Concepts

- Responsibility – What is our responsibility?
- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Reflection – How do we know?

Subject connections

- Science: Cooperative learning roles in the science lab
- Social Studies: Classroom and school communities; Rules and laws
- Language Arts: Stories include: The Emperor's New Clothes, Too Many Tamales, Values Tales
- Music: Folk and traditional songs, school song, patriotic song
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
- Foreign Language: Different cultures around the world
- Technology: Froggy Gets Dressed BreakoutEDU
- Art: Students work individually to design a paper quilt square, and then work cooperatively to join the squares together.



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Unit Title: **Culture and customs**

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

Culture and customs affect the human experience

Lines of Inquiry

- Identifying cultures
- Similarities and differences of cultures and traditions
- How traditions are passed-on and preserved

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Form – What is it like?
- Connection – How is it connected to other things?

Subject connections

- Science: Healthy choices and nutrition in our culture as well as others
- Social Studies: Families sharing cultures; America's symbols; How we celebrate holidays
- Language Arts: Stories include: Harvesting hope, The Ugly Vegetable, Light and Candle, Bang the Drum
- Music: Folk and traditional songs, school song, patriotic song
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
- Technology: Digital poster: All about me and my culture
- Foreign Language: Different cultures around the world
- Technology: Discovery Education About Me Board Builder
- Art: Students reflect on their family roots and then create a drawing pertaining to their particular ethnic culture/heritage.



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Unit Title: **Culture and societies**

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

Culture and societies are influenced by community and personal choices

Lines of Inquiry

- Why people make certain economic choices
- Exploring kinds of communities
- How cultures influence communities

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Reflection – How do we know?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Subject connections

- Social Studies: Money; economic choices; culture within a community
- Language Arts: Stories include: The Journey; Tree of Cranes; It Takes a Village
- Music: Folk and traditional songs, school song, patriotic song
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
- Foreign Language: Different cultures around the world
- Technology: About Me Animoto Slideshow Video
- Art: As a community, students create a mural showing life at VPS.



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Unit Title: **How Influential People have Changed Our World**

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

People throughout history influence individual beliefs

Lines of Inquiry

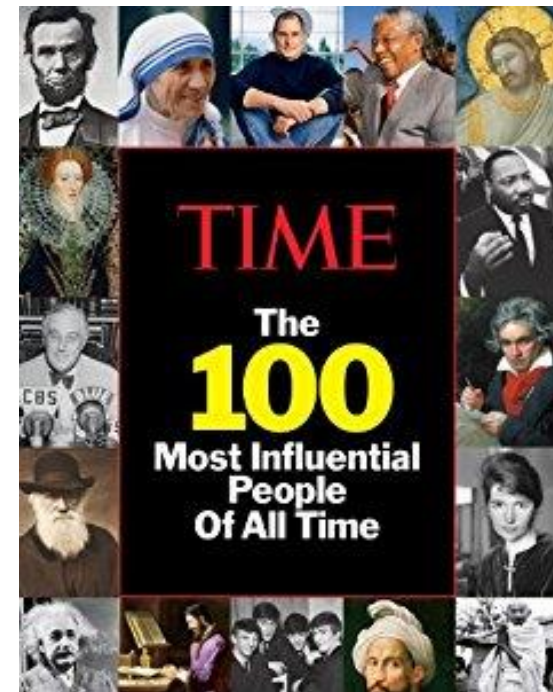
- What defines a hero
- What are the differences between a hero and a celebrity
- Who are some influential people in history
- How influential people have changed the world

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Reflection – How do we know?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Subject connections

- Science: Famous scientists throughout history
- Social Studies: Influential leaders throughout history
- Language Arts: Stories include: The Year They Walked; Gandhi; They Saw the Future
- Music: Folk and traditional songs, school song, patriotic song
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
- Foreign Language: Different cultures around the world
- Technology: DE Board Builder digital poster presentation
- Art: Students research a particular American historical figure and then do a portrait of that individual.



