# Your Living Curriculum©

General Guide-Lines and Instructions for submission (GGL&I)

**Submission No:**

Below are your general guidelines for the genre you have chosen. This outline will give a an idea of good instructional content. It's our hope that you will have the best chance of getting your work accepted. Keep writing!

**Level**
**Third Grade**

**Concept & Background Information**

*In third grade, students develop an understanding of systems and system models along with structure and function involving energy and matter. By the end of third grade, students will gain an understanding of how the Sun provides energy for life on Earth. Students apply their understanding of light and sound waves, how they travel, are detected, and transfer energy. Students learn that organisms have different structures and functions which increase their chances of survival. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data and simple measurements using the science and engineering practices: ask questions and define problems, develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematics and computational thinking, construct explanations and design solutions, engage in argument from evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. Individual lessons may include connections to concepts, focus on helping students understand phenomena through systems, models, and structure*.

**Physical Science**

Light is seen because it affects the objects it reaches, including our eyes. Sources give out light, which travels from them in various directions and is detected when it reaches and enters our eyes. Objects that are seen either give out or reflect light that human eyes can detect. Sound comes from things that vibrate and can be detected at a distance from the source because the air or other material around is made to vibrate. Sounds are heard when the vibrations in the air enter our ears. An object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eyes; the color people see depends on the color of the available light sources as well as the properties of the surface. Because lenses bend light beams, they can be used, singly or in combination, to provide magnified images of objects too small or too far away to be seen with the naked eye. Waves of the same type can differ in amplitude (height of the wave) and wavelength (spacing between wave peaks). Waves can add or cancel one another as they cross, depending on their relative phase (i.e., relative position of peaks and troughs of the waves), but they emerge unaffected by each other. (Boundary: The discussion at this grade level is qualitative; it can be based on the fact that two different sounds can pass a location in different directions without getting mixed up.)
The faster a given object is moving, the more energy it possesses. Energy can be moved from place to place by moving objects or through sound or light. (Boundary: At this grade level, no attempt is made to give a precise or complete definition of energy.) Energy is present whenever there are moving objects, sound, light, or heat. When objects collide, energy can be transferred from one object to another, thereby changing their motion. In such collisions, some energy is typically also transferred to the surrounding air; as a result, the air gets heated and sound is produced. Light also transfers energy from place to place. For example, energy radiated from the sun is transferred to Earth by light. When this light is absorbed, it warms Earth's land, air, and water and facilitates plant growth.

**Earth and Space Science**

All Earth processes are the result of energy flowing and matter cycling within and among Earth's systems. This energy originates from the sun and from Earth's interior. Earth's major systems are the geosphere (solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments), the hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans). These systems interact in multiple ways to affect Earth's surface materials and processes.

**Life Science**

Animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (Boundary: Stress at this grade level focus is on understanding the macroscale systems and their function, not microscopic processes.)
The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants. Either way, they are "consumers." Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms (both plants or plants parts and animals) and therefore operate as "decomposers." Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil for plants to use. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem.
Matter cycles between the air and soil and among plants, animals, and microbes as these organisms live and die. Organisms obtain gases, water, and minerals from the environment and release waste matter (gas, liquid, or solid) back into the environment.
Animals and plants alike generally need to take in air and water, animals must take in food, and plants need light and minerals; anaerobic life, such as bacteria in the gut, functions without air. Food provides animals with the materials they need for body repair and growth and is digested to release the energy they need to maintain body warmth and for motion.
Plants acquire their material for growth chiefly from air and water and process matter they have formed to maintain their internal conditions (e.g., at night). Animals need food that they can break down, which comes either directly by eating plants (herbivores) or by eating animals (carnivores) which have eaten plants or other animals. Animals are ultimately dependent on plants for their survival. The relationships among organisms can be represented as food chains and food webs. Some animals are dependent on plants in other ways as well as for food, for example for shelter and, in the case of human beings, for clothing and fuel. Plants also depend on animals in various ways. For example, many flowering plants depend on insects for pollination and on other animals for dispersing their seeds.

**Fourth Grade**

*In fourth grade, students apply systems and system models as they investigate how energy and the availability of resources affects Earth systems (geosphere and biosphere). They also develop an understanding of stability and change with regards to how populations of organisms and Earth have changed over time. By the end of fourth grade, students expand on the idea that energy from the Sun interacts with Earth systems and explore other forms of energy we use in everyday life. Students apply their understanding of the various Earth systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere) and how they interact with each other and heat from the Sun. Students understand how geological systems change and shape the planet and provide resources. Students also develop an understanding of how Earth processes and human interactions positively and negatively that can change environments impacting the ability for organisms to survive. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data and simple measurements using the science and engineering practices: ask questions and define problems, develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematics and computational thinking, construct explanations and design solutions, engage in argument from evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. While individual lessons may include connections to any of the crosscutting concepts, the standards in fourth grade focus on helping students understand phenomena through systems and system models, energy and matter, and stability and change.*

