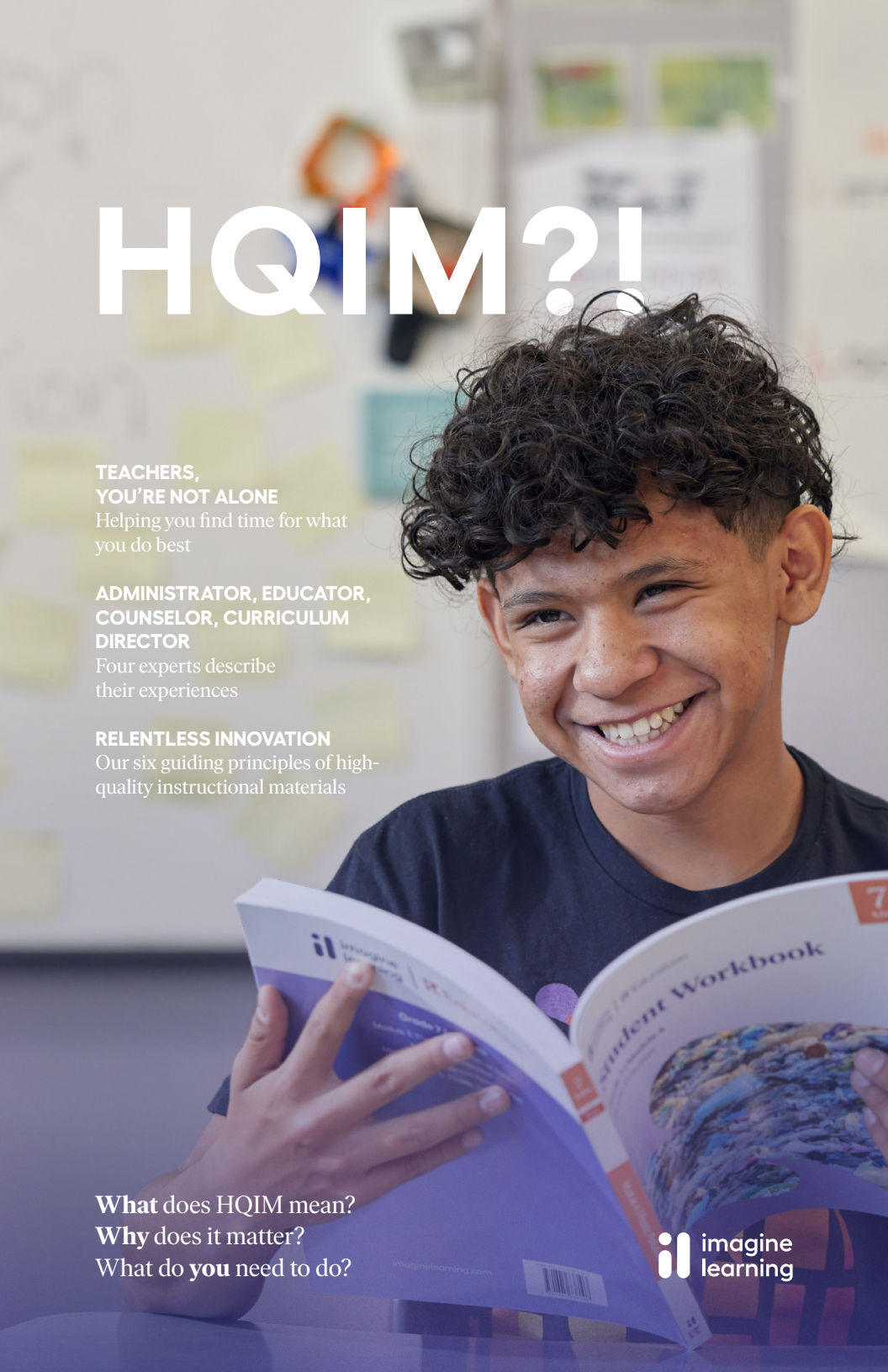
HQIM?!

TEACHERS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE
Helping you find time for what you do best

ADMINISTRATOR, EDUCATOR, COUNSELOR, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR
Four experts describe their experiences

RELENTLESS INNOVATION
Our six guiding principles of high-quality instructional materials



What does HQIM mean?
Why does it matter?
What do **you** need to do?

imagine learning





Imagine Learning workbooks engage students and give them opportunities to record their learning journeys.

HQIM?!

