

WELCOME TO STEM 101'S COMPASS COURSE!

This page includes valuable information for you, the teacher. The course is designed to cover many different STEM areas and offer the flexibility and variety many teachers are looking for that will fit their students' needs.

It is important to understand the layout of the full course and the options for flexibility and variety within each unit. Know that you will get the support you need to create a customized curriculum for your specific class situations.

This course has been developed for 6th through 8th grade students. However, you may find many of the activities could also be used or easily adapted for upper elementary and beginning high school students as well.

The course contains eleven exciting units that contain hands-on activities, teacher resources, content knowledge (presentations, videos, readings), rubrics and assessments. Within each unit you will find three levels. These levels allow the teacher the flexibility to pick and choose which units and levels best meet the abilities and needs of their students. For example, the teacher may choose to progress through all three levels of a unit in order or choose to only complete one or two levels in a unit. The levels are designed to work independently, while increasing in rigor.

It is important not to be afraid to make this your own course. You may have a different presentation you want to add or a different activity you want your students to do. Those should be added. You may want to hide parts of a unit or a unit completely. That is ok. You have the freedom to make this your own. Think of it like a recipe. There are many different recipes to make banana bread. How do you like yours? Everyone has their favorite recipe.

It is highly recommended that all teachers start with the Design Process presentation and activity before diving into any of the units. Why? Every activity in the Middle School Course follows the design process framework. There are many design processes out there. If you have a design process you are already comfortable with, we encourage you to keep using it. The activity and units within this course will easily adapt to your own design process.