becoming EARTH

ENVIRONMENT ● ART ● RESOURCES ● TECHNOLOGY ● HEALTH

Our journey in creating a STEM focused vision for learning

Presented by:

Lily Albright ◆ Kelley Dawson ◆ Kelly Misheikis

Unionville Elementary School

2018 Indiana Outdoor Classroom of the Year

who are we?

Unionville Elementary School

ENVIRONMENT ● ART ● RESOURCES ● TECHNOLOGY ● HEALTH

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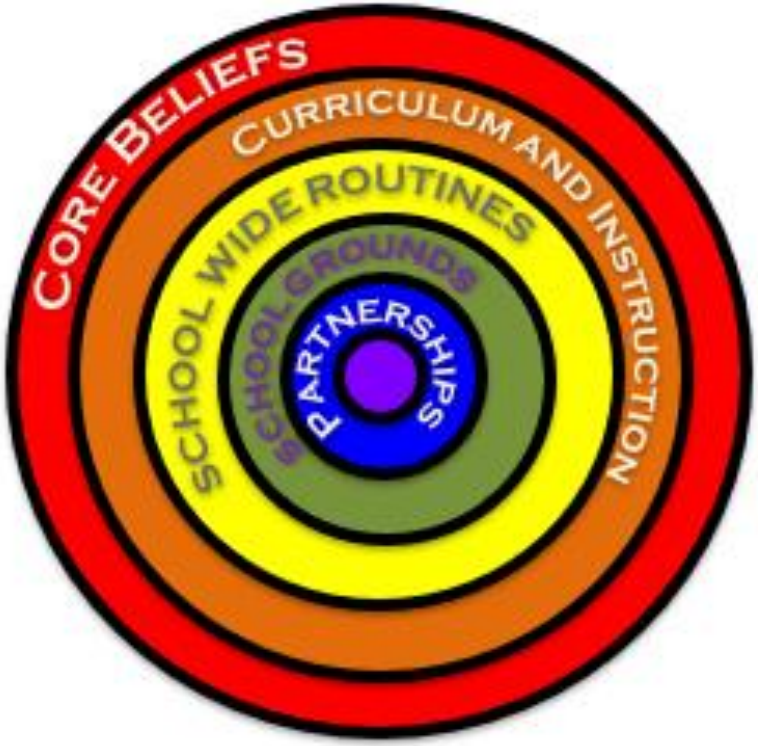
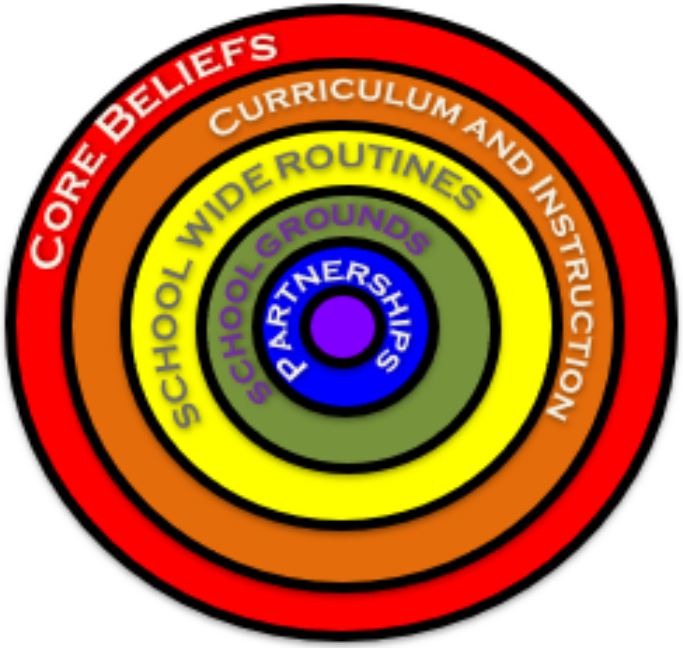


CORE BELIEFS

E.A.R.T.H. is a model for 21st century learning.

We believe our world needs: 1) inhabitants with a deep connection, respect, and appreciation for nature, 2) people who are problem solvers, experienced in using technology and creativity to generate solutions and to communicate with stakeholders, and 3) individuals who integrate health and wellness into their lives. Unionville believes E.A.R.T.H. is a framework for shaping students, tomorrow's leaders, to live in and contribute to a better world.



