**NWESD STEM Partnership**

**Where is the ‘M’ in STEM?**

In the Next Generation Science Standards’ *Science and Engineering Practices*, it becomes clearer than ever before that students must engage not just their imaginations and their curiosity in understanding the natural world, but they must engage their mathematical mind.

Our vision is to bring math and science teachers together to build their understanding of modeling, data analysis, and discourse based on evidence and reasoning, and then apply that new learning to instructional design so that their students become college and career ready. Teachers will create learning progressions and use formative assessment practices and then refine their vision of instruction through peer lesson study.

The time has come to fully implement STEM in the Northwest corner of Washington State.

**Highlights**

* Collaborative math/science teams from grades 5-8
* 3 years of continuous, job-embedded professional learning
* Annual summer institute to engage in learning math, science and engineering content *through* the mathematical, science and engineering practices
* Collaborative planning of integrated math and science learning progressions
* Lesson study
* School year teacher participation planned with substitute availability in mind
* Teacher stipends

**Partners**

Science Faculty at Skagit Valley College

Math Faculty at Washington State University

Northwest ESD Districts and Schools

Applied Research Northwest

**Are We Ready?**

During our summer institute teachers will craft integrated learning progressions, formative assessment practices and lessons meant to promote college and career readiness through the *standards for mathematical practices* and *science and engineering practices.* Because most current instructional materials do not intentionally develop such knowledge, skills and dispositions, teachers will commit to piloting materials created at the summer institute during the school year.

A district that is ready to participate is able and willing to support teachers in implementing their learning progressions. If your district’s policy requires that teachers strictly adhere to pacing guides and/or published instructional materials, this project is not likely a good fit for your middle school teachers.

**School district partners commit to**

* Middle schools send a math and a science teacher, with common students
* Elementary teams ideally consist of two teachers at the same grade level
* Alternative needs can be considered

**How to apply**

To be considered a partner, please fill out and return the attached *Appendix C Partner Contributions and Commitments* form [LINK] with an authorized signature **no later than January 13, 2015**. The form can be scanned and emailed to Nancy Menard (nmenard@nwesd.org) or can be faxed to Nancy Menard at 360.299.4070.

For more information, please contact

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