



Professional Learning Opportunities

involving the use of the

Creative Core Curriculum

Mathematics with Literacy and STEM

The TPS Publishing Inc *Creative Core Curriculum with Literacy and STEM program has been built by a group of companies who each have expertise in Mathematics, but with different perspectives. Together we have created a program which is inclusive for all learners and activity based.* We provide three key inquiry based component areas;

1. Traditional lesson plans using manipulatives exactly aligned to each Core Curriculum standard – TPS Publishing Inc
2. STEM project based learning cycles – Writers at the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology (CeMaST) at Illinois State University provide wonderful activities especially useful for advanced learners holistically covering Core Curriculum standards and all Mathematical practices requirements
3. Crafting projects – aligned to each Core Curriculum standard, Action Based Curriculum provide nasen-approved projects which are inclusive but particularly useful for “below grade” students, ELL and Special education users.

Each set of lesson plans complement each other; none claim to cover the full criteria of State requirements for all learners, but together the lessons offer a wonderful activity-based learning program, all carefully designed to address grade-specific content and literacy requirements.

Our curriculum utilizes a strand and/or learning cycle structure that engages students in active interaction with the content. It is based on the concept that we all learn best by doing, rather than simply listening or watching. All Professional Learning Opportunities also utilize the “learn by doing” philosophy and methodology. Participants understand the “how” and the “why” of the pedagogy by experiencing it and by engaging in it. Our team follows the policy “No boring slide shows allowed.” We have found that an activity-based Professional Learning Opportunity is most effective to improve educator practice and student results.

Levels of Professional Learning Opportunities

Elements of the Creative Core Curriculum program require a paradigm shift for some educators. It is based more on the teacher’s ability to ask leading questions than provide predetermined answers. The effective educator will be skilled at managing and facilitating the educational environment. They will be adept at continually monitoring student comprehension and understanding of key concepts and ready to guide students through careful and deliberate questioning techniques.



For some educators, “teaching through questioning” and the use of activities and projects serve to reinforce their teaching philosophy. For them, adoption of the Creative Core Curriculum will come quickly and easily. For others, a ten-day workshop may only begin the process of change. For this reason, a variety of Professional Learning Opportunities are available.

1. Printed and Electronic sources Free
 - a. Information about the Creative Core Curriculum and how to implement it can be found on-line at www.tpspublishing.com, www.cemast.ilstu.edu, and www.abccurriculum.com
 - b. Printed information available by contacting CeMaST at www.cemast@ilstu.edu
2. Email and Telephone calls Free
 - a. Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology office at cemast@ilstu.edu
 - b. 309-438-3089
 - c. Facebook chat
3. Courses and workshops Free, fee per day, or Illinois State University tuition
 - a. Online
 - b. At Illinois State University in Normal, IL
 - c. Contact CeMaST for schedule
4. On-site workshops
 - a. Half-day \$800
 - i. Experience an abbreviated strand/learning cycle
 - ii. Explore the entire program
 - iii. Examine how the curriculum can enhance teaching and learning
 - b. One Day \$1400
 - i. Experience a strand/learning cycle
 - ii. Become familiar with the entire program
 - iii. Explore implementation issues
 - iv. Introduce the alignment process
 - v. Examine how the curriculum can enhance teaching and learning
 - c. Three Day \$3600
 - i. Experience two or more strands/learning cycles
 - ii. A few participants will teach a learning cycle
 - iii. Become familiar with the entire program
 - iv. Begin the alignment process
 - v. Explore implementation issues
 - vi. Examine how the curriculum can enhance teaching and learning
 - vii. Conduct assessment process



d. Five Day

\$5000

- i. Experience several strands/ learning cycles from a variety of grade levels and themes
- ii. All participants will teach a learning cycle
- iii. Become familiar with the entire program
- iv. Conduct alignment process
- v. Explore implementation issues
- vi. Examine how the curriculum can enhance teaching and learning
- vii. Conduct and analyze assessment process

e. Ten Day

\$8500

- i. Experience several strands/ learning cycles from a variety of grade levels and themes
- ii. All participants will teach a learning cycle with follow-up
- iii. Become familiar with the entire program
- iv. Conduct alignment process including integration opportunities
- v. Explore implementation issues
- vi. Examine how the curriculum can enhance teaching and learning including case studies and related literature
- vii. Conduct and analyze assessment process
- viii. Enhancement options including electronic data collection devices
- ix. Action Research opportunities to more clearly define local situations

Specific one-day courses can be arranged at CeMaST to gain experience in crafting used in the Action Based Curriculum resources. Crafting as utilized by Action Based Curriculum is particularly useful for ELL and special education. This workshop will include “Archway” course training which helps students to improve their reading ability, and accelerate their progression in Mathematics. “Archway” is a literacy tool utilized throughout the program.

For all Professional Learning Opportunities, necessary materials are provided by CeMaST at no additional cost.

All Professional Learning Opportunities conducted off-site (not at the CeMaST facility in Normal, Illinois) will incur shipping, travel, and lodging expenses in addition to the stated cost.

The format of the Professional Learning Opportunities dictates group sizes of 15-25 participants each. Please contact CeMaST to discuss adjustments necessary for larger groups.