

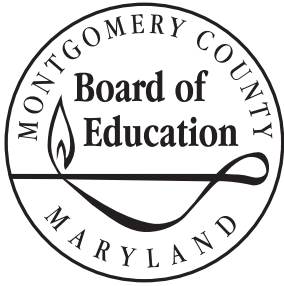


**A PARENT'S GUIDE
TO**

Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum



- Art
- General Music
- Health Education
- Information Literacy
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Reading
- Science & Engineering
- Social Studies
- Writing



VISION

A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child. All children will receive the respect, encouragement, and opportunities they need to build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of a global society.

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**850 Hungerford Drive
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www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org**

Montgomery County Public Schools Pre-K–5 Instructional Programs

Art

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to creating, analyzing, and responding to art by—

- identifying, describing, representing, and comparing components of the environment in visual compositions;
- identifying, selecting, and organizing the elements of art and principles of design to create visual compositions using appropriate processes and materials; and
- generating a variety of responses to artwork, including transforming personal thoughts and feelings into visual compositions using the elements of art and principles of design.

General Music

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to creating, performing, and responding to music by—

- organizing musical ideas and sounds creatively;
- refining skills necessary to perform alone and in an ensemble while learning to read and notate music; and
- making aesthetic judgments through music analysis and response.

Health Education

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to developing behaviors and strategies that promote lifelong wellness by—

- identifying and describing strategies to stay safe;
- understanding accurate health information; and
- making healthful decisions throughout their lives.

Information Literacy

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming lifelong learners who are information literate by—

- locating and evaluating resources;
- analyzing and synthesizing information to ethically communicate new understandings; and
- following an inquiry process—analyzing information needs, thinking critically, solving problems, and communicating effectively using literature and multimedia resources.

Mathematics

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to achieving mathematical proficiency by—

- developing both conceptual understanding and procedural fluency;
- thinking and reasoning mathematically; and
- using mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts.

Physical Education

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming responsible citizens who are both physically educated and health literate by—

- setting and achieving personally challenging goals to display the skills and practices needed in physical activity;
- applying higher order thinking skills to human movement; and
- designing personal movement and fitness plans that sustain a healthy lifestyle.

Reading

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate, thoughtful communicators, capable of controlling language effectively by—

- strategically reading literary and informational instructional-level texts with fluency, purpose, and comprehension;
- using skills and strategies widely as tools for learning and reflection; and
- understanding and appreciating language and literature as catalysts for deep thought and emotion.

Science & Engineering

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate in science, technology, and engineering by—

- thinking critically, solving problems, and communicating effectively;
- tackling ever more challenging issues; and
- seeking understanding to support solutions.

Social Studies

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to developing a balanced and integrated understanding of systems of culture, economics, geography, and politics and the history of their development by—

- applying concepts and knowledge of the past to problem-solving real-world issues of the present;
- critically examining human interactions and evaluating their role as an effective citizen; and
- communicating social studies concepts clearly in multiple formats and putting theory into practice as a citizen.

Writing

GOALS: Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate, thoughtful communicators, capable of controlling language effectively by—

- composing narrative, informative/explanatory, and opinion texts as tools for learning and reflection;
- conducting research and writing projects for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences; and
- evaluating relevant information from print and digital sources and using a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing.

Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum

The Elementary Integrated Curriculum (EIC) blends reading and mathematics instruction with lessons in science, social studies, music, art, information literacy, health education, and physical education in a way that spurs creativity and critical thinking skills. Students will receive robust instruction across all subjects in the early grades. The curriculum is built around developing students' critical and creative thinking skills, as well as essential academic success skills, which will lead to college and career readiness in the 21st century.

In the *Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum*, critical and creative thinking skills as well as academic success skills are identified for each marking period. These skills are explicitly taught using concepts and topics identified by marking period in each content area and provide a focus for integration across content areas. This document provides an outline of these skills and the curriculum concepts and topics that are the focus of instruction for Kindergarten students by marking period.

