

**MOORESTOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

*Moorestown Upper Elementary School
Gifted and Talented- Challenge*

Grade 4

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Contents

<u>Administration</u>	3
<u>Course Description and Fundamental Concepts</u>	4
<u>New Jersey Student Learning Standards</u>	5
<u>Pacing Guide</u>	13
<u>Units Scope and Sequence</u>	14

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[Course Description and Fundamental Concepts](#)

The goal for the Upper Elementary School Challenge Program is to cultivate well-rounded and socially aware individuals. Through units of study students will be able to gain a global perspective, emotional intelligence, creative thinking skills, and effective problem-solving strategies. The Challenge Program provides numerous opportunities for students to learn, collaborate, and grow in the following ways.

Global Citizenship: Challenge seeks to foster a sense of global citizenship among students. By exposing them to diverse cultures, global issues, and international perspectives, students develop an understanding and appreciation for the interconnectedness of the world.

Emotional Learning: Recognizing the importance of emotional intelligence, Challenge focuses on nurturing students' emotional and social skills.

Creativity: The Challenge Program emphasizes the development of creativity and innovative thinking. Students are encouraged to explore their interests, express their ideas, and think critically beyond conventional boundaries.

Problem Solving: Challenge aims to equip students with strong problem-solving skills by engaging in collaboration with peers, interdisciplinary projects, and real-world scenarios. Students learn to analyze issues from multiple perspectives, identify causes, and create effective strategies to address challenges.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs)

Subject/Content Standards

Include grade appropriate subject/content standards that will be addressed

Standard #	Standard Description
NJSLSA.R1.	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
NJSLSA.R2.	Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
NJSLSA.W1.	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
NJSLSA.W2.	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
NJSLSA.W7.	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
NJSLSA.SL4.	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
NJSLSA.SL5.	Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Gifted and Talented Education (National Association for Gifted Children Standards)

Unit	NAGC Standard #	Standard Description
1	1.1	<i>Self-Understanding.</i> Students with gifts and talents demonstrate self-knowledge with respect to their interests, strengths, identities, and needs in socio-emotional development and in intellectual, academic, creative, leadership, and artistic domains.
1	1.2	<i>Self-Understanding.</i> Students with gifts and talents possess a developmentally appropriate understanding of how they learn and grow; they recognize the influences of their beliefs, traditions, and values on their learning and behavior.

1	1.3	<i>Self-Understanding.</i> Students with gifts and talents demonstrate understanding of and respect for similarities and differences between themselves and their peer group and others in the general population.
1	1.4	<i>Awareness of Needs.</i> Students with gifts and talents access resources from the community to support cognitive and affective needs, including social interactions with others having similar interests and abilities or experiences, including same-age peers and mentors or experts.
1	1.5	<i>Awareness of Needs.</i> Students' families and communities understand similarities and differences with respect to the development and characteristics of advanced and typical learners and support students with gifts and talents' needs.
1	1.6	<i>Cognitive and Affective Growth.</i> Students with gifts and talents benefit from meaningful and challenging learning activities addressing their unique characteristics and needs.
1	1.7	<i>Cognitive and Affective Growth.</i> Students with gifts and talents recognize their preferred approaches to learning and expand their repertoire.
1	1.8	<i>Cognitive and Affective Growth.</i> Students with gifts and talents identify future career goals that match their talents and abilities and resources needed to meet those goals (e.g., higher education opportunities, mentors, financial support).
1	2.1	<i>Identification.</i> All students in grades PK-12 have equal access to a comprehensive assessment system that allows them to demonstrate diverse characteristics and behaviors that are associated with giftedness.
1	2.2	<i>Identification.</i> Each student reveals his or her exceptionalities or potential through assessment evidence so that appropriate instructional accommodations and modifications can be provided.
1	2.3	<i>Identification.</i> Students with identified needs represent diverse backgrounds and reflect the total student population of the district.
2	2.4	<i>Learning Progress and Outcomes.</i> Students with gifts and talents demonstrate advanced and complex learning as a result of using multiple, appropriate, and ongoing assessments.
2	2.5	<i>Evaluation of Programming.</i> Students identified with gifts and talents demonstrate important learning progress as a result of programming and services.
2	2.6	<i>Evaluation of Programming.</i> Students identified with gifts and talents have increased access and they show significant learning progress as a result of improving components of gifted education programming.
1,2	3.1	<i>Curriculum Planning.</i> Students with gifts and talents demonstrate growth commensurate with aptitude during the school year.
2	3.2	<i>Talent Development.</i> Students with gifts and talents become more competent in multiple talent areas and across dimensions of learning.
2	3.3	<i>Talent Development.</i> Students with gifts and talents develop their abilities in their domain of talent and/or area of interest.

