



- Units of Inquiry
- Exploring the arts
- Exploring the world

Curricular Calendar



2023 - 2024

MONTH	Units of Inquiry	Exploring the arts	Exploring the world	Special events
August	I Am Unique / My School Explore and discover ourselves; understand how we are unique and how we are different from each other.	Colors Colors help us observe, categorize and communicate what we see	United States of America (North America)	4 Meet the Teachers 7 First Day of School 17-21 VPK Program Begins 24 Coffee Morning – 9:30am
September	Brain, Body, and Thought How do our brains and bodies work? Explore the relevance of our thinking processes. Being critical and reflective in different situations.	Shapes Explore and identify how each shape contributes the way we see, feel, and perceive our surroundings	The Globe	5-8 Grandparents & Special Visitors 11-22 Target Setting/PT Conferences 30 Thinking Through the Arts
October	Candy It is amazing how this small, yet delicious word, incorporates so much art, science, technology, history and cultural forces.	Photography The method of recording the image of an object, we capture moments and preserve history	Nepal (Asia)	9-13 Culture of Thinking in Action Night 31 Fall Festival
November	A World of Change Change is a reality, and also a potential that we all have. Promote creativity, exploration, innovation, questioning, cause and effect, discoveries, etc.	Environmental Art Sculptures, paintings, theater and more to are used to raise awareness about the environment	Croatia (Europe)	10 Veteran's Day/Professional Development 13-17 Gratitude Celebrations TBD Coffee Morning
December	Celebrations Around the World Offering a sense of belonging for religious, social or geographical groups; these celebrations share stories and experiences, providing a meaning for harmony and unanimity between families.	Art Basel This art fair gathers artists and visitors from all around the world in in different cities around the globe	Italy (Europe)	Nov 27 – Dec 8 Progress Report/P-T Conference 18-22 Holiday Celebrations Around the World
January	Under Water Explore the values of curiosity, respect and responsibility through our investigation of water and the life it supports. All living creatures rely on water for oxygen, food and other essentials such as medications and fun!	Michael Grab Rock Balancing, Photography, and Videography	Thailand (Asia)	16- Martin Luther King Jr / Professional Development TBD Master Chef 3's and 4's TBD Transition to Kindergarten
February	Playing with Physics Investigate processes and systems by which we understand the world and the universe. Children will meaningfully generate their own experiments, formulate their own questions, and provide their analyses in an assertive manner.	Georges Seurat Impressionist Artist, Pointillism	Egypt (Africa & Asia)	TBD Master Chef Infts, Toddlers, 2's 12 -16 Friendship Week Celebration 19 Student-Led-Conference
March	Theater, Literature and Stories of the World Literature is the gateway to knowledge; the understanding of what surrounds us. Encounter the concepts of language, literacy, performance and connection through the power of this means of expression!	Fernando Botero A Columbian painter with his own style called "Boterismo."	Costa Rica (North America)	Feb 26 – March 8 Progress Report 9 Family Fun Day
April	Animal Planet Comprehend, connect, explore, and wonder about all animals and their wonderful surroundings.	Mosaics Representing parts using patterns and repetitions to represent an idea, a situation or a concept	South Africa (Africa)	1-5 Spring Festival TBD VPK Orientation April 29 – May 3 Parents Day
May	The Factory of Fun What is FUN?! And how we can TRANSFORM the school into a place of making, designing, constructing and above all having fun? This month we will generate ideas and enjoy the process of MAKING fun!	Andy Warhol American artist, painter, sculptor	Turkey (Europe & Asia)	13-24 Progress Reports/P-T Conference TBD Coffee Morning

The Edu1st.VESS Curriculum utilizes neuroscience-based strategies to foster the behaviors, values, and habits that young learners need for success and happiness beyond school.

Why this calendar matters to your child's education:

Neuroscience tells us that children learn best through *fun, experiential and sensory experiences* that challenge them. Such experiences incite **children's curiosity**.



Curiosity leads to **EXPLORATION**

Exploration leads to **DISCOVERY**



And discovery (with the right questions and guidance) leads to **DEEP LEARNING**

In addition, we know (based on decades of research) that **teaching academic content is not enough**, but rather the development of a series of **skills, behaviors, dispositions and habits of mind** that allow children to become balanced, purpose-driven, and independently-learning individuals.



We do this by: Exposing children to real-world content through **3 provocative monthly modules, each with specific objectives:**



Units of Inquiry



Exploring the World



Exploring the Arts

Teachers create exciting experiences through these modules, and then foster learning and Thinking Skills through thoughtfully crafted questions and Thinking Strategies such as: the Thinking Keys, Concept Maps and Thinking Routines.

All Monthly Modules are Strategically designed to:



Connect children to **real world content**



Incite curiosity and exploration of that content



Promote questioning and a desire for **deeper understanding**



Experience content from the child's perspective, and expose them to multiple perspectives



Introduce academic topics through the modules' content so that learning can be experiential, authentic, and truly comprehended



Units of Inquiry

Units of Inquiry are projects strategically designed to foster curiosity and a problem-solving mindset by introducing children to problems that matter to them. These projects invite children to explore, inquire, innovate, plan, and do, while discovering their own thinking. Units connect month to month, promoting those children make connections and extend learning from one project to the next.



Exploring the World

Exploring the World brings the world to the classroom by exploring a country or region each month. The goal is to integrate a wide understanding of our world in which diversity and multiculturalism are the main components. The "Exploring the World" module supports a vision of the world based on empathy, awareness, and respect for diversity.



Exploring the Arts

Exploring the Arts explores artists and artistic movements, as well as the history, techniques, and stories behind them.