Kindergarten Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, and Academic Success Skills

Marking Period 1

Analysis (critical thinking skill)—breaking down a whole into parts that may not be immediately obvious and examining the parts so that the structure of the whole is understood:

- Identify and describe attributes
- Compare by identifying similarities and differences
- Sort and classify into categories
- Identify and describe patterns and the relationships within patterns

Collaboration (academic success skill)—working effectively and respectfully to reach a group goal:

- Demonstrate active listening and empathy in communicating with group members
- Solicit and respect multiple and diverse perspectives to broaden and deepen understanding
- Demonstrate teamwork by working productively with others

Marking Period 2

Fluency (creative thinking skill)—generating multiple responses to a problem or an idea:

- Generate many ideas
- Represent and describe ideas or solutions in a variety of ways

Intellectual Risk Taking (academic success skill)—accepting uncertainty or challenging the norm to reach a goal:

- Adapt and make adjustments to meet challenges when seeking solutions
- Demonstrate willingness to accept uncertainty by sharing ideas, asking questions, or attempting novel tasks

Marking Period 3

Synthesis (critical thinking skill)—putting parts together to build understanding of a whole concept or form a new or unique whole:

- Organize parts to form a new or unique whole

Effort/Motivation/Persistence (academic success skill)—working diligently and applying effective strategies to achieve a goal or solve a problem; continuing in the face of obstacles and competing pressures:

- Demonstrate strategies to achieve a goal or solve a problem
- Self-assess effectiveness of strategies and redirect efforts to achieve a goal or obtain a solution to a problem