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THE CASE FOR **HQIM**

At Imagine Learning, we know that high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) play a crucial role in the education landscape, significantly influencing student engagement and achievement and teacher effectiveness. And in recent years, with greater understanding of the role curriculum plays in student success, the demand for HQIM has grown, with states and districts increasingly prioritizing these resources.

Our innovative portfolio of core curricula — comprising Dragonfly and StudySync (English language arts), Imagine IM (math), Twig Science (science), and Traverse (social studies) — exemplifies the impact of HQIM through inquiry-based learning that integrates hands-on experiences, digital investigations, and real-world connections.

How Can I Identify HQIM?

HQIM are educational resources that align closely with educational standards and are designed to be user friendly for both teachers and students, as defined by EdReports[1], a leading third-party curriculum reviewer — and many states have similar criteria of their own. But there are other characteristics frequently shared by HQIM: the use of evidence-backed pedagogical approaches, a commitment to equity and inclusion, and comprehensive teacher support, with short-term training for implementation and ongoing professional learning.

The adoption of HQIM across many states and districts has been driven by

Learning materials make teachers' lives easier and get students engaged.

the recognition that learning materials with these qualities make teachers' lives easier and get more students engaged in learning, with improved outcomes.

dragonfly studysync twig SCIENCE imagine IM TRAVERSE

TEACHERS, YOU'RE **NOT** ALONE

Across US education, teachers are largely responsible for what and how students learn — a huge responsibility. Often, they supplement district-mandated materials with content sourced from the internet — in fact, around 90% of teachers blend digital resources into their teaching.[2] This can't help but result in substantial variability in educational quality and consistency across classrooms, leading to unequal educational experiences and outcomes for students. It also takes a lot of time. Teachers on average spend seven hours weekly searching for and five hours creating materials[3] — despite lacking formal training in curriculum integration.

Internationally, top-performing nations such as Finland, South Korea, and Canada implement rigorous, content-rich curricula at national or provincial levels, resulting in superior student performance. US studies support the idea that our studies would benefit from more widespread implementation of HQIM — for example, research indicates that the choice of ELA[4], math[5], and science[6] programs has significant effects on assessment scores, and other studies suggest that the most marked impact of HQIM occurs when they're put in the hands of less experienced teachers.[7]

Teachers spend seven hours weekly searching for and five hours creating materials.

Many US districts have successfully implemented HQIM, leading to marked improvements in student performance, and states such as Louisiana and Tennessee have made significant strides in HQIM adoption, achieving near-universal access to high-quality curricula in math and ELA.[8]

POV: THE EDUCATOR

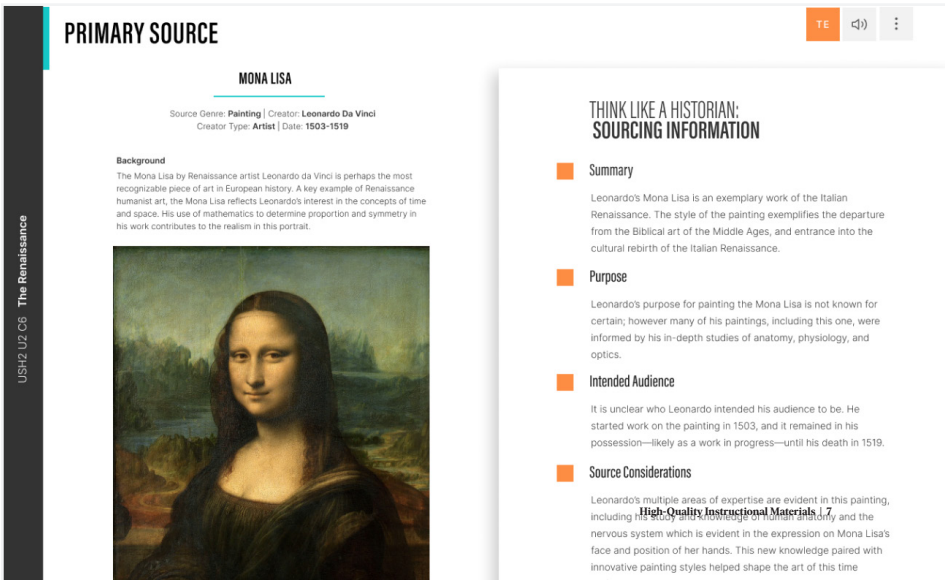


"One of the reasons why Traverse [social studies] is so valuable is because of the sources that have been selected. Most of them are really great quality and they've already been pared down. I think that's incredibly important, not just for engaging students but also saving teachers time. It takes a ton of time for teachers to find sources.

