### Quarter 1

**Unifying Concept: Physical Science**

**Energy and Environmental Science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Focus:</th>
<th>Writing Focus:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Narrative</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Highly Leveraged¹</th>
<th>Supporting²</th>
<th>Constant³</th>
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### Crosscutting Concepts

- Patterns
- Cause & Effect
- Systems & System Models
- Energy & Matter

### Science and Engineering Practices

- Ask questions and define problems
- Develop and use models
- Plan and carry out investigations
- Analyze and interpret data

### Quarter 2

**Unifying Concept: Earth and Space Science**

**Weather and Water**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Informative/Explanatory</td>
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### Crosscutting Concepts

- Patterns
- Cause & Effect
- Systems & System Models
- Energy & Matter

### Science and Engineering Practices

- Use mathematics and computational thinking
- Construct explanations and design solutions
- Engage in argument from evidence
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

### Quarter 3

**Unifying Concept: Life Science**

**Diversity of Life**

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### Crosscutting Concepts

- Patterns
- Structure & Function
- Systems & System Models
- Stability & Change

### Science and Engineering Practices

- Use mathematics and computational thinking
- Construct explanations and design solutions
- Engage in argument from evidence
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

### Quarter 4

**Unifying Concept: Inquiry Process**

**No Kit**

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### Crosscutting Concepts

- Patterns
- Cause & Effect
- Systems and Models
- Scale, Proportion, & Quantity

### Science and Engineering Practices

- Use mathematics and computational thinking
- Construct explanations and design solutions
- Engage in argument from evidence
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

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¹**Highly-Leveraged Standards** are essential for students to learn because they have endurance (knowledge and skills relevant throughout a student’s lifetime); leverage (knowledge and skills used across multiple content areas); and essentiality (knowledge and skills necessary for success in future courses or grade levels). This definition for Highly-Leveraged Standards was adapted from the “power standard” definition on the website of the Millis Public Schools, K-12, Massachusetts, USA, 2016.

²**Supporting Standards** are emphasized during the quarter, as they are integral to achieve mastery of the Highly Leveraged Standards. Mastery of these standards are measured using classroom assessments.

³**Constant Standards** are repeatedly addressed to reinforce grade-level mastery.

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development  
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