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- Individual Units tied to the EARTH topics
- Foss Science Kits
- 1 to 1 ratio of iPads to Students
- Online format for Curriculum
- Computer science lessons at each grade level

SCHOOLWIDE ROUTINES

- Use of science notebooks in each classroom
- School wide recycling and composting
- Before school exercise and positive affirmation
- Tricycles on the playground
- Club Friday
- EARTH related field trips
- Student Advisory Board
- Study Buddies

PARTNERSHIPS

- Indiana Department of Health
- Sycamore Land Trust
- IU School of Public Health
- IU School of Biology
- Purdue Extension
- Monroe County Parks and Rec
- IU Health
- Benton Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Sobremesa Farm
- IU School of Education
- YMCA

SCHOOL GROUNDS

- Raised garden beds
- Hiking trails
- Pond
- Fitness track
- Shelter house/ Outdoor learning lab
- Butterfly/Native Plant Garden
- Compost bins
- Large play area
- Amphitheater

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

1

GIBSON
TRAIL
2

3

4

UNIONVILLE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

5

6

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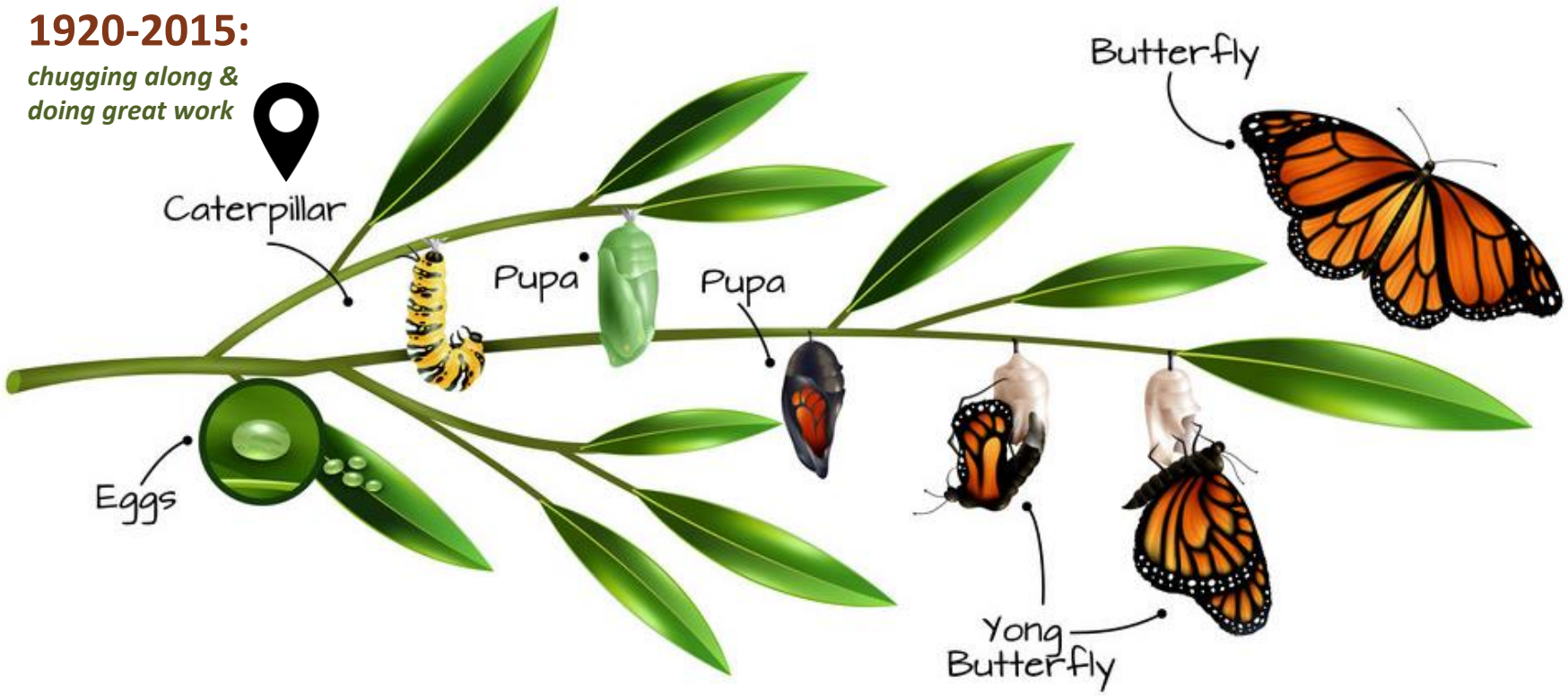
Unionville 1920-2015:

chugging along & doing great work



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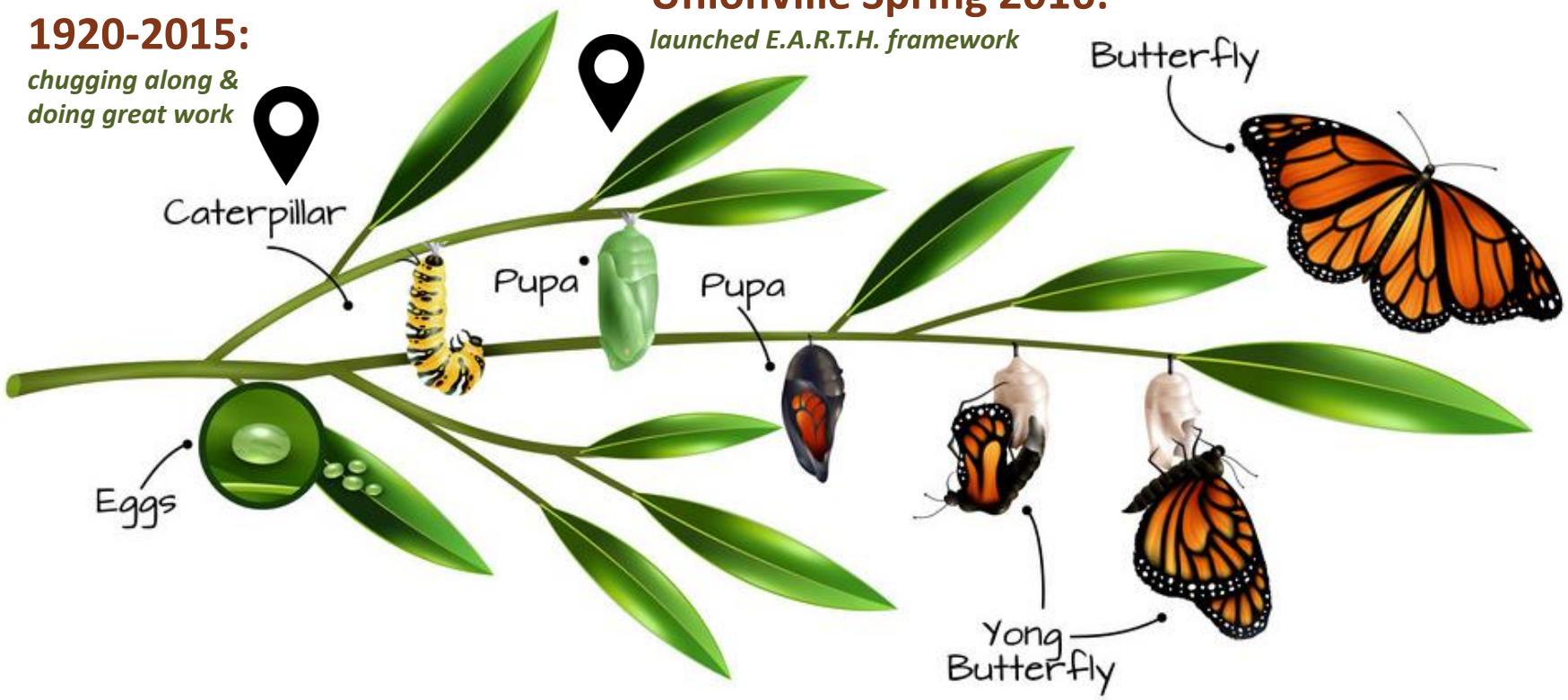
Unionville Spring 2016:

launched E.A.R.T.H. framework



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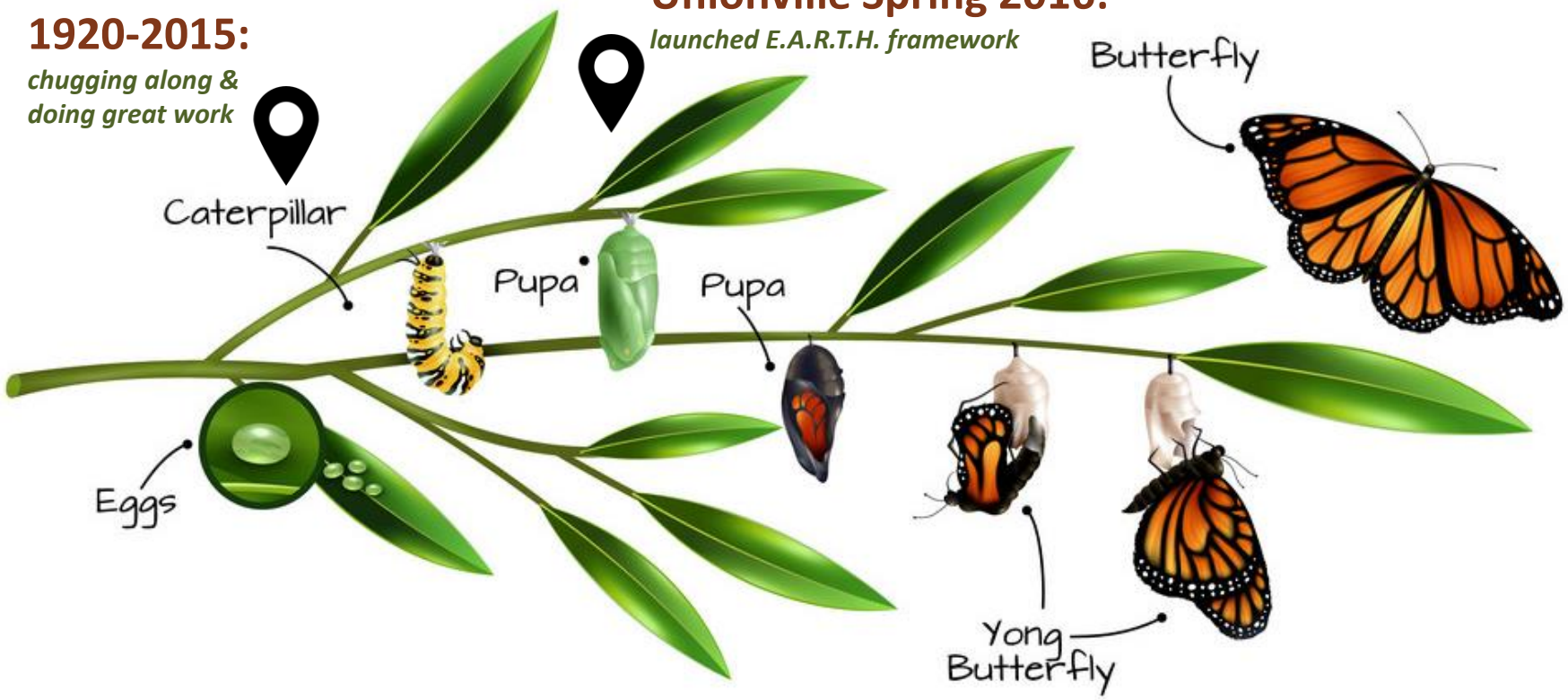

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1. The principal shared a desire to define what unique and special about us.
2. We looked at our purpose statement, reviewed purpose statements of other organizations, and checked out what sort of programs/schools existed.
3. Teachers explored options, reflected, and discussed possibilities.
4. The principal set a meeting date for reviewing our research and for making a decision regarding our next course of action.
5. The faculty unanimously agreed to explore a nature-centered theme.
6. While the principal droned on about how it will be important to communicate our mission/purpose/vision clearly to the community, a teacher dreamed up E.A.R.T.H.
7. We created a timeline for implementation.
8. We started small and built on success, building knowledge along the way. #learningbydoing
9. Our clear vision for learning has … many new partnerships, over $40,000 in grant money, and lots of media coverage.

