What is Inquiry Learning?

In our 3 to 6 Grades we are guided by an inquiry approach to learning. Inquiry learning is an active thinking process, where students form their own questions, plan and implement ways of finding information and use these experiences to build answers to any questions they may have.

**Tuning In**

The purpose of ‘Tuning In’ is:
- To engage and spark students’ motivation.
- To develop students’ questions and set learning goals.
- To find out what students already know.
- To identify gaps in student learning.

Examples of ‘Tuning In’ activities include:
- Hands on activities
- Brainstorming lists
- Sharing ideas
- Using a wonder or graffiti wall

**Finding Out**

The purpose of ‘Finding Out’ is:
- To help students collect information that takes them beyond what they already know.
- To build answers to students’ questions.
- To challenge students’ ideas.

Examples of ‘Finding Out’ activities include:
- Excursions
- Guest Speakers
- Experiments or observations
- Interviewing an expert

**Sorting Out**

The purpose of ‘Sorting Out’ is:
- To help students to select ways to organize and present collected information.
- To enable students to connect new learning with existing knowledge.
- To expand students’ understandings.

Examples of ‘Sorting Out’ activities include:
- Using graphic organizers
- Writing a report
- Making a brochure or book
- Listing information
- Make a model or poster

**Reflection**

The purpose of ‘Reflection’ is:
- To help students self-assess their effort and involvement.
- To help students connect new learning with what they already know.
- For students to identify changes in skills, knowledge and values.

Examples of ‘Reflection’ activities include:
- Keeping a learning journal
- Conducting self-assessments

**Action**

The purpose of ‘Action’ is:
- To allow students to use their reflections to set new personal goals.
- To allow students to apply or act on what they have learnt.

Examples of ‘Action’ activities include:
- Holding an Expo
- Fundraising or developing a vegetable garden
- Setting new goals