

Institute for Teaching Excellence: Middle School Science Course Description

Join us for a rich, interactive, collaborative online learning experience. Designed for middle school science teachers. Participants will engage in online zoom meetings in whole group, and small groups. Experience rich learning to enhance your ability to design work for middle school science students. Learners will also participate in cross-disciplinary time to design work across in collaboration with math and social studies teachers. Teachers will have time to connect, network and share with one another. This is not your traditional webinar experience. There will be “movement” from room to room, independent work time and reflection time with a content-like small “FUN” group each day. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from multiple presenters and network with multiple teachers. Celebrate successes, share experiences and problem-solve for the future as we continue our journey during these unprecedented times. The learning and networking will be fun and stress-free. You do not need to be a technology expert to learn in this environment.

Tentative Schedule

Institute for Teaching Excellence – Middle School Science

Whole Group
Grade Level
Cross-curricular

Monday	9:00-10:15	Welcome Introduce Presenters; Preview Schedule for the Week; Discuss Norms for Online Learning			
	10:15-10:30	<i>Break</i>			
	10:30-11:45	Design Cross-Curricular Learning Activity Participants collaborate in teams with math and social studies teachers to design a cross-curricular learning experience throughout the week.			
	11:45-12:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>			
	12:45-1:45	Distance Learning Socratic Seminar Breakout groups: 6 th grade, 7 th grade, 8 th grade, Biology Reflect on triumphs, challenges and share ideas moving forward			
	1:45-2:00	<i>Break</i>			
	2:00-3:00	Choice of Breakout Sessions			
	3:00-3:30	Reflection on Learning with “FUN” Groups			
Sample Breakout Sessions					
Tuesday	9:00-10:15	Facilitating Collaboration with Technology	Inquiry Strategies	Increasing Rigor with MS Chemistry TEKS	Modeling Photosynthesis
	10:15-10:30	<i>Break</i>			

	10:30-11:45	Choice of Breakout Sessions
	11:45-12:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	12:45-2:00	Design Cross-Curricular Learning Activity
	2:00-2:15	<i>Break</i>
	2:15-3:00	Using Over-Arching Science Themes to Enhance Rigor and Science Literacy
	3:00-3:30	Reflection on Learning with "FUN" Groups
Wednesday	9:00-10:15	Choice of Breakout Sessions
	10:15-10:30	<i>Break</i>
	10:30-11:45	Choice of Breakout Sessions
	11:45-12:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	12:45-1:45	Design Cross-Curricular Learning Activity
	1:45-2:00	<i>Break</i>
	2:00-3:00	Participants share activities, technology, pedagogy and ideas using a discussion protocol in small groups
	3:00-3:30	Reflection on Learning with "FUN" Groups
Thursday	9:00-10:15	Choice of Breakout Sessions
	10:15-10:30	<i>Break</i>
	10:30-11:45	Choice of Breakout Sessions
	11:45-12:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	12:45-2:00	Share Cross-Curricular Learning Activity
	2:00-2:15	<i>Break</i>
	2:15-3:00	Reflection on Learning with "FUN" Groups
	3:00-3:30	Feedback for the Institute