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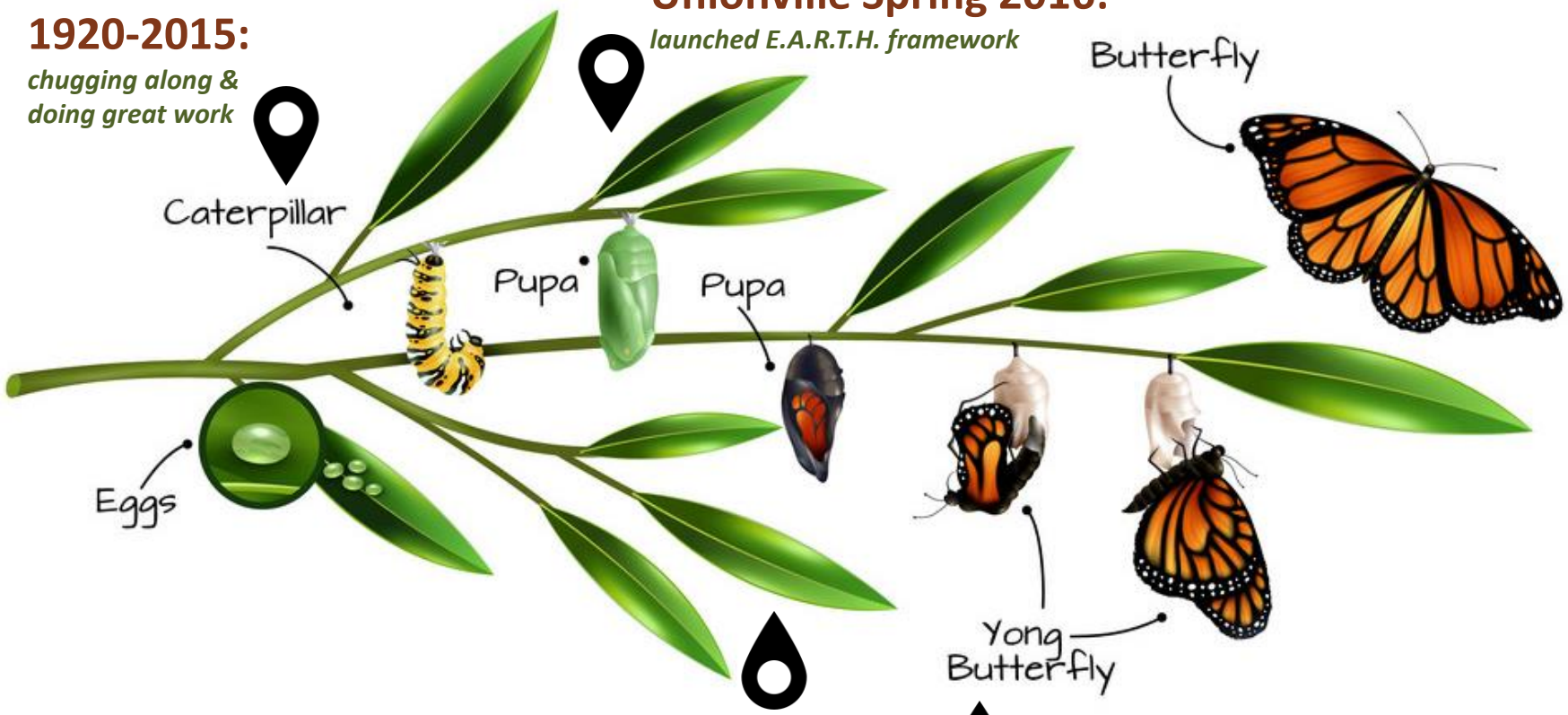

Unionville Spring 2019:

IDOE STEM Certification

Unionville Spring 2020:

early stages of implementation

Unionville 1920-2015:
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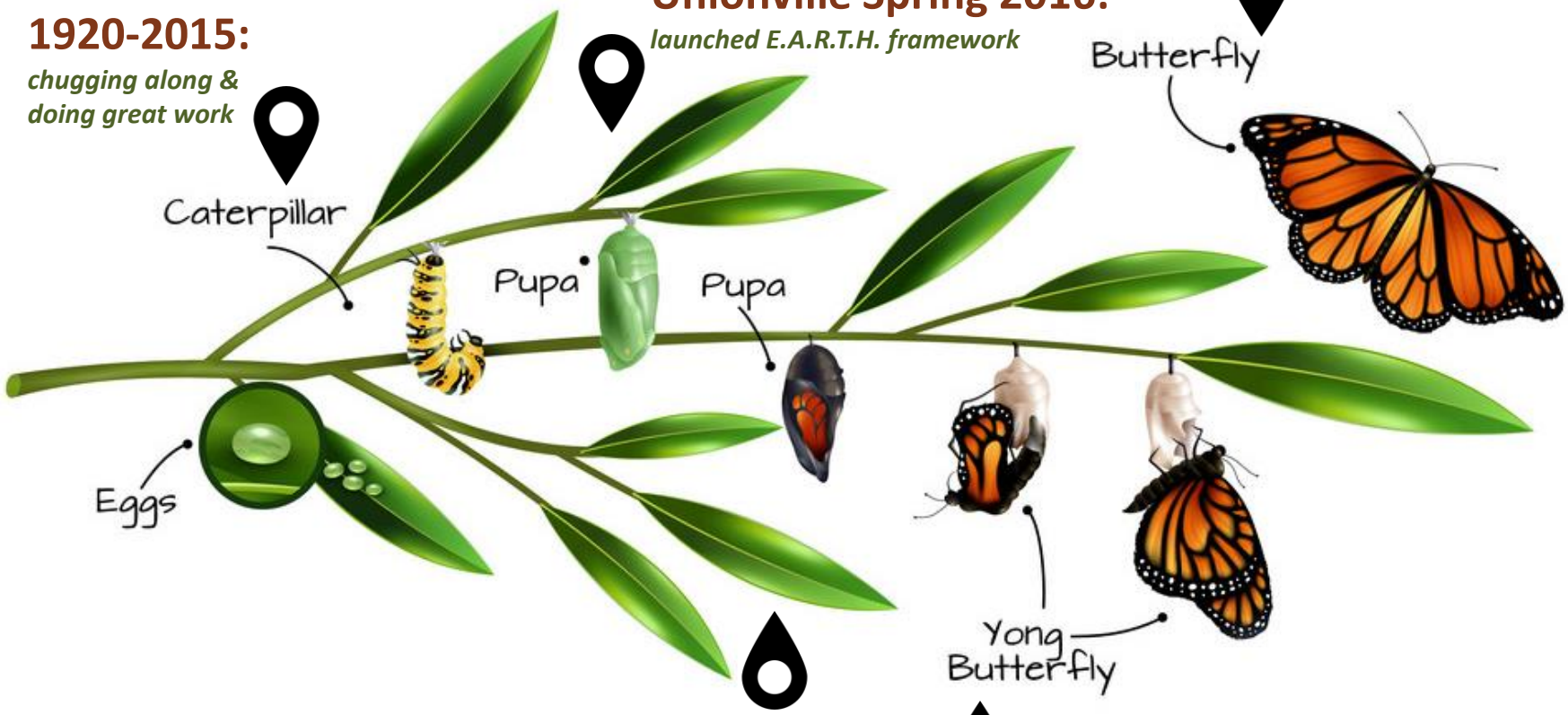
#goals
full implementation



