

Hiteon Programme of Inquiry

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The Program of Inquiry, or POI, describes Hiteon Elementary School's IB PYP curriculum. Each grade level addresses six trans-disciplinary themes in a sequence of instructional units that build on the work of previous grade levels.

Every grade level studies their Common Core State Standards under the following themes:

- *Who We Are*
- *Where We Are In Place And Time*
- *How The World Works*
- *How We Organize Ourselves*
- *How We Express Ourselves*
- *Sharing the Planet*

All Hiteon students will have studied a theme from six different vantage points as they travel through the grades in our elementary school.

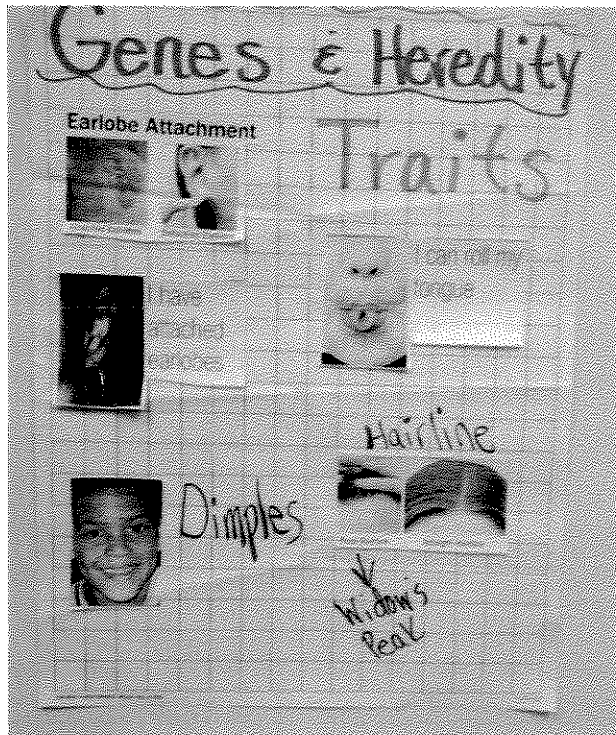
Who We Are, for example, is an inquiry into the nature of self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental social, and spiritual health; human relationships, including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities, and what it means to be human.

Whew, that is quite a bit to study! Each grade level chooses a portion of the theme to focus and study deeply, so that by the time the student graduated on to middle school they will have thoroughly has explored the theme at various grade levels.