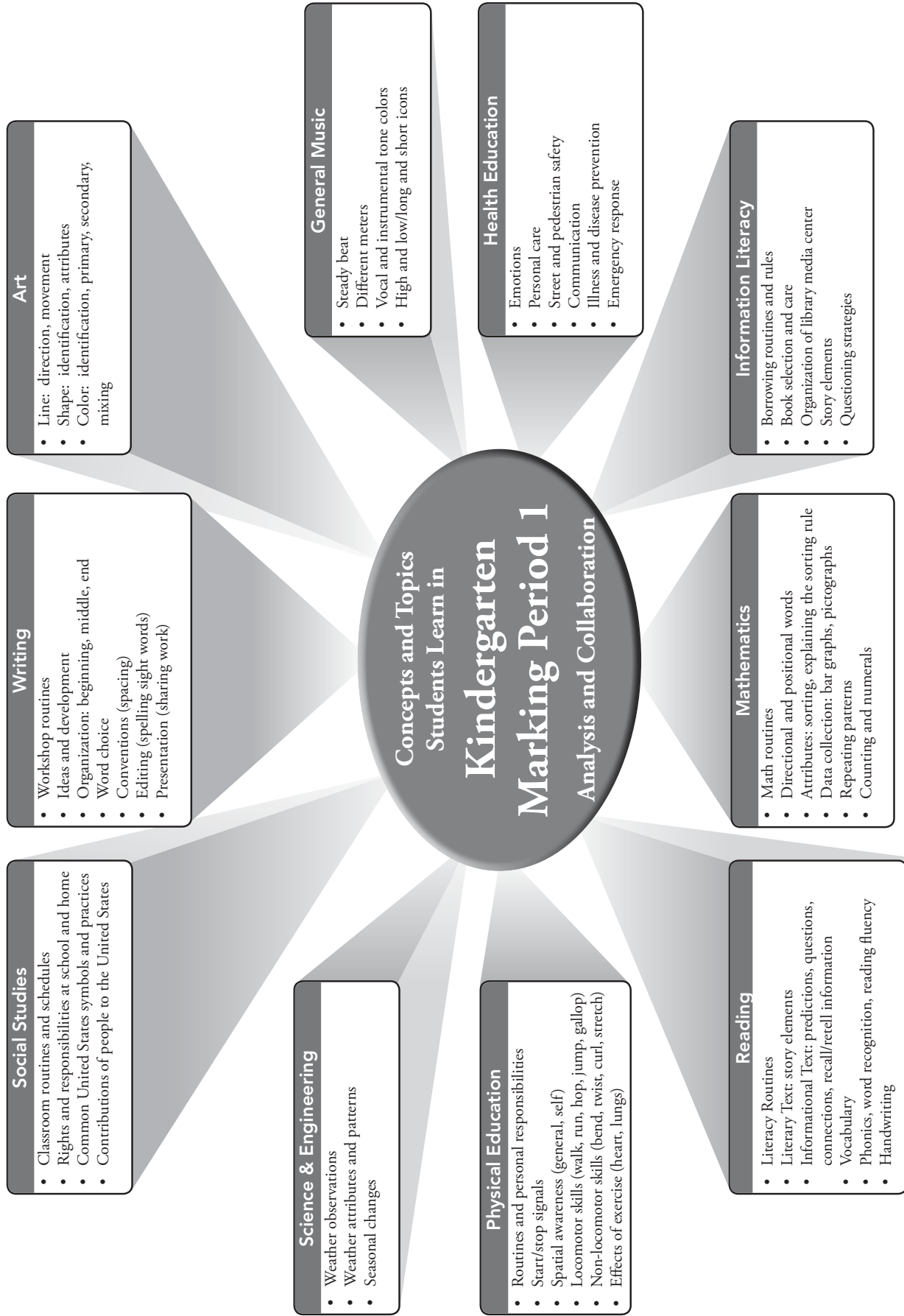
Marking Period 4

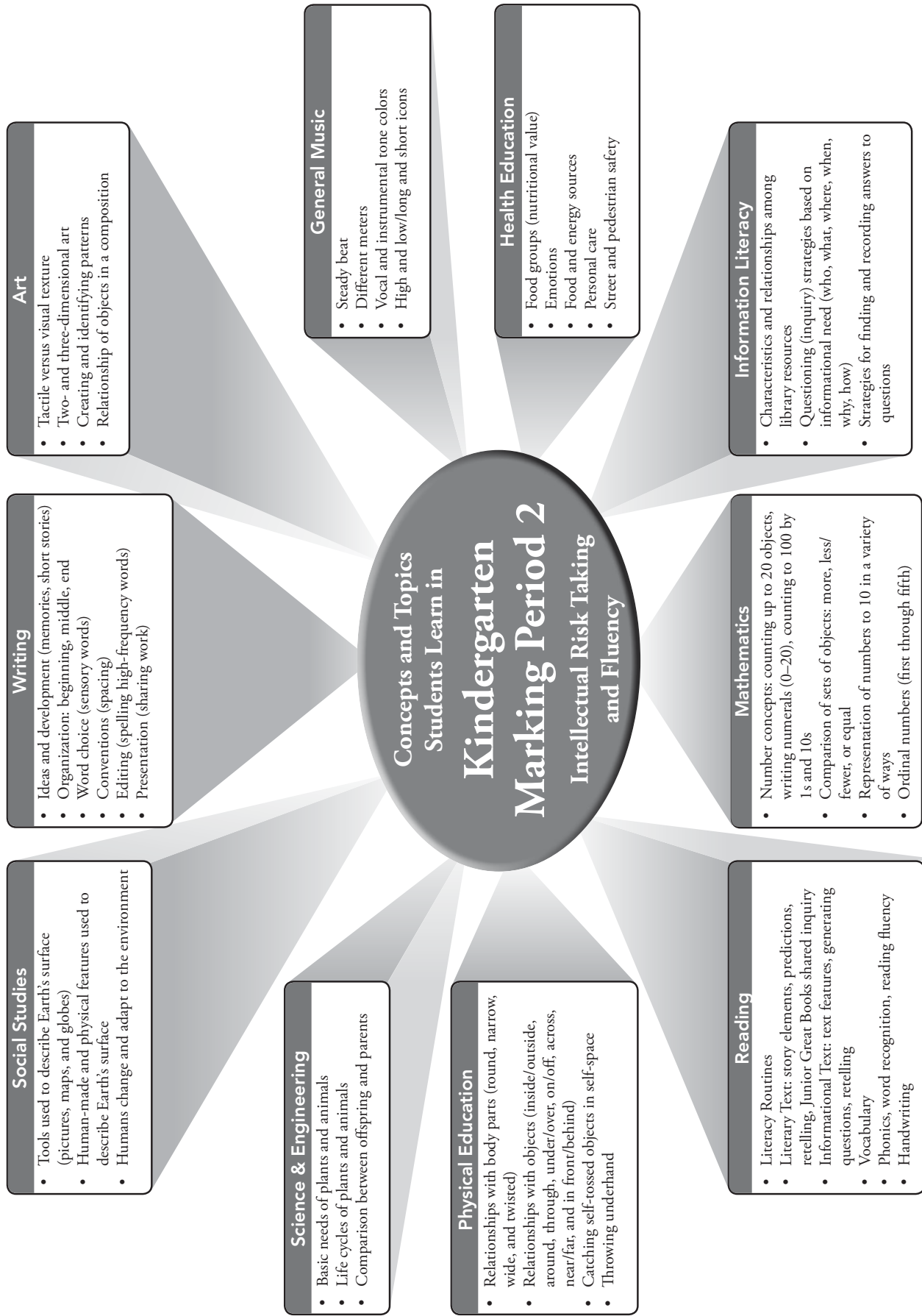
Originality (creative thinking skill)—creating ideas and solutions that are novel or unique to the individual, group, or situation:

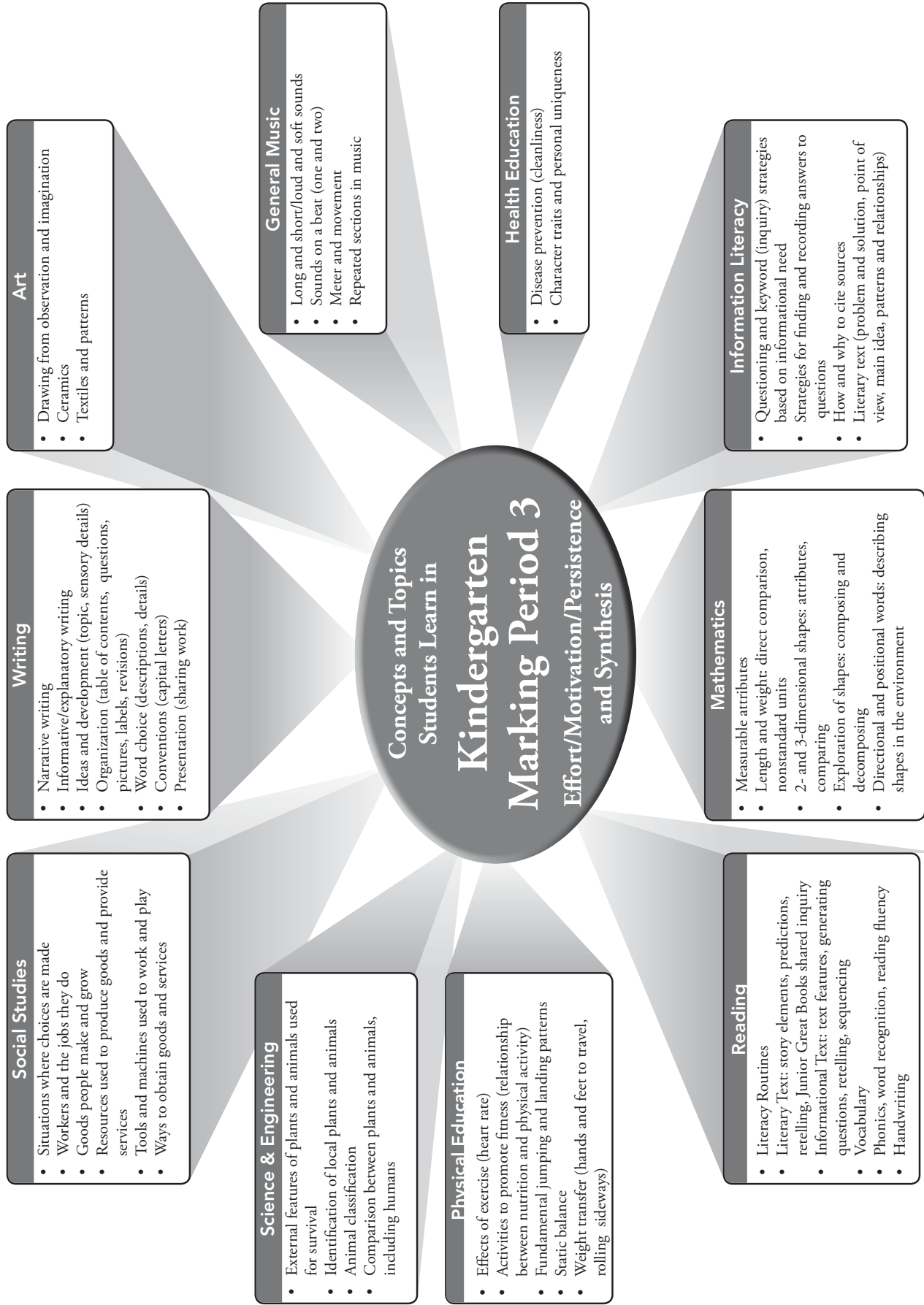
- Create a new idea, process, or product using multiple and varied formats
- Plan and formulate a new, unique, or alternative solution to a problem or situation
- Transform an idea, process, or product into a new form