With Traverse you have a source set for each chapter, a question already developed, activities for each source, additional source information in the Teacher Edition that you wouldn't know about unless you did some next-level investigation on your own. And it's so easily customizable, so let's say there are six sources in the Traverse source set and I know we only have time to look at three or four, I just have to click a button and then those aren't assigned to the kids. It just saves people a ton of time."

Christa T., Imagine Learning Curriculum Strategy Director and former social studies teacher

Imagine Learning's social studies curriculum, Traverse, incorporates high-quality primary and secondary sources to enhance student learning.



A FOUNDATION FOR **EQUITY**

The curricula that Imagine Learning produces are designed to foster equitable and inclusive learning environments in which all students have access to rigorous, standards-aligned content.

As producers of HQIM, we want to provide a foundation for equity by offering consistent, high-level learning opportunities regardless of students' backgrounds.

This consistency is crucial in mitigating what is known as the "educational lottery," where student success can depend heavily on where their learning takes place. High-quality content exposes every student to grade-appropriate assignments and high expectations, critical for academic growth and closing achievement gaps. It meets various student needs, ensuring that all learners can access and benefit from the curriculum. It also promotes inclusivity by incorporating diverse perspectives and valuing all voices within the curriculum.

This exposure helps students from all backgrounds see themselves represented in their learning materials, fostering a sense of belonging and engagement, enriching classroom discussions, and broadening understanding of a wide range of different cultures and viewpoints.

POV: THE STUDENT COUNSELOR

"Now that Imagine Learning has hit the scene, you guys are creating a real diverse and inclusive curriculum that students feel like, 'Yo, I can learn from this because that person looks like me or that person acts like me.' It's amazing for them. They feel included, they feel like they are part of the story, which influences their love of reading, influences their love of storytelling and their desire to learn more."

Akin A., School Counselor, Pendergast Elementary School District AZ



"The average cost-effectiveness ratio of switching curriculum was almost 40 times that of class-size reduction."

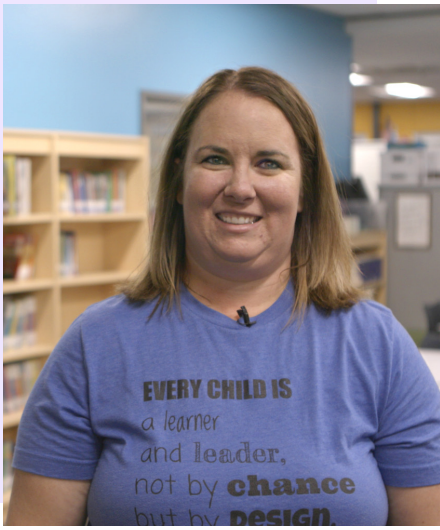
POV: THE ADMINISTRATOR

"The impact that this program has had on my teachers? Really, it's that impact on their instruction and on what they do every day with their data and with the kids that are in front of them. And that's made a huge change, which then causes teachers to be more confident and they feel like math teachers instead of being unsure going into every math block.

We did that first training the very first year [with Imagine Learning], and our teachers wanted more, they wanted more. And every time we gave them a little bit more, they were able to continue to grow and add on to what they've gotten in previous professional developments.

Our math scores have gone up pretty dramatically. We have students who were impacted by the pandemic and really we've been able to take what they know and move them forward while also continuing to fill those holes."

Allison F., Principal, Meeker School District, CO



EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

It's important to keep in mind that the purpose of HQIM isn't to reduce the importance of the teacher's role in the classroom. There's no doubt that effective teaching is the most important thing for student outcomes. According to research organization RAND, educators have the highest impact on student achievement compared to "any other aspects of schooling."[9]

But over the last decade, a growing body of research has also linked positive student outcomes to HQIM. In fact, the evidence suggests that choice of instructional materials has an impact at least as great as teacher quality, and while improving teacher quality is difficult, making the decision to use HQIM is relatively straightforward and inexpensive.[10] Similarly, the Center for American Progress reported that "the average cost-effectiveness ratio of switching curriculum was almost 40 times that of class-size reduction."[11]

HQIM support good teachers by providing a robust framework that enhances their ability to deliver effective and engaging lessons. These materials free teachers from the task of developing content from scratch, allowing them to focus on pedagogy and personalized student support. By ensuring that all students receive consistent, high-quality content, HQIM empower teachers to maximize their impact, leading to better educational outcomes for all students.