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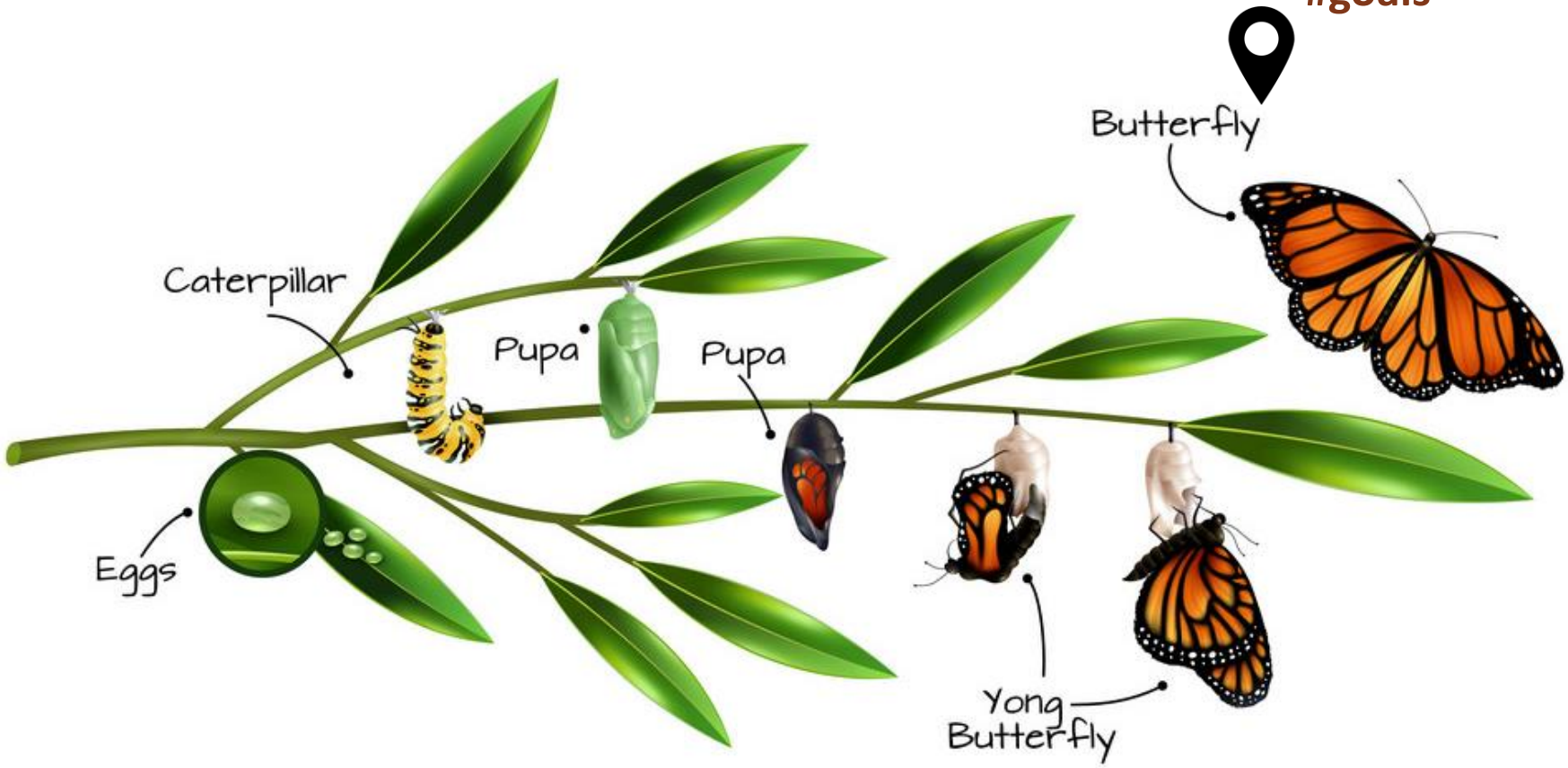
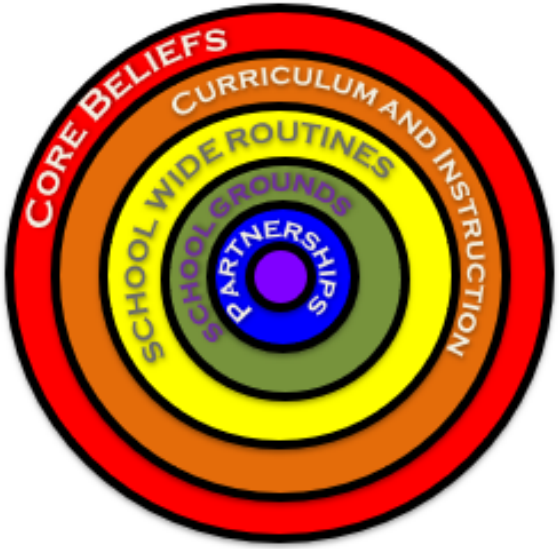


WHAT?
WHERE?
WHO?
WHEN?
WHY?

WHAT?
WHERE?
WHO?
WHEN?
WHY?