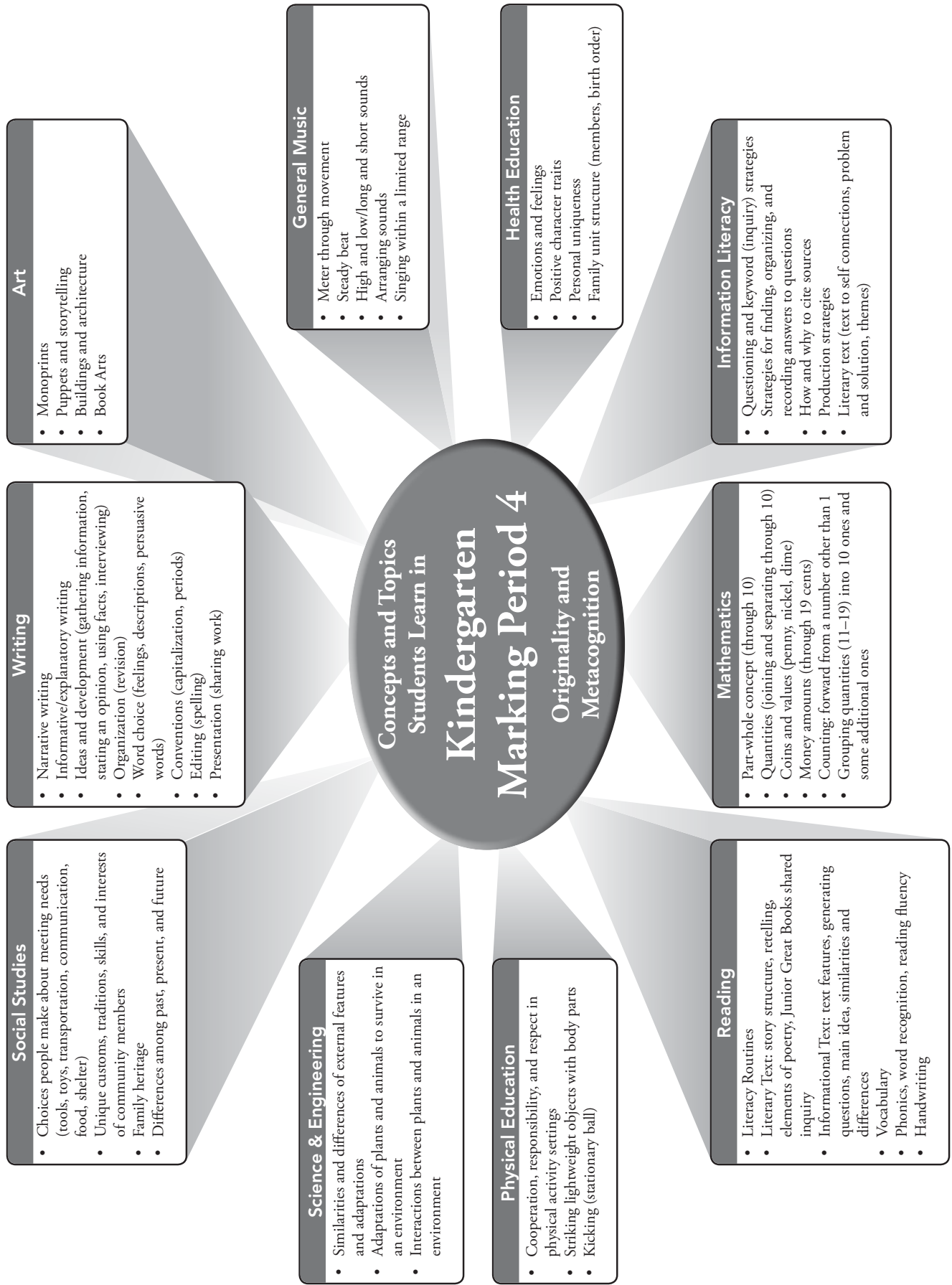
Metacognition (academic success skill)—knowing and being aware of one's own thinking and having the ability to monitor and evaluate one's own thinking:

- Examine one's own thoughts and ideas to identify background knowledge
- Explain thinking processes









How Parents Can Help

You want your child to succeed in school and in life. There are many ways to encourage him or her to achieve. Following are some of the many ways you can help your child get the most out of school:

- Show interest in what your child is doing in school.
- Set high expectations for your child. Make it clear that school should be his or her first priority.
- Dedicate at least 15 minutes each day to talking with your child and reading with him or her.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
- Help your child with his or her homework.
- Limit the amount of television your child watches and discuss what he or she sees on television.
- Monitor the amount of time your child spends playing video games or surfing the Internet.
- Volunteer to help with school activities and try to get other parents involved as well.
- Talk with your child's teachers regularly about your child's progress and what you can do to help him or her improve.
- Encourage your child to complete challenging work.

Adapted from A Parent's Guide to Achievement Matters Most, Maryland State Department of Education.

Curriculum Resources

For more information about the Elementary Integrated Curriculum, including videos, the EIC framework, and other resources, see www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/integrated/

Art

- **National Art Educators Association**, www.arteducators.org/. This dynamic community of practice is where visual arts teachers, scholars, researchers and professors, students, administrators, art museum educators, and artists come together around a shared belief in the power of the arts in developing human potential. Contact 1806 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 300, Reston, VA 20191. Call 703-860-8000.
- **Maryland Art Education Association**, www.mdarted.org/index.html. The purpose of this organization is to encourage, strengthen, and promote the role of the visual arts in education.
- **Artful Thinking**, www.pz.harvard.edu/at/index.cfm. The goal of the Artful Thinking program is to help students develop thinking dispositions that support thoughtful learning—in the arts and across school subjects. The program is one of several at Project Zero linked by the theme “Visible Thinking.”

General Music

- **MENC, The National Association for Music Education**, www.menc.org/. Since 1907, MENC has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers. Contact 1806 Robert Fulton Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Call 703-860-4000 or 800-336-3768.

- **Why Music Education?**, www.menc.org/resources/view/why-music-education-2007. This resource contains a collection of facts, figures, and quotes speaking to the inherent value of music education and its role in education and in life.
- **Maryland Music Educators Association**, www.mmea.maryland.org/. The mission of the Maryland Music Educators Association is to advance music education in Maryland schools.
- **Classics for Kids**, www.classicsforkids.com/. The Classics for Kids® lesson plans and teaching resources give parents practical, effective plans and activities that use classical music to help children learn and meet national and state standards.

Health Education

- **Montgomery County Public Schools Comprehensive Health Education**, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/health/resources/. This link is part of the MCPS Comprehensive Health Education site. In addition to this listing of web resources identified by units, key concepts, standards, and indicators can be accessed. Parents can learn more about the vision, goals, and instructional approach used to promote wellness and self-regulation.

