

Elevating Your PYP Planning: Architecting Inquiry



From Doing Inquiry to Understanding Learning



Integrating Inquiry Learning Progressions

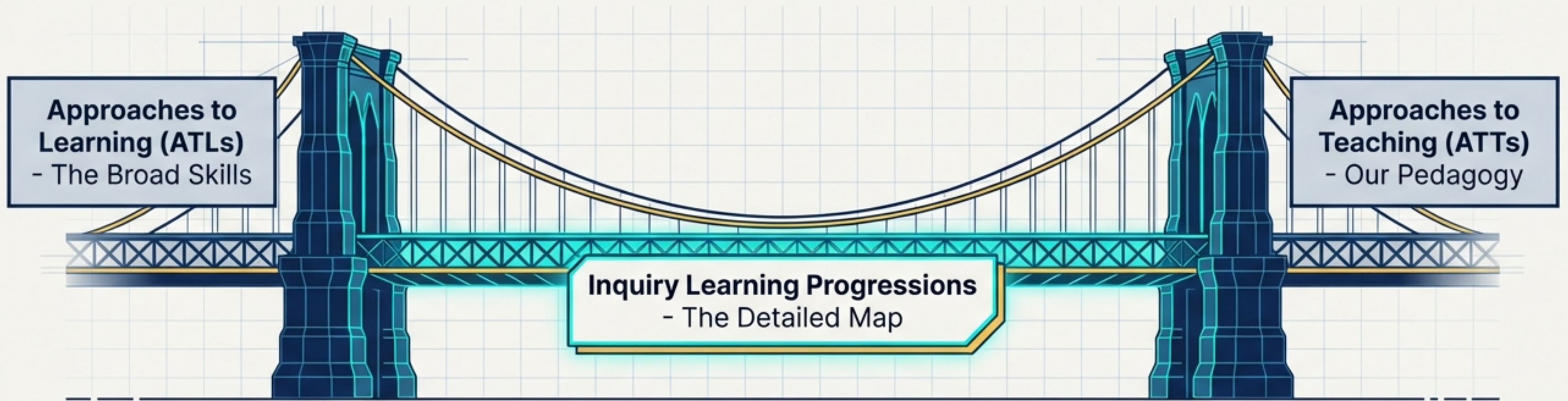


Building the Portrait of an Inquirer

Core Insight: How do we move students from simply doing inquiry to truly understanding how they learn? The PYP Inquiry Learning Progressions provide the architectural framework to design intentional, visible learning experiences for every single student.



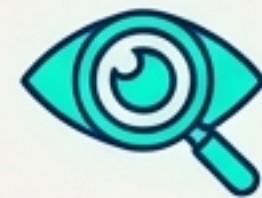
Bridging the Gap: The Why



Connects broad ATLs to daily ATTs



Provides a detailed developmental map



Makes skill progression visible to all

Pedagogical Shift: Progressions provide a granular map showing exactly what the growth of specific skills looks like in practice, making invisible steps visible.

The Paradigm Shift: Reframing Assessment

Age-Bound & Deficit Model



Not age or grade-level bound
Not a deficit model (what they can't do)

Flexible Pacing & Portrait of an Inquirer



Focus: Flexible pacing and continuous growth
Goal: Building a Portrait of an Inquirer

Key Insight: Assessment shifts toward flexible pacing. By tracking a student's place on a progression, we build a comprehensive portrait that illustrates where they have been, where they are now, and where they are going next.

Differentiating the What from the How



The Curriculum (POI)

The What

Conceptual understandings
& outcomes



The Progressions

The How

The underlying inquiry process

The Goal: Intentional mapping of skills
across transdisciplinary areas.

Bridging What & How: EYC Example



Unit: How the World Works

The What:
We explore our surroundings with our senses.

The How: The Observation Progression

Noticing

Categorizing



Instead of just generally observing play, the progression gives us exact, shared language to document specific developmental growth.

Bridging What & How: Grade 5 Example



Unit:
Who We Are

The What:
Learning about identity
enables us to understand
ourselves and our culture.

The How: The Questioning Progression

**Simple
Questions**

**Challenging
Perspectives**



The progression explicitly drives lesson design, forcing students to explore and challenge diverse cultural perspectives.

Explicit Gains: Building Metacognition

- ✓ Making the invisible steps of learning visible
- ✓ Naming the ATL skill in real-time



- ✓ Connecting daily choices to overarching consequences
- ✓ Transforming students into agents of their own inquiry



The true magic happens when rote action becomes metacognitive awareness. Students co-construct success criteria to link daily behaviors directly to inquiry skills.