1,2	3.4	<i>Instructional Strategies.</i> Students with gifts and talents become independent investigators.
1,2	3.5	<i>Culturally Relevant Curriculum.</i> Students with gifts and talents develop knowledge and skills for living and being productive in a multicultural, diverse, and global society.
1,2	3.6	<i>Resources.</i> Students with gifts and talents benefit from gifted education programming that provides a variety of high quality resources and materials.
1,2	4.1	<i>Personal Competence.</i> Students with gifts and talents demonstrate growth in personal competence and dispositions for exceptional academic and creative productivity. These include self-awareness, self-advocacy, self-efficacy, confidence, motivation, resilience, independence, curiosity, and risk taking.
1,2	4.2	<i>Social Competence.</i> Students with gifts and talents develop social competence manifested in positive peer relationships and social interactions.
1,2	4.3	<i>Leadership.</i> Students with gifts and talents demonstrate personal and social responsibility and leadership skills.
1,2	4.4	<i>Cultural Competence.</i> Students with gifts and talents value their own and others' language, heritage, and circumstance. They possess skills in communicating, teaming, and collaborating with diverse individuals and across diverse groups. 1 They use positive strategies to address social issues, including discrimination and stereotyping.
1,2	4.5	<i>Communication Competence.</i> Students with gifts and talents develop competence in interpersonal and technical communication skills. They demonstrate advanced oral and written skills, balanced biliteracy or multiliteracy, and creative expression. They display fluency with technologies that support effective communication.
1,2	5.1	<i>Variety of Programming.</i> Students with gifts and talents participate in a variety of evidence-based programming options that enhance performance in cognitive and affective areas.
1,2	5.2	<i>Coordinated Services.</i> Students with gifts and talents demonstrate progress as a result of the shared commitment and coordinated services of gifted education, general education, special education, and related professional services, such as school counselors, school psychologists, and social workers.
1,2	5.3	<i>Collaboration.</i> Students with gifts and talents' learning is enhanced by regular collaboration among families, community, and the school.
1,2	5.4	<i>Resources.</i> Students with gifts and talents participate in gifted education programming that is adequately funded to meet student needs and program goals.
1,2	5.5	<i>Comprehensiveness.</i> Students with gifts and talents develop their potential through comprehensive, aligned programming and services.
1,2	5.6	<i>Policies and Procedures.</i> Students with gifts and talents participate in regular and gifted education programs that are guided by clear policies and procedures that provide for their advanced learning needs (e.g., early entrance, acceleration, credit in lieu of enrollment).

1,2	5.7	<i>Career Pathways.</i> Students with gifts and talents identify future career goals and the talent development pathways to reach those goals.
1,2	6.1	<i>Talent Development.</i> Students develop their talents and gifts as a result of interacting with educators who meet the national teacher preparation standards in gifted education.
1,2	6.2	<i>Socio-emotional Development.</i> Students with gifts and talents develop socially and emotionally as a result of educators who have participated in professional development aligned with national standards in gifted education and National Staff Development Standards.
1,2	6.3	<i>Lifelong Learners.</i> Students develop their gifts and talents as a result of educators who are life-long learners, participating in ongoing professional development and continuing education opportunities.
1,2	6.4	<i>Ethics.</i> Students develop their gifts and talents as a result of educators who are ethical in their practices.

Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training ([Standard 9.2](#))

List appropriate units below for which standards will be addressed

By Grade 4		
Unit Addressed	Core Idea	Standard / Description
1,2	An individual's passions, aptitude and skills can affect his/her employment and earning potential.	<p>9.2.5.CAP.1: Evaluate personal likes and dislikes and identify careers that might be suited to personal likes.</p> <p>9.2.5.CAP.2: Identify how you might like to earn an income.</p> <p>9.2.5.CAP.3: Identify qualifications needed to pursue traditional and non-traditional careers and occupations.</p> <p>9.2.5.CAP.4: Explain the reasons why some jobs and careers require specific training, skills, and certification (e.g., life guards, child care, medicine, education) and examples of these requirements.</p>
1	Income and benefits can vary depending on the employer and type of job or career.	<p>9.2.5.CAP.5: Identify various employee benefits, including income, medical, vacation time, and lifestyle benefits provided by different types of jobs and careers.</p>

1	There are a variety of factors to consider before starting a business.	9.2.5.CAP.6: Compare the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur with the traits of successful employees. • 9.2.5.CAP.7: Identify factors to consider before starting a business.
1	Individuals can choose to accept inevitable risk or take steps to protect themselves by avoiding or reducing risk.	9.2.5.CAP.8: Identify risks that individuals and households face. 9.2.5.CAP.9: Justify reasons to have insurance.