- **National Institutes of Health**, health.nih.gov/ and **(National Institutes of Health) National Institute of Child Health and Human Development**, www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics. This site contains comprehensive lists of health and human development topics compiled by the Department of Health & Human Services. Also available on the sites are searchable lists of health publications, links to health education projects, interactive student site links, and educational materials. Contact National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892. Call 301-496-4000.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, www.cdc.gov/tobacco/. This site provides credible health information fact sheets, resources, and links to interactive student websites such as information related to the health risks from tobacco product use. Contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333. Call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).
- **KidsHealth**, kidshealth.org/. This is an interactive site for parents, students, and educators with research-based information about the most common health education topics.

Information Literacy

- **American Association of School Librarians—Parents page**, www.ala.org/lala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslcommunity/quicklinks/parents.cfm. This page contains many helpful links for parents.
- **Montgomery County Public Schools School Library Media Programs**, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/media/programs/. This page contains many helpful links for parents.
- **Montgomery County Public Schools Homework Resources**, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/homework.aspx. This site contains subscription and general resources for parents and students.
- **Commonsense Media**, www.common sense media.org/. This site is dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in a world of media and technology.



- **Boolify**, www.boolify.org/index.php. This site makes it easier for students to understand their web search by illustrating the logic of their search, and by showing them how each change to their search instantly changes their results.

Mathematics

- **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Illuminations**, illuminations.nctm.org/. This site provides a comprehensive organization of math investigations, lessons, tools, and resources. Call 703-620-9840.
- **Helping Your Child Learn Math**, www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/index.html. This resource provides math applications to real-life situations. The second edition of Helping Your Child Learn Math is for parents of children in kindergarten through fifth grade. It has been revised to include a variety of activities that will help children learn and apply mathematical concepts such as geometry, algebra, measurement, statistics, and probability in a useful and fun way. All of the activities in this book relate math to everyday life and complement many of the math lessons that children are learning in school. Call 800-USA-LEARN.
- **Common Core State Standards Initiative**, www.corestandards.org/the-standards. The EIC is directly aligned with Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Physical Education

- **Montgomery County Public Schools Physical Education**, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/physed/. This site contains resources for parents and students.
- **National Association for Sport and Physical Education**, www.aahperd.org/naspe/about/relatedLinks/parents.cfm. This site contains links and publications to help parents learn more about today's physical education and how it contributes to a child's complete education. Also links to resources that can help parents learn more about youth sports issues.
- **Head Start Body Start**, www.aahperd.org/headstartbodystart/. Parents will find activities and tools to inspire creative, movement-based play and healthy food choices at home.
- **Let's Move!**, www.letsmove.gov/parentsmain. This site provides helpful information and steps parents and children can take that make a real difference and help build healthy habits for life.
- **Kidnetic**, www.kidnetic.com/Parents/. This site is a great resource for raising a healthy child and offers a special section just for parents. Check out the Bright Papers and Frequently Asked Questions to get the facts about children and physical activity, healthy eating, and self-esteem.

Reading, Writing, Language Arts

- **National Council of Teachers of English**, <http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/readtogether>. This site is designed specifically to help parents help their children. Assorted topics. Contact NCTE, 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096. Call 217-328-3870 or 877-369-6283.

- **International Reading Association**, <http://www.reading.org/InformationFor/Parents.aspx>. Go to a variety of topics—also in Spanish. Contact IRA, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, #630, Washington, D.C. 20001. Call 202-624-8800.
- **Helping Your Child Publication Series**, <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>. These resources provide parents with lessons and activities to help their school-aged and preschool children master reading, understand the value of homework, and develop skills.
- **Guide to Grammar and Writing**, Capital Community College, Hartford, Conn. <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar>. This site contains an extensive collection of grammar, mechanics, language, usage, and writing topics, easily accessed by multiple indexes. This very comprehensive site addresses rules, examples, exercises, and quizzes. Call 806-906-5000.
- **Read, Write, Now!** Activities for Reading and Writing Fun, <http://www.udel.edu/ETL/RWN/Activities.html>. This site includes reading activities and reading lists for children through Grade 6. The site is listed as a resource in MCPS website Weblinks/“Internet Resources: Great for Homework.” Call 800-860-9228 or 800-872-5327.

