Cassingham Elementary Grade 3 Units of Inquiry

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|  | Transdisciplinary Theme | **Topic** | **Dates** | **Central Idea, Concepts (Key & Related), & LoI** |
| **1** | How We Organize OurselvesAn inquiry into the interconnectedness 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.**Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:**Angie and Ray’s Community and Homeless Outreach VisitHabitat for Humanity Guest SpeakerMidOhio Furniture Bank Guest SpeakerCity Hall Field Trip | Governments work for the Common Good | Aug. 13-Sept. 266 weeks | Central Idea:Communities organize themselves for the common good.Lines of Inquiry:* Community members have social and political responsibilities. (responsibility)
* Community members trade individual freedom for the common good. (perspective)
* Local government structures and processes (laws) govern public security, services, and rights (function)

Key Concepts:FUNCTION, PERSPECTIVE, RESPONSIBILITYRelated Concepts:Wants and needs, Decision-making structures, Decision-making processes |
| **2** | Who We AreAn inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social & spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights & responsibilities; what it means to be humanSpecial Guests/Field Trips/Activities:Observing Butterfly Life CycleObserving Seed Life Cycle | Life: Behavior Growth and Change  | Sept. 29-Nov. 75.5 weeks | Central Idea: The identity of living things reflects their families and environments.Lines of Inquiry:* Living things have inherited and learned traits. (function)
* Features and behavior of living things are linked to their environment. (connection)
* Adaptation to the environment affects ongoing survival. (change)

Key Concepts:FUNCTION, CONNECTION , CHANGERelated Concepts: Adaptation, Life Cycles |
| **3** | Where We Are in Place & TimeAn inquiry into orientation in place & time; personal histories; homes & journeys; **the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind**; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.**Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:**Wesley Ridge/Bexley Retirement Center?Grandparent interviews?Slate Run/Historical Society?Rachel’s artifact museum | Communities Change | Nov. 10-Jan. 165.5 weeks | Central Idea:Communities change over time.Lines of Inquiry:* The environment shapes a community (causation)
* Technology and invention shape economic and social development in a community (function/causation)
* Changes in the community can be recorded in different ways (change)

Key Concepts:FUNCTION, CAUSATION, CHANGERelated Concepts:Local History, Livelihoods, Environmental change |
| **4** | How the World WorksAn 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.**Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:** | Matter Matters**Weather** | Jan. 20-March 136 weeks | Central Idea:Energy can move or change matter. (causation)Lines of Inquiry:* Matter exists in different states (causation)
* States of matter can change (change)
* Forms of energy (properties) (form)

Key Concepts:FORM, CHANGE, CAUSATIONRelated Concepts:Matter: States and Properties, Energy, Motion |
| **5** | Sharing the Planet**An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things**; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.  **Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:**SWACO | Earth’s Resources | March 23- April 245 weeks | Central Idea:Our actions have an impact on the Earth’s resources.Lines of Inquiry:* Earth’s non-living resources (Soil, rocks, air, and water) (form)
* Earth’s resources are renewable or non-renewable (connection)
* Some key resources are limited and need to be conserved (responsibility)

Key Concepts:FORM, CONNECTION, RESPONSIBILITYRelated Concepts:Renewable resources, Resources and energy, Resource conservation |
| **6** | How We Express Ourselves**An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express our ideas**, feelings, nature, **culture**, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and **enjoy our creativity**; our appreciation of the aesthetic**Special Guests/Field Trips/Activities:** | Valuing Choices(Economics and Health) | April 27-May 224 weeks | Central Idea:What people produce and buy reflects their values.Lines of Inquiry:* Healthy choices (reflection)
* Producers and consumers exchange goods and services (connection)
* Economic choices reflect personal and communal values (perspective)

Key Concepts:CONNECTION, PERSPECTIVE, REFLECTIONRelated Concepts:Consumption, Production, Values and choices, healthy choices |