start here

CORE BELIEFS



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

SCHOOLWIDE ROUTINES

PARTNERSHIPS

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Indiana STEM

IDOE A RATED

U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School 2019

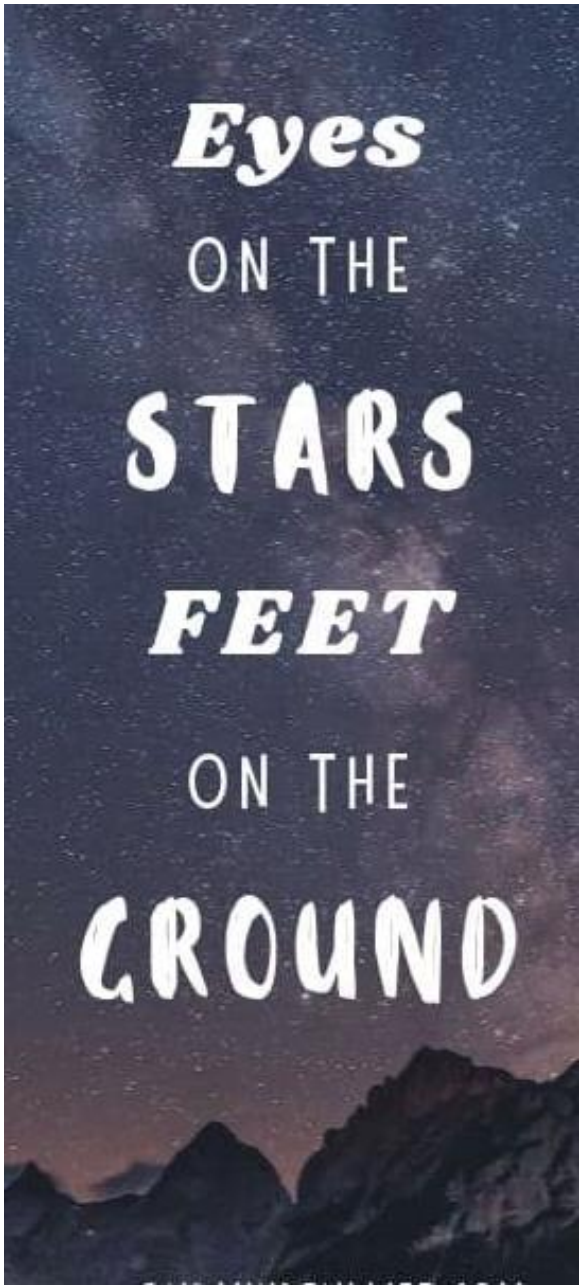
FOUR STAR SCHOOL

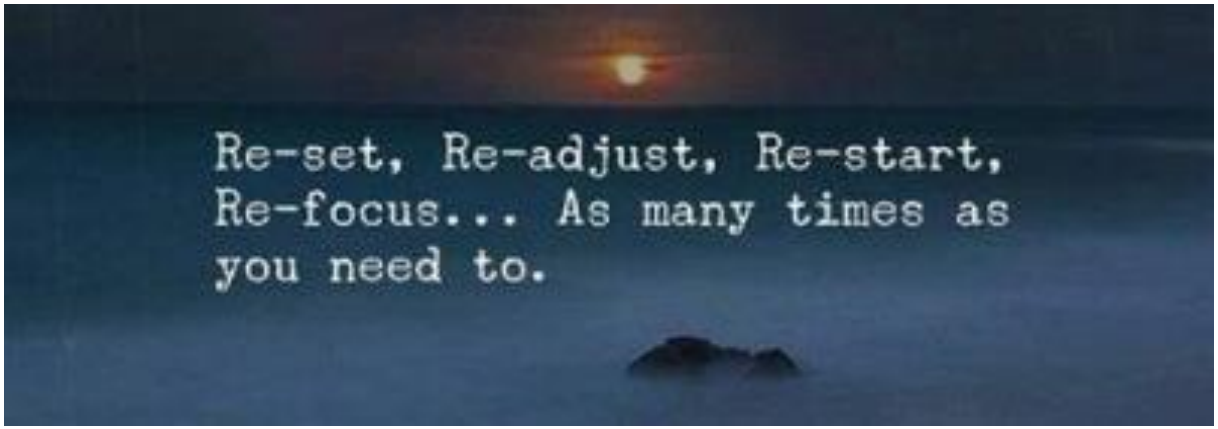
Indiana Department of Education

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

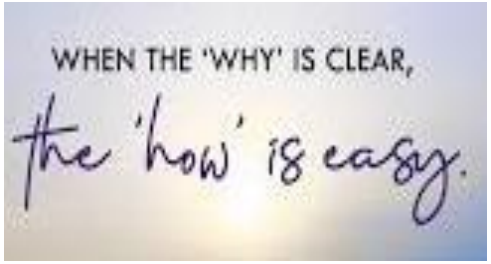
MCCSC

OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND HIGH LEVELS OF LEARNING ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE





A goal should
scare you a little,
& excite you A LOT.



keep going.

If you want to be happy, set a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy and inspires your hopes.

HASTI

Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc.

2020

Unionville Elementary School

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Facebook: @unionvilleelementary

Instagram: @unionville_es

Twitter: @UnionvilleES

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