Science & Engineering

- **“Online Services for Montgomery County Public Schools,” part of the MCPS Science Curriculum website**, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/science/>. All services are available for home use. Subjects are broken down by elementary, middle, and high school.
- **National Science Teachers Association**, <http://www.nsta.org/portals/parents/>. This site offers resources for parents who wish to help their children in science. Contact NSTA, 1840 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201. Call 703-243-7100.
- **Helping Your Child Learn Science** United States Department of Education booklet, <http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Science/index.html>. This site provides science activities for parents of children ages 3–10. Activities are available for home and the community. Call 800-USA-LEARN (800-872-5327) and ask for Publications for Parents.
- **Scholastic**, <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/home.jsp>. This is an interactive website with games, activities, and many resources for parents, teachers, and kids. Browse by grade level. Pre-K, K, 1–2, 3–5.

Social Studies

- **“Social Studies Resources and Links,” MCPS Social Studies Curriculum website**, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/socialstudies/>. This site contains a very large number of resources, organized alphabetically by social studies topics.
- **Time for Kids**, <http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK>. This site includes resources appropriate for early elementary school students.
- **America’s Story from America’s Library**, <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi>. This Library of Congress site provides information on American history and includes video, audio, and interactive activities.
- **National Geographic Expeditions**, <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/lessons/>. Produced by the National Geographic Society, this series of lesson plans is aligned with the United States Geography Standards. The site sorts by topic, standard, and grade level and contains an extensive lesson plan bank, each linked to a U.S. Geography Standard. The site teaches clear application skills geared toward addressing real-world issues. Contact National Geographic Society, P.O. Box 98199, Washington, D.C. 20090-8199. Call 800-647-5463.

There are so many upgrades to the Elementary Integrated Curriculum, we've taken to calling it Curriculum 2.0!

New internationally driven standards in math, reading, and writing

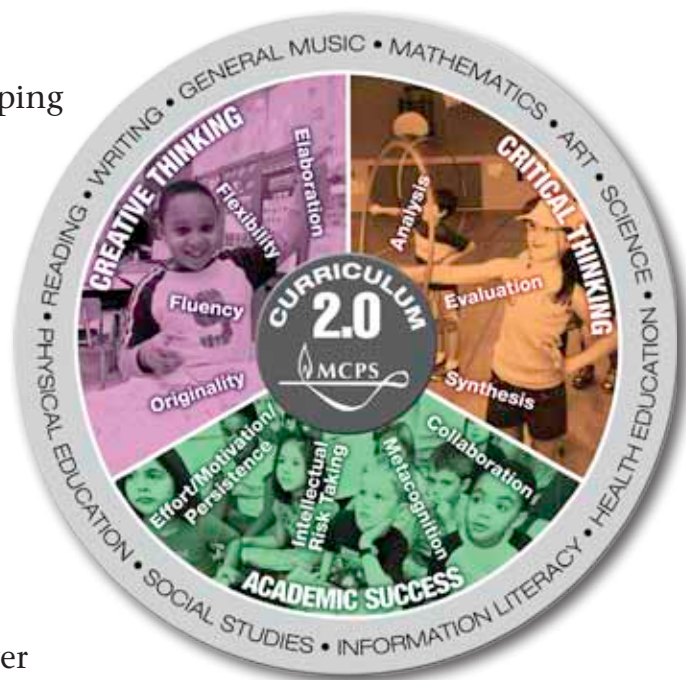
Renewed focus on teaching the whole child

- Nurtures skills that build confidence and success
- Engages students beyond reading and math, to spark greater interest in science, social studies, information literacy, art, music, physical education, and health

Integrates thinking, reasoning, and creativity for a lifetime of learning

- Enhances learning by connecting subjects

MCPS CURRICULUM 2.0 is built around developing students' critical and creative thinking skills, as well as essential academic success skills, so that students are well prepared for a lifetime of learning. We are upgrading the existing MCPS curriculum for the elementary grades in a way that will better engage students and teachers, and dedicate more learning time to subjects such as the arts, information literacy, science, social studies, and physical education. By blending these subjects with the core content areas of reading, writing, and mathematics, students will receive robust, engaging instruction across all subjects in the early grades – in short, we are building a stronger foundation at the elementary level.



To learn more—www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/



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