

STEM Materials Center

NOVEMBER 2016
NEWSLETTER



SMC Elementary Work group update:

The SMC workgroup met on October 11th and focused on the 1st and 3rd grade Physical Science Strand. 1st grade the work group decided they would like to build out the Light and Sound OER using resources from Physics of Sound with some revision based on the EQuIP review from NSTA. The team preferred the FOSS Stories for the text portion and these will be purchased and included in the winter rotation. The work group felt that the 3rd grade FOSS Next Generation kit lacked coherence and an overall storyline that encompassed all the 3rd grade standards for Forces and Magnetism. They plan to focus on 3rd and 4th grades at their next meeting on January 19th.

Computer Science for All:

We have 4 loanable class sets of Lego EV3 robots that are available to teachers that have received the STEM Robotics 101 training and work for a district that have a contract with the SMC to borrow for up to 10 weeks for use in their classrooms or for afterschool programs.

We have added probes to the kindergarten and 3rd grade Earth Science kits, and the 4th grade Magnetism and Electricity kit. Any teacher that has attended the grade-level kit trainings now have the option to checkout any of our hundreds of probes we have available in the STEM Materials Center.

Middle School Project:

The proposed middle school structure is made up of three components: Core Curriculum, Collaborative OER, and Catalog. The catalog model allows for customized units based on OER or teacher/district developed materials.

ESD 112 has received an OSPI OER Grant. The purpose of this grant is to develop 6-8 NGSS units based on OER. Vicki has put together four work groups that are working on the first four units: Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Weather and Climate, and Environmental Science These will be available in the spring to member districts.

Advisory members were asked to consider the following questions on the middle school structure and bring their responses back to the January 19th meeting for discussion:

- Can districts opt in to portions of the structure (only request catalog materials/equipment vs receive core curriculum kits)?
- Is purchasing new middle school core kits a viable option?

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