RELENTLESS **INNOVATION**

Imagine Learning pursues relentless innovation at the intersection of technology, people, and curricula, and we've been at the forefront of the development of HQIM, creating K–12 digital-first solutions fueled by insights from educators to support 15 million students in over half of the districts nationwide.

In short, the idea of HQIM matters to us, and we believe that our portfolio of core curricula covering ELA, math, science, and social studies represents the best available resources for teachers and students today.

Definitions of HQIM may vary, but at their core they share vital components. Our approach is rooted in six guiding principles that form the foundation of our curricula.

SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Standards alignment:** Meticulously crafted curricula aligned with state and national standards
- **Best-practice pedagogy:** Research-backed teaching methods and strategies to promote student engagement and understanding
- **Equity and inclusion:** Diverse perspectives and resources to meet the needs of all learners
- **Teacher and student experience:** Intuitive and easy-to-implement curricula, facilitating enriching learning experiences
- **Measuring student learning:** Comprehensive tools to track growth and personalize instruction to individual needs
- **Professional learning:** Ongoing support and training opportunities to help teachers refine their skills and practices

Ongoing Learning

That final principle is key. HQIM alone are not sufficient. To maximize the impact of HQIM, it is essential to combine these materials with in-program teacher support, implementation guidance, and ongoing professional learning.[12]

At Imagine Learning, we don't lose sight of this vital stage in the success of our programs. Our programs include numerous teaching aids at point of use and a comprehensive professional learning offering that builds on the pedagogical principles of the core products, incorporating authentic demonstrations, meaningful collaboration, and structured planning to make teaching and learning visible for leaders, coaches, and teachers.

It is essential to combine these materials with teacher support, implementation guidance, and professional learning.



Examples of high-quality multimedia to engage students in Imagine Learning curricula.

A **BRIGHTER** FUTURE

We believe that high-quality instructional materials are a cornerstone of effective education, with benefits for student achievement, equity, and teacher efficiency. We built our core curricula to align with rigorous standards, employ best-practice pedagogy, and support teachers with ongoing professional development in order to create transformative educational experiences for all.

As states and districts continue to recognize the value of HQIM, the future of education looks brighter, with more students achieving their full potential and teachers empowered to excel in their roles.