**Physical Science**

Energy is present whenever there are moving objects, sound, light, or heat. When objects collide, energy can be transferred from one object to another, thereby changing their motion. In such collisions, some energy is typically also transferred to the surrounding air; as a result, the air gets heated and sound is produced. Light also transfers energy from place to place. For example, energy radiated from the sun is transferred to Earth by light. When this light is absorbed, it warms Earth's land, air, and water and facilitates plant growth. Energy can also be transferred from place to place by electric currents, which can then be used locally to produce motion, sound, heat, or light. The currents may have been produced to begin with by transforming the energy of motion into electrical energy (e.g., moving water driving a spinning turbine which generates electric currents). The faster a given object is moving, the more energy it possesses. Energy can be moved from place to place by moving objects or through sound or light. (Boundary: At this grade level, no attempt is made to give a precise or complete definition of energy.) For example, energy radiated from the sun is transferred to Earth by light. When this light is absorbed, it warms Earth's land, air, and water and facilitates plant growth. The expression "produce energy" typically refers to the conversion of stored energy into a desired form for practical use—for example, the stored energy of water behind a dam is released so that it flows downhill and drives a turbine generator to produce electricity. Food and fuel also release energy when they are digested or burned. When machines or animals "use" energy (e.g., to move around), most often the energy is transferred to heat the surrounding environment. The energy released by burning fuel or digesting food was once energy from the sun that was captured by plants in the chemical process that forms plant matter (from air and water). (Boundary: The fact that plants capture energy from sunlight is introduced at this grade level, but details of photosynthesis are not.) It is important to be able to concentrate energy so that it is available for use where and when it is needed. For example, batteries are physically transportable energy storage devices, whereas electricity generated by power plants is transferred from place to place through distribution systems.

**Earth and Space Science**

Waves of the same type can differ in amplitude (height of the wave) and wavelength (spacing between wave peaks). Waves can add or cancel one another as they cross, depending on their relative phase (i.e., relative position of peaks and troughs of the waves), but they emerge unaffected by each other. (Boundary: The discussion at this grade level is qualitative only; it can be based on the fact that two different sounds can pass a location in different directions without getting mixed up.) Earthquakes cause seismic waves, which are waves of motion in Earth's crust. Earth's major systems are the geosphere (solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments), the hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans). These systems interact in multiple ways to affect Earth's surface materials and processes. The ocean supports a variety of ecosystems and organisms, shapes landforms, and influences climate. Winds and clouds in the atmosphere interact with the landforms to determine patterns of weather. Rainfall helps shape the land and affects the types of living things found in a region. Water, ice, wind, living organisms, and gravity break rocks, soils, and sediments into smaller particles and move them around. Human activities affect Earth's systems and their interactions at its surface. Earth has changed over time. Understanding how landforms develop, are weathered (broken down into smaller pieces), and erode (get transported elsewhere) can help infer the history of the current landscape. Local, regional, and global patterns of rock formations reveal changes over time due to Earth forces, such as earthquakes. The presence and location of certain fossil types indicate the order in which rock layers were formed. Weather is the minute-by-minute to day-by-day variation of the atmosphere's condition on a local scale. Scientists record the patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. Climate describes the ranges of an area's typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years to centuries.

Water is found almost everywhere on Earth: as vapor; as fog or clouds in the atmosphere; as rain or snow falling from clouds; as ice, snow, and running water on land and in the ocean; and as groundwater beneath the surface. The downhill movement of water as it flows to the ocean shapes the appearance of the land. Nearly all of Earth's available water is in the ocean. Most freshwater is in glaciers or underground; only a tiny fraction is in streams, lakes, wetlands, and the atmosphere. A variety of hazards result from natural processes (e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, severe weather, floods, coastal erosion). Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts.

**Live Science**

When the environment changes in ways that affect a place's physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die. 4 (p. 155) Fossils provide evidence about the types of organisms (both visible and microscopic) that lived long ago and also about the nature of their environments. Fossils can be compared with one another and to living organisms according to their similarities and differences. 4 (p. 162) Changes in an organism's habitat are sometimes beneficial to it and sometimes harmful. For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

**Fifth Grade**

*In fifth grade, students apply their understanding of scale at micro levels as they investigate changes in matter and at macro levels as they investigate patterns of genetic information and movement between Earth and Moon. By the end of fifth grade, students apply their understanding of scale at macro (time and space) and micro (particles of matter) levels to understand patterns and scale across life, earth and space, and physical sciences. Students will develop an understanding of forces, conservation of matter, and that genetic information can be passed down from parent to offspring. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data and measurements using the science and engineering practices: ask questions and define problems, develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematics and computational thinking, construct explanations and design solutions, engage in argument from evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. While individual lessons may include connections to any of the crosscutting concepts, the standards in fifth grade focus on helping students understand phenomena through patterns and scale, proportion and quantity.*

