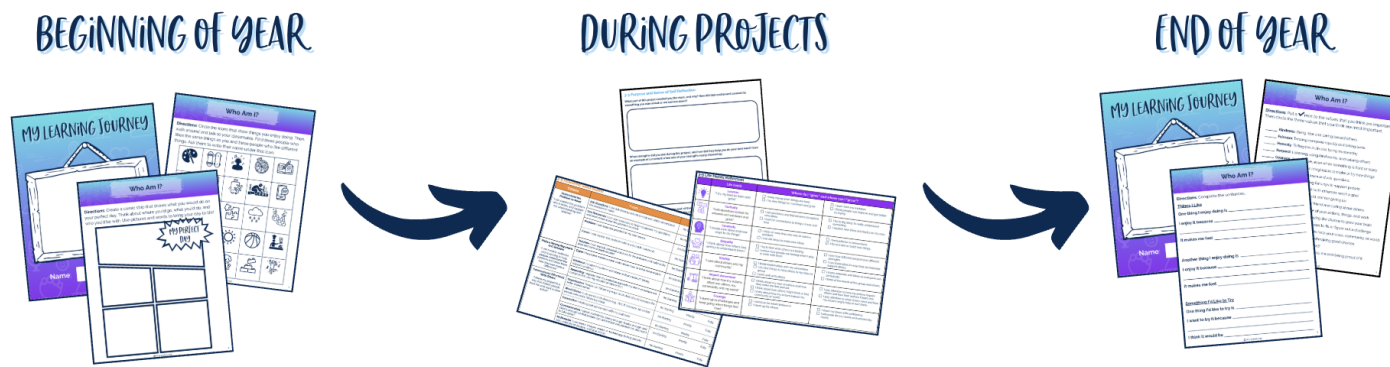


My Learning Journey: Beginning of Year

Teacher's Guide

Rock by Rock has created a set of holistic assessment tools that support student growth across the year. The *My Learning Journey* tool includes beginning and end-of-year activities that help students explore their strengths, set goals, and reflect on their growth. At the start of the year, students build a strong sense of self and community. At the end, they revisit their goals, celebrate accomplishments, and consider how they've grown over the course of the year. During each project, the Academic Skills Rubric, Life Habits Checklist, and Purpose and Sense of Self Reflection help students set goals, track progress, and reflect on their learning on an ongoing basis.



These tools are most powerful when they are integrated into a broader story of growth. That's why we pair these assessments with intentional reflection experiences that help students connect the dots between their daily learning and their long-term development. The *My Learning Journey* activities are the first step, guiding students to reflect on their identity, strengths, and goals at the start of the year and again at the end. These beginning and end-of-year moments give students an anchor point as they grow and change. To capture and share this growth over time, students build a portfolio and video diary that brings their learning journey to life.

Portfolios	Video Diary
Portfolios provide a powerful space to bring all of these tools together. In their portfolios, students collect their strongest work, organize evidence of growth, and reflect on how their learning connects to their goals. The portfolio becomes the written and visual record of their yearlong journey.	Alongside the portfolio, students also create a video diary. These personal recordings provide students with an opportunity to share their story in their own words and voice. Video entries are completed multiple times throughout the year and offer students a chance to reflect on who they are, what they have accomplished, and how they continue to grow.

Lessons at a Glance

Each section of the My Learning Journey includes an online module and one or more printed activities in the Mission Log. These activities vary in length and format. Some are reflective writing prompts, others involve hands-on work or group discussion. We recommend previewing each section to determine how much time your students will need and how many activities you want to include each day. Ideally, students will complete all components of the Beginning-of-Year Learning Journey, including the diagnostic assessments, within the first three weeks of the school year. This will set the stage for ongoing goal setting, reflection, and growth throughout the year.

Online Module	My Learning Journey Mission Log	Materials	Additional Notes/Guidance
1.1 Who Am I?	Pages 1-9	• cardstock • magazines • scissors • glue	
1.2 What Am I Good At?	Pages 10-16	See teacher prep document for materials.	The six Strength Stations should be set up before teaching this lesson. You can find all the materials and directions for each station here . Students will spend about 8–10 minutes at each one, so you may choose to split the activity across two class periods if needed.
1.3 How Do I Learn?	Pages 17-25	• scissors • glue	
1.4 Just Keep Growing			Consider printing copies of the Academic Skills Rubric, Life Habits Checklist, and Purpose and Sense of Self Reflection for students to explore and discuss after completing the online lesson. This is a great opportunity to build student investment in using these tools to support their learning and growth throughout the year. These conversations can also help students begin thinking about goals they may want to set related to these areas in future lessons.
1.5 Diagnostic Assessments			After completing this online module, students will be prompted to take their diagnostic assessments. We recommend selecting an assessment tool that thoroughly measures both math and reading skills and can be given again mid-year and at the end of the year to track growth. The diagnostic should offer a clear picture of each

			student's current strengths and areas for improvement. For example, i-Ready provides data across multiple domains, suggests growth targets, and outlines specific next steps to support each student's progress.
1.6 What Can I Improve?	Pages 26-32	• yarn • glue • markers • scissors	
1.7 Tracking My Growth			Students need a clear and consistent way to list their goals and track their progress throughout the year. The <u>Tracking My Growth Sheet</u> is designed to support this process by helping students reflect on their growth in reading, math, writing, and personal development. On the second page of the document, end-of-year goals should be broken down into smaller benchmark goals. These benchmarks should be easy for students to understand and monitor. Depending on the diagnostic assessment you use, suggested goals may already be provided.
1.8 How Can I Improve?	Pages 33-38	• paper plates • pencils • rulers • markers • scissors • brass fasteners • cardstock	
1.9 Video Diary	Pages 39-41	• phone, computer, or camera for recording	Students will create their first video diary entry during this lesson to capture who they are and what they hope to accomplish this year. We suggest adding several other entries throughout the year, such as after each project, following mid-year diagnostics, and at the end of the year. These short, student-recorded videos help them reflect on their growth, goals, and learning journey in their own voice.