

**Wendy Hueter**

**Mini Professional Development Project Proposal**

Title: Integrated STEM projects within the ELA curriculum PD

Rudy G. Bologna Elem., two 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teammates and my new Dean of Students will attend the 30-minute PD.

I chose this topic after meeting with my teammates and asking what it is they would like to get out of my PD. My teammates love it when I share ideas about how you can do a STEM activity within what we are already teaching and the students can expand on what they are learning with a hands-on fun project. I want to give my teammates the information that they think is valuable and worth their time.

I plan to show my teammates the valuable resources that are in our library and online for them to use with their ELA curriculum. As our team is small, I have created each quarter the curriculum map for every academic area, so that we can follow the map and help guide our team through the standards. As I create the curriculum map, and view the ELA stories and topics, and how they cross into our Science and Social Sciences areas as well. I plan within those lessons, STEM projects that are guiding students to explore the stories or topics deeper and in a fun and engaging way of learning. Already within our first Unit of ELA and Science, I have incorporated building bridges, students created salt dough state maps, learned about erosion and how the weather effects the climate, and had students create a travel brochure for the Grand Canyon. Although I have shared my lessons with my teammates, it is not the same as actually teaching them where they can get the information without relying on me to just plan the lessons for them. I am hoping to teach them what I have learned from the NASA Endeavor program courses and share those resources with them. I want my team to know that it isn't anything "extra" that they have to teach, that it is supplementing what they are already teaching and just making their lesson that much richer for their students. I have already chosen some STEM lessons that can be easily integrated into our ELA curriculum that will get the students excited about each topic.

Some of the resources I plan to share are from the Picture-Perfect STEM lessons and the Science Lessons using Children's Literature from Karen Ansberry and Emily Morgan. I would also like to show them the 5E instructional model as well as the Engineering Design Process. These are key to helping students with problem solving, critical thinking, asking questions, and redesigning projects. One major obstacle I can foresee is not having enough time to share everything needed in one PD. I think trying to schedule the PD, I would hope that during our PLC meeting, that I will be able to use one of those scheduled dates, instead of scheduling an extra day for another additional meeting. I can also see where they might not be open to learning something new, if it isn't interesting or engaging or even useful, my teammates might not have the same passion for STEM as I do.