

STEM Across the Board

By Tim Gower

When I first started thinking about what I was going to do, I did not have a clue. I was thinking about what projects I could implement. Then, during a faculty meeting, our principal mentioned STEM and almost nobody knew what it meant. The silence gave me the reason why I need to teach our staff about STEM. I am planning on implementing a professional development experience for my final project. I decided to choose this experience because we had a huge turn-around at our school this year. We had 6 teachers leave and a principal that got promoted to high school. One of our teachers became the principal. I saw a need..and a chance to influence the younger and less experienced teacher to implement STEM in all content areas. We have two new math teachers, two new ELA teachers and a new science teacher. This year would be perfect to show how important STEM can be in the classroom. My proposed audience would be anyone that would want to learn how they can teach STEM in their content area. When people hear about STEM, they usually only think about math and science. STEM needs to be taught across the curriculum. I will concentrate my efforts this year on the teachers in my building that are new to education. They range from 6th-8th grade teachers and will teach ELA, Reading, Math, Science and History. My project will demonstrate how you can teach STEM across the curriculum. I expect to see that "light-bulb" turn on in these teachers' heads and see the importance of teaching STEM. Also, I hope to see new ideas of how to teach STEM from these young minded teachers. I will keep documentation of the PD through my PLC meetings with my staff

I was planning on using some of the resources that I have gained throughout my time with Endeavor. Many of these utilize the NASA website <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/> to show them how diverse the NASA website can be and there is a little bit of everything for everyone. Also, for different subjects, I would show different things I have learned through the Endeavor course. For example, I would show the tracking of animals and the possible live date the math teachers could use. This I would collaborate with myself (I teach science) and we could do a collaborative lesson on the migration of turtles. English and history are not my strongest, but I would use the NASA website to show examples of how to incorporate STEM into their classrooms.

I will present these ideas through my PLC's (we have every week) and I will present them to the GRECC center on November 15, 2022.

(Let me know if this is ok...or I need to propose more...I know my list of resources are "generic", but there are a lot of materials/resources I plan on using.)