Life Literacies and Key Skills ([Standard 9.4](#))

List appropriate units below for which standards will be addressed

By Grade 4		
Unit Addressed	Core Idea	Standard / Description
1,2	Creativity and Innovation: Collaboration with individuals with diverse perspectives can result in new ways of thinking and/or innovative solutions.	9.4.5.CI.1: Use appropriate communication technologies to collaborate with individuals with diverse perspectives about a local and/or global climate change issue and deliberate about possible solutions (e.g., W.4.6, 3.MD.B.3, 7.1.NM.IPERS.6). 9.4.5.CI.2: Investigate a persistent local or global issue, such as climate change, and collaborate with individuals with diverse perspectives to improve upon current actions designed to address the issue (e.g., 6.3.5.CivicsPD.3, W.5.7).
1,2	Creativity and Innovation: Curiosity and a willingness to try new ideas (intellectual risk-taking) contributes to the development of creativity and innovation skills.	9.4.5.CI.3: Participate in a brainstorming session with individuals with diverse perspectives to expand one's thinking about a topic of curiosity (e.g., 8.2.5.ED.2, 1.5.5.CR1a). 9.4.5.CI.4: Research the development process of a product and identify the role of failure as a part of the creative process (e.g., W.4.7, 8.2.5.ED.6).

2	<p>Critical Thinking and Problem-solving: The ability to solve problems effectively begins with gathering data, seeking resources, and applying critical thinking skills.</p>	<p><i>9.4.5.CT.1: Identify and gather relevant data that will aid in the problem-solving process (e.g., 2.1.5.EH.4, 4-ESS3-1, 6.3.5.CivicsPD.2).</i></p> <p><i>9.4.5.CT.2: Identify a problem and list the types of individuals and resources (e.g., school, community agencies, governmental, online) that can aid in solving the problem (e.g., 2.1.5.CHSS.1, 4-ESS3-1).</i></p> <p><i>9.4.5.CT.3: Describe how digital tools and technology may be used to solve problems.</i></p> <p><i>9.4.5.CT.4: Apply critical thinking and problem-solving strategies to different types of problems such as personal, academic, community and global (e.g., 6.1.5.CivicsCM.3).</i></p>
1,2	<p>Digital Citizenship: Intellectual property rights exist to protect the original works of individuals. It is allowable to use other people’s ideas in one’s own work provided that proper credit is given to the original source.</p>	<p><i>9.4.5.DC.1: Explain the need for and use of copyrights.</i></p> <p><i>9.4.5.DC.2: Provide attribution according to intellectual property rights guidelines using public domain or creative commons media.</i></p> <p><i>9.4.5.DC.3: Distinguish between digital images that can be reused freely and those that have copyright restrictions.</i></p>
1,2	<p>Digital Citizenship: Sending and receiving copies of media on the internet creates the opportunity for unauthorized use of data, such as personally owned video, photos, and music.</p>	<p><i>9.4.5.DC.4: Model safe, legal, and ethical behavior when using online or offline technology (e.g., 8.1.5.NI.2).</i></p>
1,2	<p>Digital Citizenship: Digital identities must be managed in order to create a positive digital footprint.</p>	<p><i>9.4.5.DC.5: Identify the characteristics of a positive and negative online identity and the lasting implications of online activity</i></p>
1,2	<p>Digital Citizenship: Digital tools have positively and negatively changed the way people interact socially.</p>	<p><i>9.4.5.DC.6: Compare and contrast how digital tools have changed social interactions (e.g., 8.1.5.IC.1).</i></p> <p><i>9.4.5.DC.7: Explain how posting and commenting in social spaces can have positive or negative consequences.</i></p>
1,2	<p>Digital Citizenship: Digital engagement can improve the planning and delivery of climate change actions.</p>	<p><i>9.4.5.DC.8: Propose ways local and global communities can engage digitally to participate in and promote climate action (e.g., 6.3.5.GeoHE.1).</i></p>