POV: THE CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

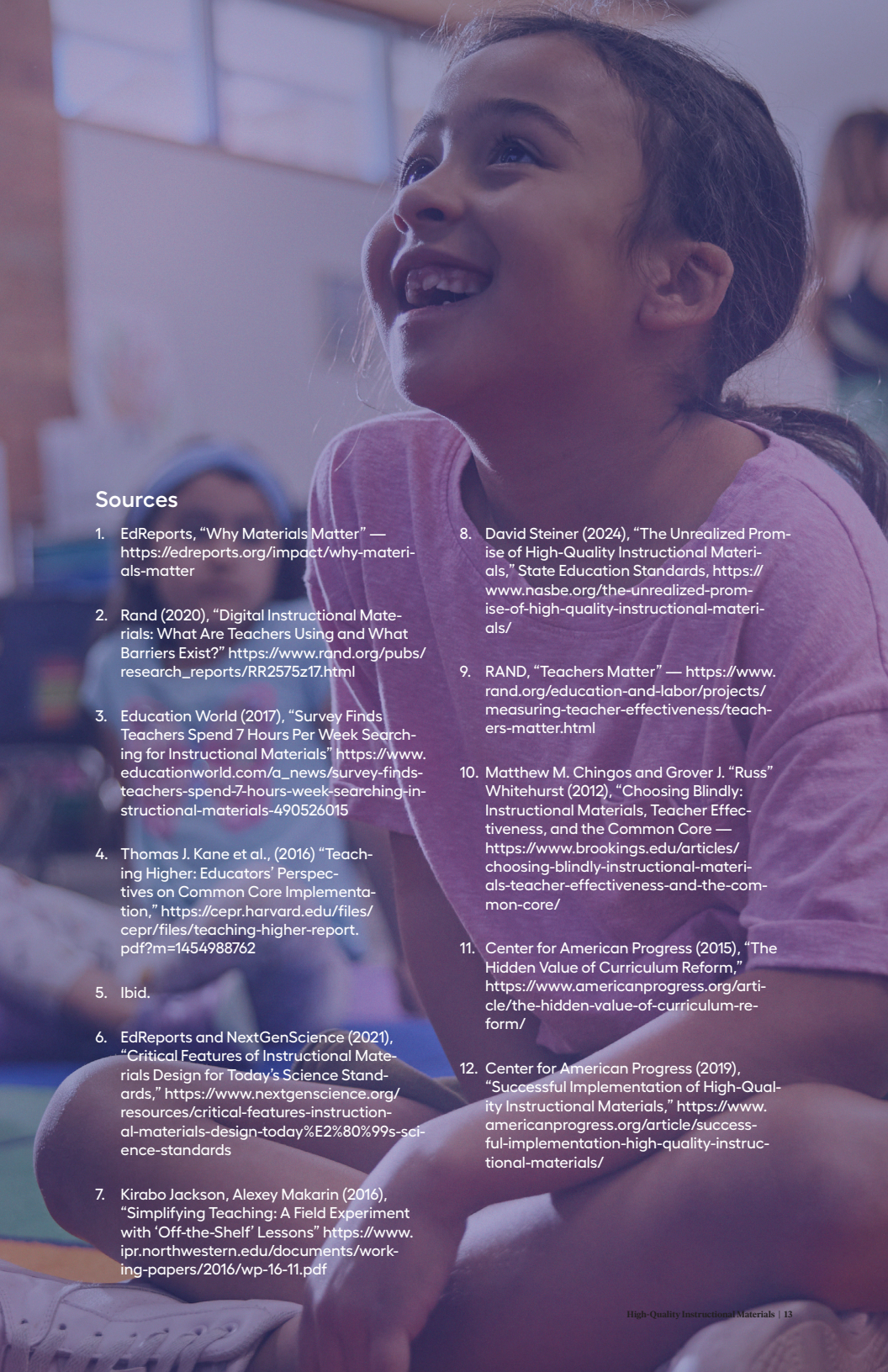
"We knew we wanted a strong focus on grade level standards. We also wanted to make sure that there was equitable access for all students to engage in math instruction.

Our math performance has skyrocketed [with Imagine IM]. We had an increase of 30% of our students on or above grade level from fall to spring, and that is absolutely due to having a high-quality curricular resource in front of our students and giving our teachers the support that they need to implement that well.

Going into classrooms, I'm able to see immediately a difference in how kids are engaging with math and how our teachers are really understanding those high-quality practices."

Nicole R., Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Community Consolidated School District 59, Illinois





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CORE PORTFOLIO

dragonfly™

Dragonfly turns classrooms into launch-pads of imagination and exploration, supporting educators with an intuitive, knowledge-rich framework, nurturing curiosity, and transforming literacy into an adventure beyond the page.

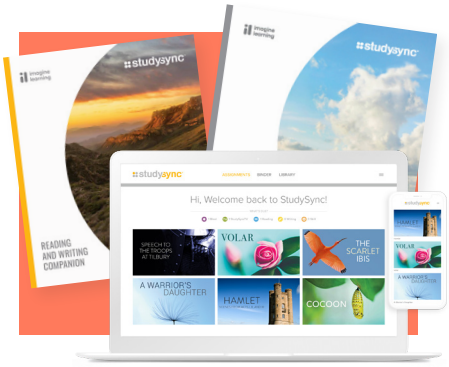
ELA GRADES K–5



studysync®

StudySync is a comprehensive ELA curriculum that pairs research-driven instruction with rich, engaging texts and flexible teaching tools to reach every learner. It inspires deeper thinking, richer discussion, and a lasting connection to literature.

ELA GRADES 6–12



imagine IM

MATH | GRADES K–12

Rediscover the certified Illustrative Mathematics curriculum you know and trust, now enhanced with more tools and features. Imagine IM's print and digital solution is driven by student discourse, built around focus, coherence, and rigor, and equips students to thrive.



twig SCIENCE

SCIENCE | GRADES K–8

A comprehensive science curriculum that inspires curiosity through hands-on exploration, real-world phenomena, and engaging STEM learning, helping students become confident problem-solvers and future innovators.



TRAVERSE®

SOCIAL STUDIES | GRADES 6–12

Traverse® is a comprehensive social studies curriculum for grades 6–12 that provides robust history, economics, geography, and government content within a framework that inspires students to ask questions, stay curious, and become lifelong critical thinkers and informed citizens.



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