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Unit Title: **Rights and Responsibilities**

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

We cannot have rights without responsibilities

Lines of Inquiry

- Rights of the child
- Responsibilities that go along with rights
- Exploration of rights around the world
- What happens when people's rights are not met

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Form – What is it like?
- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Subject connections

- Science: Weather, climate, and the scientific process
- Social Studies: Geography: maps and explorers
- Language Arts: Stories include: Red Scarf, On My Honor, We Will Not Be Silent, Nelson Mandela
- Music: Folk and traditional songs, school song, patriotic song
- PE: Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
- Foreign Language: Different cultures around the world
- Art: Students research the American Bill of Rights and then illustrate one of them.



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Unit Title: How we are inspired by innovation & exploration

Dates of this unit: September - October

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Form – What is it like?
- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Central Ideas & Subject connections

English	People are inspired by the lives of others.
Science	Innovation and exploration lead to knowledge
Social Studies	Interrelated factors contribute to an individual’s well-being
Math	Humans are mathematicians
French	Sports, activities, and pastimes are essential in shaping our personality
Spanish	Understanding that we are a mix of Cross Cultural Connections.
Music	Folk & traditional songs; school song; patriotic song
PE	Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
Art	Students design and draw an ‘invention’ that they think would benefit the world community.



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Unit Title: How are beliefs and values help to define our humanity

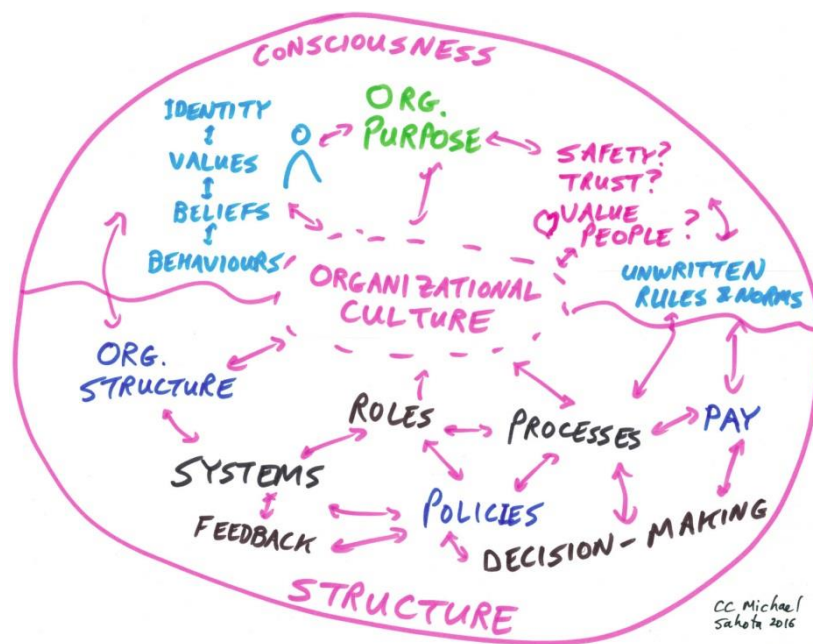
Dates of this unit: September - October

Key Concepts

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- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Central Ideas & Subject connections

English	Beliefs, values, and location shape who we are and how we respond to others with different viewpoints.
Science	What it means to be human.
Social Studies	Humans develop new ideas to help make their civilizations thrive
Math	Humans are mathematicians
French	Culture helps us develop a better understanding of ourselves and our relationships with others.
Spanish	Gaining a better understanding of who we are
Music	Folk & traditional songs; school song; patriotic song
PE	Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
Art	Students create an online poster advertising a particular belief or value.
Technology	PSA on teen related or global issues



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Unit Title: Humanity’s thirst for knowledge

Dates of this unit: September - October

Central Idea

An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Form – What is it like?
- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Central Ideas & Subject connections

English	Perspective influences our relationships with others and ourselves
Science	Humans have displayed a need for knowledge in the past which continues today
Social Studies	Human interactions influence rights and responsibilities in a society
Math	Humans are mathematicians
French	Leaders help shape our history.
Spanish	Our family relationships and eating customs compared to other cultures.
Music	Folk & traditional songs; school song; patriotic song
PE	Games and activities as an expression of self and individual abilities
Art	Students will compare and contrast different pieces of art and create a digital collage with the selected artwork.