1,2	Global and Cultural Awareness: Culture and geography can shape an individual's experiences and perspectives.	9.4.5.GCA.1: Analyze how culture shapes individual and community perspectives and points of view (e.g., 1.1.5.C2a, RL.5.9, 6.1.5.HistoryCC.8).
1,2	Information and Media Literacy: Digital tools and media resources provide access to vast stores of information, but the information can be biased or inaccurate.	9.4.5.IML.1: Evaluate digital sources for accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance (e.g., Social Studies Practice - Gathering and Evaluating Sources).
1,2	Information and Media Literacy: Digital tools can be used to modify and display data in various ways that can be organized to communicate ideas.	9.4.5.IML.2: Create a visual representation to organize information about a problem or issue (e.g., 4.MD.B.4, 8.1.5.DA.3). 9.4.5.IML.3: Represent the same data in multiple visual formats in order to tell a story about the data.
1,2	Information and Media Literacy: Accurate and comprehensive information comes in a variety of platforms and formats and is the basis for effective decision-making.	9.4.5.IML.4: Determine the impact of implicit and explicit media messages on individuals, groups, and society as a whole. 9.4.5.IML.5: Distinguish how media are used by individuals, groups, and organizations for varying purposes. (e.g., 1.3A.5.R1a).
1,2	Information and Media Literacy: Specific situations require the use of relevant sources of information.	9.4.5.IML.6: Use appropriate sources of information from diverse sources, contexts, disciplines, and cultures to answer questions (e.g., RI.5.7, 6.1.5.HistoryCC.7, 7.1.NM. IPRET.5). 9.4.5.IML.7: Evaluate the degree to which information meets a need including social emotional learning, academic, and social (e.g., 2.2.5. PF.5).
1,2	Technology Literacy: Different digital tools have different purposes.	9.4.5.TL.1: Compare the common uses of at least two different digital tools and identify the advantages and disadvantages of using each. 9.4.5.TL.2: Sort and filter data in a spreadsheet to analyze findings. 9.4.5.TL.3: Format a document using a word processing application to enhance text, change page formatting, and include appropriate images, graphics, or symbols.

1,2	Technology Literacy: Collaborating digitally as a team can often develop a better artifact than an individual working alone.	9.4.5.TL.4: Compare and contrast artifacts produced individually to those developed collaboratively (e.g., 1.5.5.CR3a). 9.4.5.TL.5: Collaborate digitally to produce an artifact (e.g., 1.2.5CR1d).
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Interdisciplinary Connections ([2020 NJSLs](#))

List any other content standards addressed as well as appropriate units. All arts integration connections may be listed within this chart.

Visual & Performing Arts Integration ([Standard 1](#))

List appropriate units below for which standards (1.1 through 1.5) may be addressed

Unit Addressed	Artistic Process	Anchor Standard
1,2	Creating	<i>Anchor Standard 1: Generating and conceptualizing ideas. Anchor Standard 2: Organizing and developing ideas. Anchor Standard 3: Refining and completing products.</i>
1,2	Connecting	<i>Anchor Standard 10: Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products. Anchor Standard 11: Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural, and historical contexts to deepen understanding.</i>
1,2	Performing/ Presenting/ Producing	<i>Anchor Standard 4: Selecting, analyzing, and interpreting work. Anchor Standard 5: Developing and refining techniques and models or steps needed to create products. Anchor Standard 6: Conveying meaning through art.</i>
1,2	Responding	<i>Anchor Standard 7: Perceiving and analyzing products. Anchor Standard 8: Applying criteria to evaluate products. Anchor Standard 9: Interpreting intent and meaning.</i>

Pacing Guide (All Dates are approximate based on the school calendar)

Unit/ Topic	Month (w/Approx number of Teaching Days)
Unit 1- Unveiling my Story:Unit of Self Discovery and Personal Growth Self Expression and Artistic Creativity	September 4 Days
Unit 1- Unveiling my Story:Unit of Self Discovery and Personal Growth Identifying Strengths and Weaknesses	October 5 Days
Unit 1- Unveiling my Story:Unit of Self Discovery and Personal Growth Exploring Hopes and Aspirations	November 4 Days
Unit 1- Unveiling my Story:Unit of Self Discovery and Personal Growth Sharing of Personal Narrative	December 4 Days
Unit 1- Unveiling my Story:Unit of Self Discovery and Personal Growth Identifying Personal Interests	January 5 Days
Unit 2- Pronouncing my Passion: Unit of Research, Creativity, and Presentation Conducting In Depth Research/Organizing and Planning	February 5 Days
Unit 2- Pronouncing my Passion: Unit of Research, Creativity, and Presentation Creating Model/Project	March 5 Days
Unit 2- Pronouncing my Passion: Unit of Research, Creativity, and Presentation Creating Model/Project and Presenting	April 4 Days
Unit 2- Pronouncing my Passion: Unit of Research, Creativity, and Presentation Presentation Skills and Peer Collaboration Feedback	May 4 Days
Unit 2- Pronouncing my Passion: Unit of Research, Creativity, and Presentation Showcasing, Presenting, and Reflecting	June 4 Days

Units Scope and Sequence

Unit 1- Unveiling my Story: Unit of Self Discovery and Personal Growth

Learning Goals: What do I want my students to learn?

