

### 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: **How We Organize Ourselves**

An 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.

### Unit Title: **Rules & Routines**

**Dates of this unit:** Trimester 1

### Central Idea

Rules and routines enhance a classroom community

### Lines of Inquiry

- Rules
- Routines
- The importance of rules and routines in communities

### Key Concepts

- Causation – Why is it like it is?
- Responsibility – What is our responsibility?
- Reflection – How do we know?

### Subject connections

- Science: Planting a garden
- Social Studies: Rules, routines, communities
- Music: how musical groups are organized
- PE: Learning rules and proper techniques to be successful on the playing field
- Foreign Language: Organizing things smallest to biggest, shortest to tallest and vice-versa. Numbers 1 to 20.
- Language Arts: Stories include: Library Lion; Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse; David Goes to School
- Art: Rules and routines for the Art room
- Technology: Rules for internet access



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### Unit Title: **Community Responsibility**

**Dates of this unit:** Trimester 1

#### Central Idea

For a school community to function, all members have responsibilities to each other.

#### Lines of Inquiry

- How a school community functions
- Strategies/skills to be a responsible community member
- The school buildings and grounds

#### Key Concepts

- Responsibility – What is our responsibility?
- Reflection – How do we know?
- Function – How does it work?

#### Subject connections

- Math: Collect, organize, and display data using tallies, picture charts, & bar graphs
- Social Studies: Goods & Services; Needs & Wants
- Music: how musical groups are organized
- PE: Learning rules and proper techniques to be successful on the playing field
- Foreign Language: Parts of the face/body and relating them to the 5 senses.
- Language Arts: Stories include: The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade; The Invisible Boy; Roxaboxen
- Technology: Responsible use of the internet
- Art: Responsible use of art supplies



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### Unit Title: **Organization Creates Order**

**Dates of this unit:** Trimester 1

### Central Idea

People use organization as a system to create order

### Lines of Inquiry

- How and why we organize
- Organizing ourselves at home, at school, and in our community
- Consequences of presence or absence of organization

### Key Concepts

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

### Subject connections

- Science: scientific method (process)
- Social Studies: Rules, Lion book, class schedule, desk organization
- Language Arts: Stories include: Bully; The Watcher; I. Q. Goes to the Library
- Music: How musical groups are organized
- PE: Learning rules and proper techniques to be successful on the playing field
- Technology: Being organized during STEAM-projects
- Foreign Language: Months of the year and seasons.
- Art: Being organized in the art room



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### Unit Title: **Human & Natural-made Systems**

**Dates of this unit:** Trimester 1

### Central Idea

Systems are established to negotiate the world around us.

### Lines of Inquiry

- Settlement of St. Louis in the 1800s
- Transportation, communication, and moving West
- Scientists record weather & climate to predict patterns & reveal relationships

### Key Concepts

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

### Subject connections

- Science: Weather and Climate; Natural Hazards
- Social Studies: Westward expansion; Developments in transportation and communication; Connecting East and West
- Music: How musical groups are organized
- PE: Techniques to be successful on the playing field
- Language Arts: Stories include: Train to Somewhere; They're Off!; Grandfather's Journey
- Technology: How the internet can be used to track people's movements
- French: Means of Transportation & traditional city fairs
- Spanish: Making a book of numbers. How do we keep things organized in the classroom.



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### Unit Title: **Government's Influence**

**Dates of this unit:** Trimester 1

#### Central Idea

A nation's government influences the lives of its population

#### Lines of Inquiry

- How government systems function
- Decision making processes
- The impact of government on citizens and immigrants

#### Key Concepts

- Causation – Why is it like it is?
- Form – What is it like?
- Perspective – What are the points of view?

