



**JUNE HARLESS  
CENTER**

# STEAM TEAM NEWSLETTER

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

Our STEAM team is excited to introduce a series of new professional learning sessions designed to empower and inspire educators. As your school or district plans upcoming professional development, we invite you to explore our latest offerings, which include innovative strategies and hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. We are also eager to collaborate with you to design tailored professional learning experiences that meet the specific needs of your educators. Let's work together to enhance teaching and learning in your community.

### Sparking Real-World Solutions: Design Thinking in STEAM

Discover strategies to promote deeper learning where students think critically, creatively, and empathetically; ultimately preparing them to tackle real-world challenges with innovative solutions. Emphasizing not just knowledge acquisition, but its meaningful application, this approach fosters intellectual and personal growth by promoting mastery of core content, effective collaboration, and self-directed learning. Empower your students to realize they can make an immediate impact in their community and ultimately leave their world a little better than they found it.

### Math Matters in Blood Spatter

Engage in a hands-on blood spatter analysis lab, where participants apply mathematical concepts to real-world forensic scenarios, showcasing the practical relevance of mathematical skills. Using trigonometric principles, participants explore the relationships between angles, distances, and heights to recreate the three-dimensional path of blood droplets as they experience how forensic scientists calculate impact angles, origin points, and trajectories as they analyze and reconstruct events.

### Reading like a Scientist

As science teachers, we try to apprentice our students into the daily routines of scientists. Literacy strategies can help provide depth to the content and support students as they learn to think, talk, write, and do science. This session is a component of a larger professional learning series revolving around supporting literacy in the science classroom. Teachers do not need to become literacy specialists or integrate literacy at the expense of their content. They do need to provide students with opportunities to learn science through language. Participants will enhance their ability to identify and enact these opportunities and learn strategies that help students effectively read and analyze diverse science texts.

### STEAM Modeling: Depicting Evolving Thinking

In traditional educational settings, students often mimic pre-existing models, reflecting completed thinking rather than engaging in active knowledge construction. Experience strategies for: facilitating model development and evolution in response to new evidence and knowledge; depicting and explaining not only the 'what' but also the 'how and why' of a phenomenon across a unit; and creating opportunities for students to evaluate their own thinking as well as the thinking of their classmates. Learn practical techniques for nurturing students' ability to create dynamic models reflecting their evolving understanding in an environment that embraces continuous learning, adaptation, and peer feedback.

### Genius Hour

What if you could create a learning environment where students were motivated to pursue knowledge because they had been given the opportunity to explore their own interests? How would it work? What elements of support would need to be in place for your students? Where would you start? Join a discussion that explores the potential for the Genius Hour approach to engage and empower student learning.

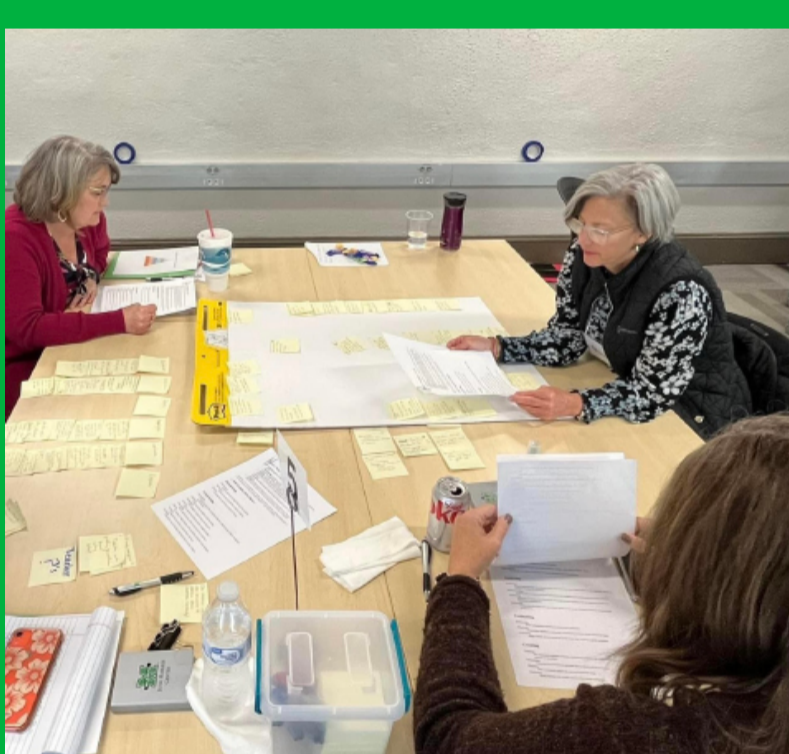
### Factoring the Outdoors into Mathematics Lessons

Attend this session for an outdoor learning experience in mathematics. Be prepared to embrace the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world as you participate in hands-on strategies that will engage students, encourage capacity for teamwork and collaboration, and strengthen knowledge of mathematical practices.

## READY TO TRANSFORM YOUR DATA PROCESS?

The [Data Wise Improvement Process](#)—developed at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education—is a comprehensive and practical approach that helps educators and district leaders identify student learning needs, develop and enact instructional interventions, and evaluate the effectiveness of those solutions.

For more information about the process, its potential benefits to WV education, and how Data Wise can help **EACH** student succeed, contact [Jason Gibbs](#).



## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CYCLES

Instructional Rounds establishes a structure where teachers, administrators, and district leaders collaborate to increase instructional quality and achievement for every student.

IR is a powerful tool to complement and accelerate instructional improvement efforts by providing "a key source of data and a powerful feedback loop to tell educators whether their systematic improvement efforts are actually reaching students."

Learn more about [Rounds](#) and how we can help get rounds started in your school/ district.

## JHC STEAM WEBSITE

Visit our website to see the most current STEAM professional learning cycles, our special events and outreach programs, and how we can support continuous improvement cycles in your school or district. You can also browse our Lending Library to see the numerous kits and materials that are available for PK-12 educators to borrow.

[Check it out.](#)

[Contact Us.](#)