Standards

[NJSLs -](#)

NJSLSA.R1.

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

NJSLSA.R2.

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

NJSLSA.W1.

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

NJSLSA.W2.

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

NJSLSA.W7.

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

NJSLSA.SL4.

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

NJSLSA.SL5.

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

[NJSLs - Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training](#)

[NJSLs - Life Literacies and Key Skills](#)

[NJSLs - Interdisciplinary Standards](#)

Fundamental Concepts / Big Ideas

- Through this unit of self-discovery and personal growth, students will gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their dreams, their interests, their passions, and their potential. By fostering empathy and creating a supportive community, students will also develop stronger connections with their peers, enriching their educational experience.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Self-Expression and Artistic Creativity:
 - Develop the ability to express personal thoughts, emotions, and experiences through various creative mediums, such as art, writing, music, or storytelling.
 - Cultivate confidence in using art and digital media as a tool for self-expression and communication.
 - Embrace the freedom to explore and experiment with different artistic forms to convey individual narratives.
- Identifying Strengths and Weaknesses:
 - Reflect on personal strengths and weaknesses to gain insight into areas of confidence and areas for growth.
 - Recognize and celebrate unique talents and abilities that contribute to personal identity.
 - Understand that weaknesses are opportunities for improvement and learning.
- Exploring Hopes and Aspirations:
 - Engage in introspective activities to identify and articulate short-term and long-term hopes and aspirations.
 - Develop and express a clearer vision of personal goals and dreams for the future.
 - Express empowerment to pursue aspirations with determination and passion.
- Sharing Personal Narratives:
 - Feel comfortable and safe sharing personal stories, experiences, and aspirations with peers.
 - Recognize the value of listening to and learning from others' narratives, fostering empathy and connection.

Units

Unit 2- Pronouncing my Passion: Unit of Research, Creativity, and Presentation

Learning Goals: What do I want my students to learn?

Standards

[NJSLs](#) -

NJLSA.R1.

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

NJLSA.R2.

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

NJLSA.W1.

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

NJLSA.W2.

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

NJLSA.W7.

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

NJLSA.SL4.

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

NJLSA.SL5.

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

[NJSLs - Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training](#)

[NJSLs - Life Literacies and Key Skills](#)

[NJSLs - Interdisciplinary Standards](#)

Fundamental Concepts / Big Ideas

- Through this unit of passion projects, students will engage in self-directed learning and experience the joy of pursuing topics they are truly passionate about. By conducting research, fostering creativity, and teaching their findings to their peers, students will develop a sense of ownership and empowerment in their learning journey, contributing to a diverse and enriched learning environment.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Identifying Personal Interests:
 - Explore and reflect on individual interests and passions to select a subject and topic for the passion project.
 - Recognize the value of pursuing topics that evoke curiosity and enthusiasm.
 - Understand the connection between personal interests and motivation in the learning process.
- Conducting In-Depth Research:
 - Develop research skills to gather reliable information and sources related to the chosen topic.
 - Analyze and critically evaluate the collected data to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject.
 - Practice information literacy and citation to ensure credible research.
- Organizing and Planning:
 - Create a structured plan and timeline for the completion of the passion project.
 - Develop organizational skills to manage research, creative processes, and project milestones.
 - Break down complex tasks into manageable steps for efficient progress
- Creating a Model or Example:
 - Utilize creativity and innovation to design a model, prototype, artwork, or any tangible representation related to the chosen topic.
 - Incorporate diverse media, materials, and techniques to effectively convey the essence of the subject.
- Developing Presentation and Teaching Skills:
 - Practice public speaking and communication to effectively present information and the passion project to the class.
- Showcasing the Passion Project:
 - Prepare and organize a presentation to showcase the completed passion project to the class.
- Peer Collaboration, Feedback, and Reflection:
 - Collaborate with peers for constructive feedback and ideas throughout the project's development.

Please contact the Content Supervisor for any questions.