#### Subject connections

- Social Studies: How government systems function & the impact of government on citizens and immigrants
- Language Arts: Stories include: Breaking Stalin's Nose; Vote!; House Mouse, Senate Mouse; Woodrow, the White House Mouse
- Music: How musical groups are organized
- PE: Techniques to be successful on the playing field
- French: Money and change; Road signs
- Spanish: Spanish speaking countries and their capitals, organized by location in the world
- Technology: Government regulation of the internet



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### Unit Title: **Communities!**

**Dates of this unit:** Trimester 1

### Central Idea

Human beings form communities based on their needs and local resources

### Lines of Inquiry

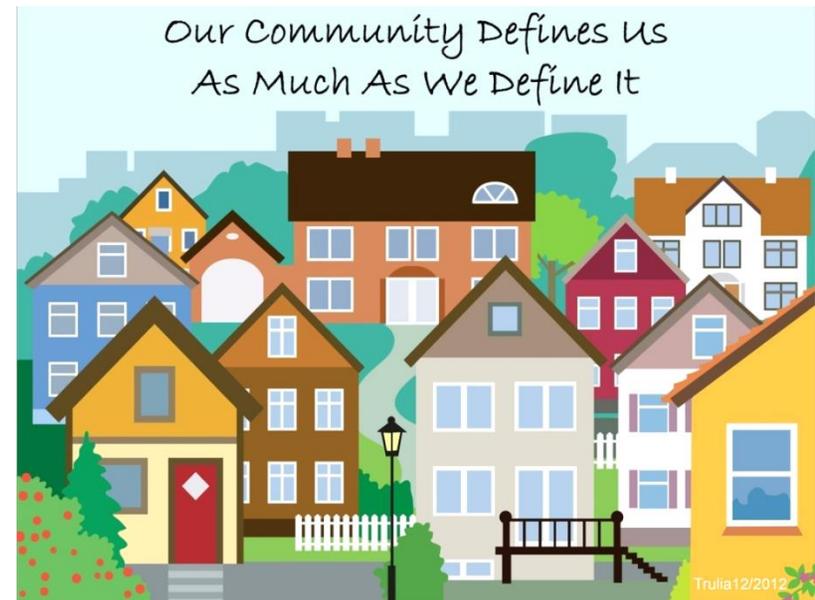
- Kinds of communities
- How local circumstances influence the formation of communities
- Effects of colonization and urbanization

### Key Concepts

- Causation – Why is it like it is?
- Form – What is it like?
- Function – How does it work?

### Subject connections

- Science: Solar & Body systems
- Social Studies: The original thirteen colonies of the United States
- Language Arts: Stories include: Me & Marvin Gardens; Our Only May Amelia; How the Colonists Lived; Jamestown
- Music: How musical groups are organized
- PE: Techniques to be successful on the playing field
- Technology: How the internet brings communities closer together
- Art: Designing a community layout



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**Transdisciplinary Theme: How We Organize Ourselves**

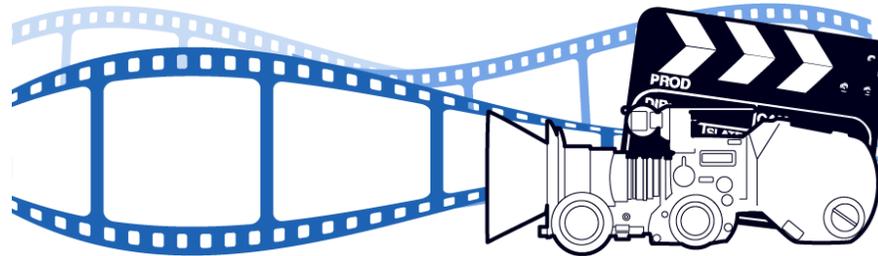
An inquiry into the **interconnectedness** of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

**Unit Title: Let’s Make a Movie!**

**Dates of this unit:** Trimester 1

**Key Concepts**

- Form – What is it like?
- Perspective – What are the points of view?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?



	SIXTH GRADE	SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE
<b>CENTRAL IDEA</b>	An inquiry into the logistics of movie-making		
<b>LINES OF INQUIRY PER SUBJECT</b>			
<b>English</b>	How to write a scrip		
<b>Science</b>	How to create special effects		
<b>Social St.</b>	How to select a location		
<b>Math</b>	How to provide funding for a movie		
<b>Foreign Lang.</b>	How to build a diorama (stage set)		
<b>Music</b>	How music interacts with video		
<b>Art</b>	How the history of filmmaking & cinematography has shaped modern movies, including the development of animation and motion creating devices.		
<b>Technology</b>	How PSAs are different from regular commercials.		