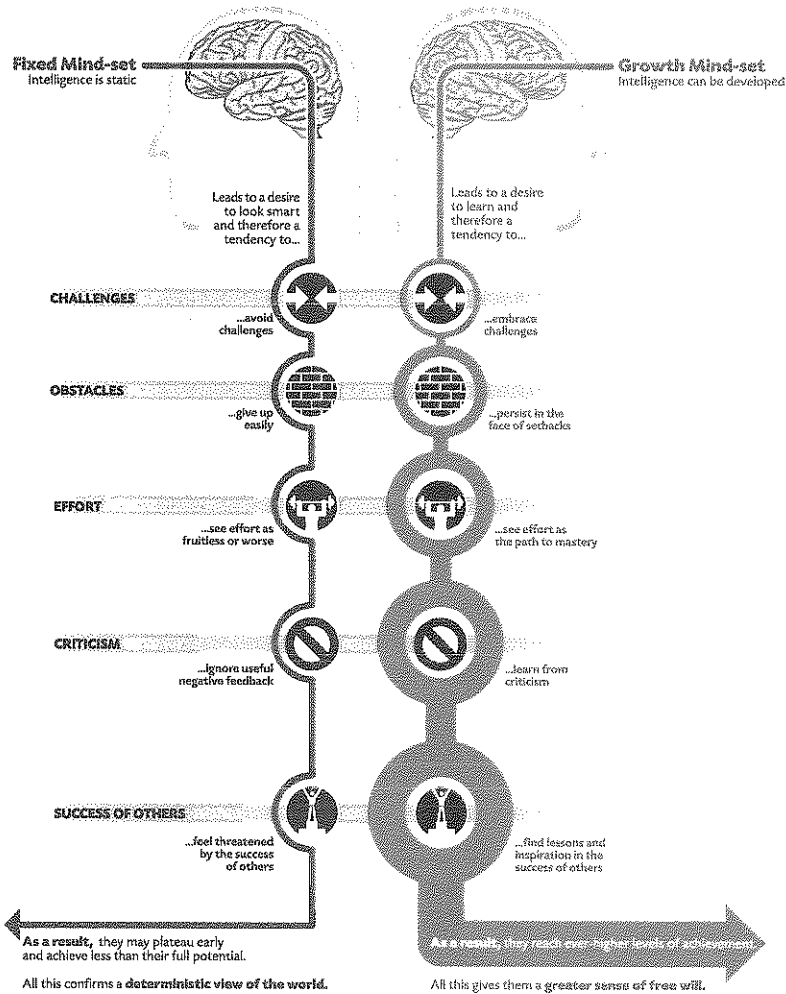


For example, in the first grade, under the **Who We Are** theme, students look closely at their own culture as well as study other cultures as they inquire into the variety of ways people celebrate. The students interview family members about their own traditions and share their culture doll with each other. As they learn about the variety of cultural expressions, the students are prompted to inquire and discover similarities and differences in cultures; appreciating their own and respecting others.

In third grade, that very same theme is explored, this time inquiring into the science of inherited traits and learner profile traits. They inquire into the traits we are born with as well as the traits that can be developed.



Fifth grade looks at Maslow's Hierarchy of needs, Mindset and Learner Attitude to understand how people respond to overcome challenges. They focus on setting goals and truly putting forth effort to achieve those goals.



Each unit contains the following components:

- **A central idea:** All learning in the unit is built around this idea. It encompasses the several lines of inquiry that the children will explore. Each student is expected to be able to communicate the central idea at the end of each unit.
- **Key concepts:** Hiteon Elementary School's program of inquiry focuses on the eight key concepts of *form, function,*

causation, change, connection, perspective, responsibility, and reflection. Each key concept is a way of looking at the central idea, and we use the key concepts to organize our thoughts and questions about the unit.

- **Lines of Inquiry:** The lines of inquiry help us define the central idea and how we want to address it. As we plan a unit, we consider the various aspects and concepts we need to use in order to learn what needs to be learned. We form 3-5 lines of inquiry which will represent a number of days of study within the unit.

A sample of Hiteon's POI for Who We Are at this time:

grade	theme	Central idea	Key Concepts	Lines of Inquiry
1	Who We Are	People celebrate what they value	Perspective Causation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone has a unique culture 2. People Celebrate national and cultural holidays. 3. Cultures have traditions
3	Who We Are	Nature and nurture influence who we are.	Causation Connection Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individuals bring personal traits to a community. 2. We are born with physical traits. 3. Personal traits can be developed.
5	Who We Are	Success is something acquired	Causation Change Reflection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What people need to be successful. 2. Characteristics of successful people. 3. Challenges people face.

You may have noticed three of the 6 grade levels are working on this theme. As the other grade levels begin to develop their Who We Are theme, they will be certain to teach their Common Core State Standards and incorporate perspectives not already studied deeply at the other grade levels. The POI gives teachers opportunities to discuss what is important to teach at their grade level and share with the other teaching teams what students have studied in the past as well as what will be studied in the future. The PYP helps teachers become more mindful of each Hiteon student's entire experience in elementary school, not just the year they spend in one grade level.

Be sure to check out the Hiteon Programme of Inquiry located in the main hallway. As each teaching team plans a unit, more and more details emerge. This year, the teachers' goals are to have three units planned and taught. Spring of 2016, all six themes will have been planned and taught with a complete Programme of Inquiry.

