



The Learning Domains

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The Three Learning Domains

Symbiotic Learning is an interdisciplinary approach. It is built upon the fact that discreet knowledge often lacks vitality and is readily forgotten. However, knowledge that crosses disciplinary boundaries builds neural connections that generate emotional enthusiasm and promote deep understanding. All coursework at Manzanita is attended to through three learning domains, or lenses. These three domains are:

(1) BIOLOGICAL-EVOLUTIONARY (2) HISTORICAL-CULTURAL: AND (3) AESTHETIC-NUMINOUS.

Biological-Evolutionary

Biology is the science of life which integrates many disciplines, including mathematics, chemistry, and physics. Evolution, as a specific biological process, frames all life and living systems across the arc of time. Biological-Evolutionary is the first of the three learning domains through which we examine content at Manzanita.

Historical-Cultural

As cultural organisms, human beings live within systems of belief and practice that often appear static but which actually change and evolve over historic time. In fact, each individual has the capacity to influence cultural patterns within their social group. At Manzanita School, the cultural-historical domain is the second powerful lens that is used to frame learning, to analyze content, and to understand past, present, and future.

Aesthetic-Numinous

Humans are naturally creative and intuitive beings, having a strong attraction towards aesthetic beauty, whether expressed as organic forms or human made objects. In the areas of science, art, technology, and thought, people constantly strive to create new and beautiful things. We are also attracted to wonder and mystery, and relish experiences of awe and reverence. The aesthetic-numinous domain reflects an awareness of the role of beauty and mystery in the human experience, and forms a powerful lens to examine and reflect upon content and curriculum.

In summary, the Biological-Evolutionary domain concerns the scientific, living, earth-bound aspect of a process. The Historical-Cultural domain refers to how a process or phenomena has moved through time, and through the human cultural interface. The Aesthetic-Numinous domain concerns the way in which an area of inquiry or study has relevance for human beings on an emotional or 'felt' level.