**Physical Science**

Matter of any type can be subdivided into particles that are too small to see, but even then, the matter still exists and can be detected by other means (e.g., by weighing or by its effects on other objects). For example, a model showing that gases are made from matter particles that are too small to see and are moving freely around in space can explain many observations, including the inflation and shape of a balloon; the effects of air on larger particles or objects (e.g., leaves in wind, dust suspended in air); and the appearance of visible scale water droplets in condensation, fog, and, by extension, also in clouds or the contrails of a jet. The amount (weight) of matter is conserved when it changes form, even in transitions in which it seems to vanish (e.g., sugar in solution, evaporation in a closed container). Measurements of a variety of properties (e.g., hardness, reflectivity) can be used to identify particular materials. (Boundary: At this grade level, mass and weight are not distinguished, and no attempt is made to define the unseen particles or explain the atomic-scale mechanism of evaporation and condensation.) When two or more different substances are mixed, a new substance with different properties may be formed; such occurrences depend on the substances and the temperature. No matter what reaction or change in properties occurs, the total weight of the substances does not change. (Boundary:

Mass and weight are not distinguished at this grade level.) Other substances simply mix without changing permanently and can often be separated again. At room temperature, some substances are in the solid state, some in the liquid state and some in the gas state. The state of many substances can be changed by heating or cooling them. The amount of matter does not change when a solid melts or a liquid evaporates.
Gravity is the universal attraction between all objects, however large or small, although it is only apparent when one of the objects is very large. This gravitational attraction keeps the planets in orbit around the Sun, the Moon round the Earth and their moons round other planets. On the Earth it results in everything being pulled down towards the center of the Earth. We call this downward attraction the weight of an object.
Objects in contact exert forces on each other (friction, elastic pushes and pulls). Electric, magnetic, and gravitational forces between a pair of objects do not require that the objects be in contact-for example, magnets push pull at a distance.
Each force acts on one particular object and has both a strength and a direction. An object at rest typically has multiple forces acting on it, but they add to give zero net force on the object. Forces that do not sum to zero can cause changes in the object's speed or direction of motion. (Boundary: Qualitative and conceptual, but not quantitative addition of forces are used at this level.) The patterns of an object's motion in various situations can be observed and measured; when past motion exhibits a regular pattern, future motion can be predicted from it. (Boundary: Technical terms, such as magnitude, velocity, momentum, and vector quantity, are not introduced at this level, but the concept that some quantities need both size and direction to be described is developed.) How quickly an object's motion is changed depends on the force acting and the object's mass. The greater the mass of an object, the longer it takes to speed it up or slow it down, a property of mass described as inertia.
The faster a given object is moving, the more energy it possesses. Energy can be moved from place to place by moving objects or through sound, light, or electric currents. (Boundary: At this grade level, no attempt is made to give a precise or complete definition of energy.) Energy is present whenever there are moving objects, sound, light, or heat. When objects collide, energy can be transferred from one object to another, thereby changing their motion. In such collisions, some energy is typically also transferred to the surrounding air; as a result, the air gets heated and sound is produced. Light also transfers energy from place to place. For example, energy radiated from the sun is transferred to Earth by light. When this light is absorbed, it warms Earth's land, air, and water and facilitates plant growth. Energy can also be transferred from place to place by electric currents, which can then be used locally to produce motion, sound, heat, or light. The currents may have been produced to begin with by transforming the energy of motion into electrical energy (e.g., moving water driving a spinning turbine which generates electric currents).

**Earth and Space**
The Earth moves round the Sun taking about a year for one orbit. The Moon orbits the Earth taking about four weeks to complete an orbit. The Sun, at the center of the solar system, is the only object in the solar system that is a source of visible light. The Moon reflects light from the Sun and as it moves round the Earth only those parts illuminated by the Sun are seen. The Earth rotates about an axis lying north to south and this motion makes it appear that the Sun, Moon and stars are moving round the Earth. The orbits of Earth around the sun and of the moon around Earth, together with the rotation of Earth about an axis between its North and South poles, cause observable patterns. Some objects in the solar system can be seen with the naked eye. Planets in the night sky change positions and are not always visible from Earth as they orbit the sun. Stars appear in patterns called constellations, which can be used for navigation and appear to move together across the sky because of Earth's rotation. 4 (p. 176)
Gravity is the universal attraction between all objects, however large or small, although it is

only apparent when one of the objects is very large. On the Earth it results in everything being pulled down towards the center of the Earth. We call this downward attraction the weight of an object. 2 (p. 21) The gravitational force of Earth acting on an object near Earth's surface pulls that object toward the planet's center.

**Life Science**

Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents. Other characteristics result from individuals' interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment. 4 (p. 158) The environment also affects the traits that an organism develops— differences in where they grow or in the food they consume may cause organisms that are related to end up looking or behaving differently. 4 (p. 158) When the environment changes in ways that affect a place's physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die.Offspring acquire a mix of traits from their biological parents. Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information. In each kind of organism there is variation in the traits themselves, and different kinds of organisms may have different versions of the trait. The environment also affects the traits that an organism develops—differences in where they grow or in the food they consume may cause organisms that are related to end up looking or behaving differently.

Changes in an organism's habitat are sometimes beneficial to it and sometimes harmful. For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.Scientists have identified and classified many plants and animals. Populations of organisms live in a variety of habitats and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. Humans, like all other organisms, obtain living and nonliving resources from their environments.

Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents. Other characteristics result from individuals' interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment.