

LADYBIRD UPPER ELEMENTARY JOURNEY

AGES 9-12

LANGUAGE ARTS

CONCEPTS

- Literature studies across genres and cultures
- Grammar, sentence structure, and mechanics
- Writing process (planning, drafting, revising, and editing)
- Expression through stories and poetry

SKILLS

- Interpret texts for theme, message, and point of view
- Apply conventions to communicate with clarity
- Develop thoughtful writing through the creative process
- Communicate ideas effectively using varied formats and voice

MATH

CONCEPTS

- Operations (fractions, decimals, and percentages)
- Algebraic thinking
- Measurement of area, volume, and perimeter
- Exploration of angles, lines, and geometric figures

SKILLS

- Apply operations to solve real-world problems
- Recognize and extend patterns with confidence
- Use formulas and tools to calculate and compare
- Identify, measure, and classify geometric relationships and properties

SCIENCE

CONCEPTS

- Earth systems (geology, weather, ecosystems)
- Physics (force, motion, and energy)
- Human body systems
- Scientific inquiry and experimentation

SKILLS

- Describe interactions in ecological and natural processes
- Conduct investigations on force, motion, and energy
- Explain interactions of major organs and systems
- Ask questions, collect data, and draw conclusions

CULTURAL STUDIES

CONCEPTS

- Early civilizations and indigenous cultures
- World religions and belief systems
- Government systems and citizenship
- U.S. geography and map skills

SKILLS

- Identify key contributions and geographic locations
- Explore beliefs and cultural practices
- Understand rights and civic engagement
- Interpret maps, use cardinal directions, and identify regions

PRACTICAL LIFE

CONCEPTS

- Executive functioning (planning, time management)
- Personal finance (budgeting, saving, needs vs. wants)
- Personal care and hygiene
- Grace and courtesy

SKILLS

- Create routines for personal accountability
- Track spending and create simple budgets
- Develop independence through consistent routines
- Practice respectful communication and conflict resolution

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

CONCEPTS

- Research methods and source evaluation
- Citation and plagiarism awareness
- Digital tools (presentations, slides, basic publishing)
- Digital citizenship

SKILLS

- Gather and assess reliable information from sources
- Practice paraphrasing and citing sources correctly
- Use technology for sharing knowledge and collaboration
- Demonstrate safe, ethical, and respectful technology use

SPANISH

CONCEPTS

- Greetings, introductions, and classroom language
- Numbers, calendar, and weather
- Food, clothing, and common objects
- Cultural celebrations and traditions

SKILLS

- Understand common words and phrases
- Use vocabulary related to time and daily conditions
- Name familiar objects and preferences
- Explore customs across Spanish-speaking countries

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CONCEPTS

- Cooperative games and sportsmanship
- Fitness and endurance activities
- Gross motor skill development
- Healthy lifestyle choices

SKILLS

- Demonstrate teamwork and positive communication
- Build stamina and body awareness through regular exercise
- Improve coordination, balance, and strength
- Make informed decisions about exercise and wellness

FINE ARTS

CONCEPTS

- Drawing, painting, and mixed media exploration
- Clay work, hand-building, and introductory pottery techniques
- Artistic appreciation and personal reflection
- Art as cultural expression

SKILLS

- Apply elements of art with creativity and control
- Shape and build forms using hand tools and clay
- Discuss and respond to peer and historical artworks
- Explore global art forms and their connections to daily life

MUSIC

CONCEPTS

- Rhythm, beat, and movement
- Pitch, melody, and vocal exploration
- Introduction to musical instruments
- Music from cultures and time periods

SKILLS

- Express rhythmic patterns through various media
- Exercise sound control and explore melodic variation
- Explore a variety of instruments and their unique sounds
- Reflect on music from diverse traditions

MAKERSPACE

CONCEPTS

- Design thinking (plan, prototype, test, improve)
- Engineering challenges (bridges, towers, circuits)
- Collaboration and project management
- Presentation and reflection

SKILLS

- Solve problems through iterative design processes
- Apply all disciplines to hands-on projects
- Collaborate in teams to complete complex builds
- Engage in peer-led sharing and reflect on learning and growth

FARM AND GARDEN


CONCEPTS

- Animal care and daily stewardship
- Sustainable gardening practices
- Observation of natural cycles
- Responsibility and purposeful work

SKILLS

- Tend to chickens and collect eggs
- Prepare and care for growing plants
- Observe changes in weather and animal behavior
- Contribute to farm tasks with consistency, care, and follow-through

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LADYBIRD LOWER ELEMENTARY JOURNEY

AGES 7-9

LANGUAGE ARTS

CONCEPTS

- Structure and function of language
- Literary elements and genre exploration
- The writing process and written expression
- Grammar, usage, and word study

SKILLS

- Analyze fiction and nonfiction texts
- Write reports, stories, essays, and poems
- Use the writing process from planning to publishing
- Apply grammar, punctuation, and spelling rules

MATH

CONCEPTS

- Operations and number relationships
- Fractions, decimals, and percentages
- Geometric shapes and measurement
- Patterns, algebra, and data analysis

SKILLS

- Solve multi-step problems in all operations
- Compare, convert, and compute with fractions and decimals
- Measure and calculate area, perimeter, and volume
- Analyze graphs and solve basic algebraic equations

SCIENCE

CONCEPTS

- Scientific inquiry and experimentation
- Physical and chemical properties of matter
- Earth systems and space science
- Structure and function of living organisms

SKILLS

- Conduct hands-on investigations
- Classify and describe matter and energy
- Explore weather, geology, and space systems
- Model systems of the human body and plant life

CULTURAL STUDIES

CONCEPTS

- Human history and migration
- Fundamental needs across civilizations
- Physical and political geography
- Cultural practices and civic responsibility

SKILLS

- Interpret maps, timelines, and historical sources
- Compare ancient and modern societies
- Locate continents, countries, and capitals
- Conduct historical research and present findings

PRACTICAL LIFE

CONCEPTS

- Responsibility and independence
- Grace, courtesy, and conflict resolution
- Community roles and leadership
- Etiquette in public and social settings

SKILLS

- Lead classroom routines and tasks
- Communicate respectfully with peers and adults
- Participate in school events and planning
- Follow etiquette on outings and in public

RESEARCH AND PRESENTATIONS

CONCEPTS

- Steps of the research process
- Purpose and use of reference tools
- Digital citizenship and internet safety
- Organizing and sharing information

SKILLS

- Use the Big 6 research method
- Locate and record relevant sources
- Create visual presentations and timelines
- Practice public speaking skills

SPANISH

CONCEPTS

- Vocabulary related to daily life
- Basic grammar and sentence structure
- Reading and listening comprehension
- Hispanic cultural traditions

SKILLS

- Speak and write using thematic vocabulary
- Form and translate simple sentences
- Read and respond to short texts
- Explore holidays and customs through projects

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CONCEPTS

- Components of personal fitness
- Importance of teamwork and sportsmanship
- Movement and motor skill development
- Lifelong physical activity

SKILLS

- Engage in strength and cardio routines
- Participate in lead-up games and team sports
- Demonstrate cooperation and fair play
- Practice yoga, dance, and individual fitness

FINE ARTS

CONCEPTS

- Elements and principles of design
- Visual storytelling and creativity
- Study of artists and art history
- Art as personal and cultural expression

SKILLS

- Create using various art media
- Apply color, line, shape, and form intentionally
- Discuss and interpret artwork
- Produce original pieces inspired by themes

MUSIC

CONCEPTS

- Elements of rhythm, pitch, and melody
- Foundations of music theory and notation
- Creative expression through musical performance
- Cultural and historical significance of music

SKILLS

- Play classroom instruments with increasing skill
- Read and write basic rhythmic and melodic notation
- Practice and explore new instruments
- Perform individually and in group musical activities

THEATRE

CONCEPTS

- Storytelling through performance
- Cultural themes in drama and folklore
- Voice, movement, and expression
- Collaboration in the dramatic process

SKILLS

- Rehearse and perform short plays and scenes
- Explore myths, folktales, and multicultural scripts
- Use voice and body to express emotion
- Participate in classroom and public performances

FARM AND GARDEN


CONCEPTS

- Life cycles of plants and animals
- Observation as a scientific skill
- Basic garden ecology and composting
- Respect for living things and nature

SKILLS

- Observe chickens and goats regularly
- Identify plant parts and garden tools
- Help with watering and harvesting
- Record and reflect on farm observations

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MIDDLE SCHOOL JOURNEY

AGES 12-15

LANGUAGE ARTS

CONCEPTS

- Literary analysis and critical reading
- Elements of fiction and nonfiction
- Word study and grammar application
- Speaking and listening for communication

SKILLS

- Interpret and analyze literature and informational texts
- Use context to build vocabulary and analogies
- Participate in book talks and literature discussions
- Engage in structured debates and presentations

MATH

CONCEPTS

- Algebraic reasoning and expressions
- Geometry and measurement
- Data analysis and probability
- Problem-solving through multiple strategies

SKILLS

- Solve equations and graph functions
- Calculate area, volume, and angles
- Analyze data using statistics and probability
- Work with polynomials and inequalities

SCIENCE

CONCEPTS

- Scientific method and inquiry
- Physical and chemical properties of matter
- Living systems, biology, and the human body
- Earth science and space exploration

SKILLS

- Design and carry out scientific investigations
- Describe physical and chemical changes
- Analyze biological structures, functions, and systems
- Investigate Earth and other planetary systems

CULTURAL STUDIES

CONCEPTS

- Chronological and thematic exploration of history
- Historical argument and synthesis
- Geographic, economic, and cultural interactions
- World history and U.S. history connections

SKILLS

- Analyze historical sources and craft arguments
- Participate in debates, simulations, and interviews
- Use primary and secondary sources for research
- Sequence events and compare civilizations

PRACTICAL LIFE

CONCEPTS

- Community involvement and service
- Protocols and leadership etiquette
- Respect and communication
- Mindfulness and responsibility

SKILLS

- Participate in class meetings and group discussions
- Practice grace and courtesy with guests and peers
- Contribute to community meals and service projects
- Demonstrate self-awareness and leadership

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

CONCEPTS

- Structured research and information literacy
- Digital tools for academic and creative use
- Evaluating and citing reliable sources
- Technology applied to real-world challenges

SKILLS

- Conduct research using the Big 6 method
- Create multimedia presentations
- Use reference tools and databases responsibly
- Apply research skills to projects like MMUN and the Science Fair

MICRO ECONOMY

CONCEPTS

- Entrepreneurial thinking and business planning
- Financial literacy and budgeting
- Marketing and communication
- Community responsibility and purpose

SKILLS

- Plan and operate a student-led business
- Set goals, manage resources, and track profits
- Create promotional materials
- Fundraise and allocate earnings toward class initiatives

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CONCEPTS

- Fitness, health, and wellness
- Movement and coordination
- Teamwork and sportsmanship
- Lifelong physical activity

SKILLS

- Participate in team sports and individual fitness routines
- Develop strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular health
- Engage in cooperative games and goal setting
- Practice safety and use of technology in PE

FINE ARTS AND THEATRE

CONCEPTS

- Art analysis and creative interpretation
- Techniques for visual and performing arts
- Stage presence and public speaking skills
- Art in cultural and historical context

SKILLS

- Analyze and interpret visual artwork
- Create art using diverse media and methods
- Practice voice projection and stage presence
- Perform in theatre and public speaking events

MUSIC

CONCEPTS

- Melody, harmony, and rhythm structures
- Music notation and theory
- Ensemble collaboration and performance
- Musical traditions and cultural expression

SKILLS

- Read from standard staff notation
- Sing melodies in tune and with expression
- Perform in musical ensembles
- Listen, blend, and tune with other musicians

MAKERSPACE

CONCEPTS

- STEM problem-solving through long-term design
- The engineering design process
- Real-world applications of space science
- Collaboration and innovation

SKILLS

- Work on extended projects related to NASA curriculum
- Build prototypes using digital and physical tools
- Document and present design iterations
- Apply science, math, and technology to open-ended challenges

SERVICE LEARNING

CONCEPTS

- Community needs and civic responsibility
- Project planning and iterative design
- Impact measurement and reflection
- Purposeful contribution to society

SKILLS

- Identify a real community need
- Design and carry out a yearlong service project
- Evaluate project effectiveness
- Revise and improve based on outcomes

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