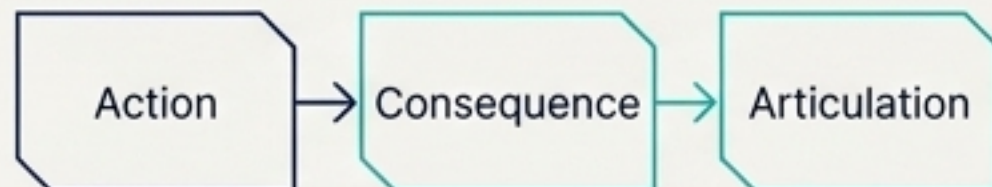
Metacognition in Action: Social Dynamics



Role-Playing Scenarios

Decision-making progression

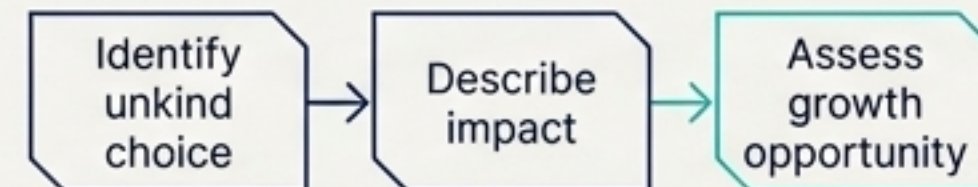
Goal: Verbally connecting choices to emotional outcomes.



The Repair Plan

Role- & Turn-Taking progression

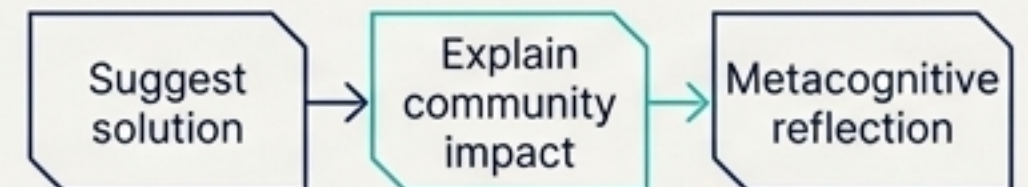
Goal: Articulating cause and effect in conflicts.



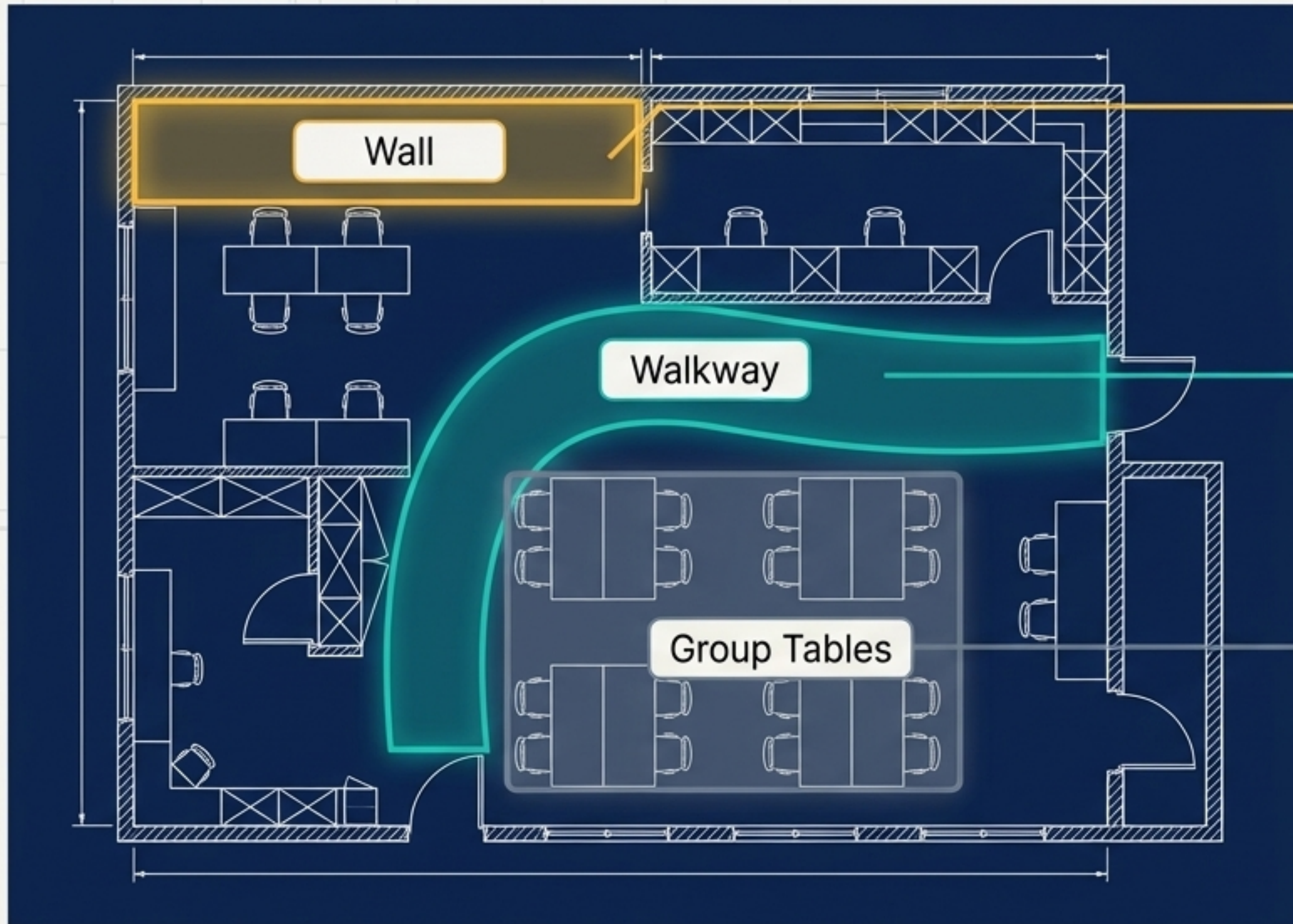
The Kindness Clinic

Problem Solving progression

Goal: Seeing the impact of personal choices on the wider community.



Actionable Classroom Design



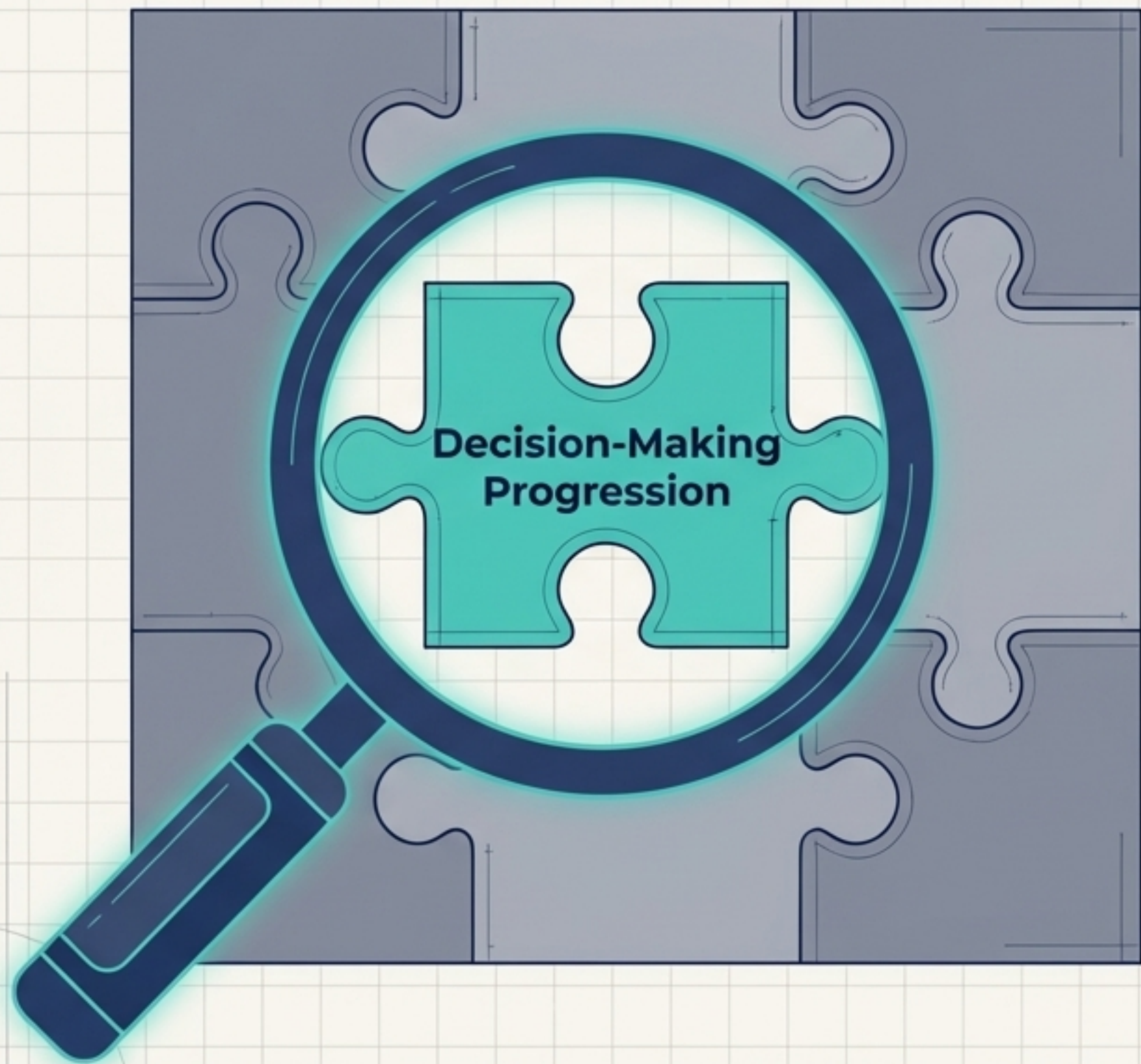
Wonder Walls: Designing for the Questioning progression to capture iteratively refined student curiosities.

Sensory Walks: Elevating the Observation progression from basic noticing to abstract connections using See, Think, Wonder.

Adapting Group Roles: Navigating the Role- and Turn-Taking progression by explicitly guiding students to negotiate group responsibilities.

The physical classroom environment itself becomes an interactive inquiry tool.

Our Strategic Focus



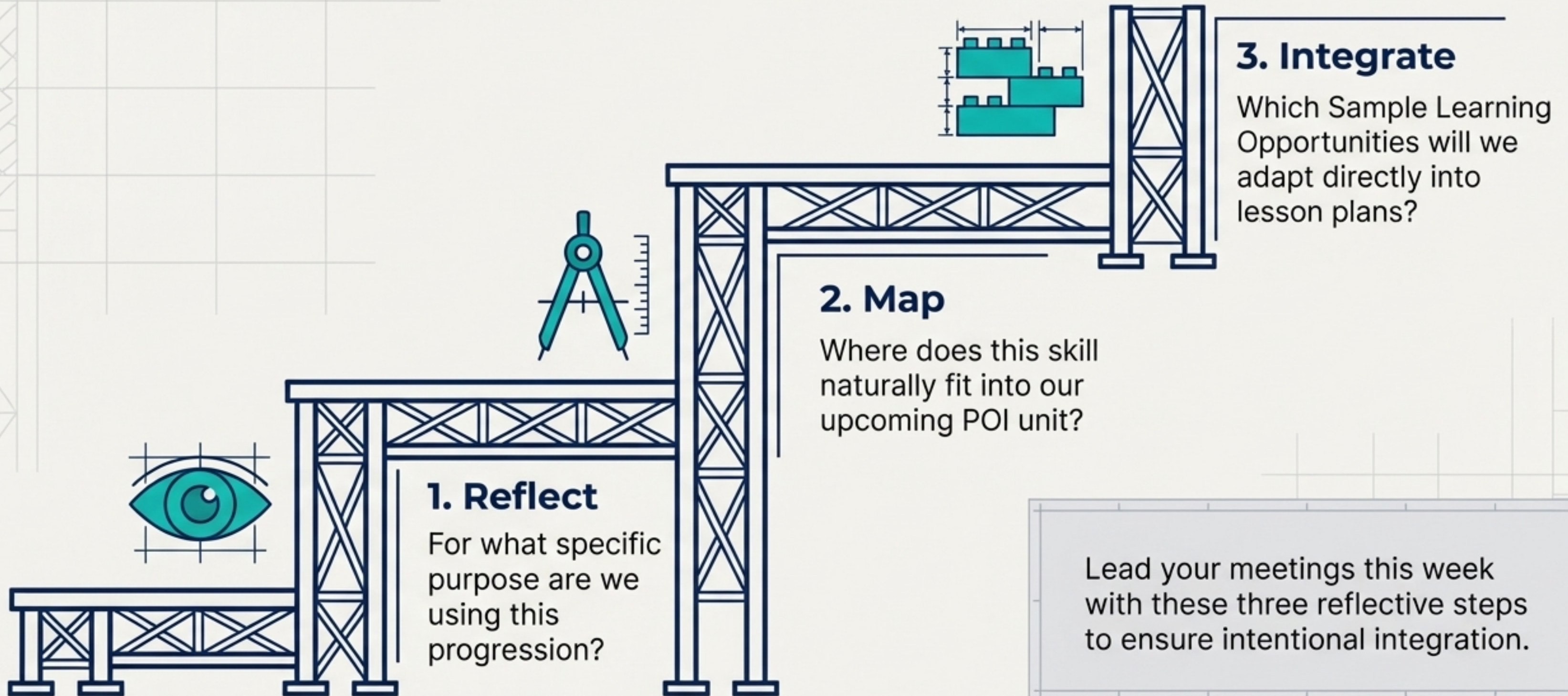
Current Whole-School Focus: Decision-Making

- Intentional onboarding and clear expectations
- Co-constructing success criteria with learners
- Aligning with our ATL vertical mapping

Strategy:

To prevent overwhelm, we will focus purely on one progression for the next planning cycle, working with students to co-construct success at their current developmental stage.

Next Steps for Collaborative Planning



Architects of Inquiry

Move beyond teaching content

Make the steps of learning visible

Nurture, monitor, and celebrate every unique journey



You are no longer just delivering a curriculum—you are true architects of inquiry, equipped to design and celebrate the metacognitive learning journey of every single student.