

Ways to Use Our Supplemental STEM Books

The main goal of providing these titles to your students is to increase their excitement about math and science by engaging them in fun, new ways. Some of them will go on to pursue STEM careers, others will not. The bottom line is that not being a scientist or a mathematician does not excuse them from understanding these subjects. Understanding these subjects will give them the tools to succeed in any field.

Here are some suggestions of ways to incorporate the books into your program:

Curricula Enrichment:

Combining literature with science and mathematics blends fact and fiction to improve students' language and communication skills, as well as adding dimension and understanding to these subjects. When they come together, literature, math and science become more interesting, engaging and applicable to real-life situations. Research has shown that students are more comfortable talking about math and science when it is incorporated in literature, and teachers can more easily identify misunderstandings students may have. When adults regularly discuss math and science concepts, children discover new connections around them on a daily basis.

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs):

Many of the kids attending America's public schools struggle with reading and have experienced limited success in math and science. They lack motivation to reach higher in these subjects because they do not understand how the material connects to daily life. You may propose to use grant money to create a demonstration project for implementing math and science enrichment that dovetails and extends existing curriculum. ELOs could be before-school programs, after-school programs, science and math clubs, Saturday extra learning time, and even summer programs (creating summer programs also aids in the reduction of Summer Learning Loss). You might propose using grant funds to create a detailed curriculum showing how these books can be used in ELOs to help children connect to and extend their classroom curriculum.

Incentives for Success:

Many organizations use our books as incentive rewards. Rewarding students can lead to academic and behavioral improvements, while sustaining their interest. You may propose grant funding to provide you with the ability to offer products to your students that are both relevant and useful. These incentives can be used for successful completion of the annual Science Fair, excellent class participation and/or satisfactory class grades. The affordability of these books means that schools can acquire them for not much more than they spend now on ribbons and trinkets. Giving students a high-quality book sends the message that they are worthy of a quality product. These motivational prizes will not only help them in the classroom, but will also help them establish and/or expand their home library.

Classroom and School Library Expansion:

You might state a goal for grant funding of using the money to enhance classroom libraries for the 3rd to 8th grade math and science rooms, as well as the school library. These books help build skills in reading, problem-solving, science and math, with supporting content correlated to your school's math and science standards. Having these books at their disposal will get your kids excited about math and science through creative extensions of existing curricula with real life applications. In taking these steps to provide resources that can help students succeed in school, you are working to ensure the future of our nation by raising a generation of children who will feel confident in the crucial fields of math and science and will carry that knowledge into adulthood.

Optimizing Downtime:

The beginning of class can often be downtime as students take their seats and the teacher takes attendance. These books can be used to get students on task the moment they enter the classroom. Teachers around the country have embraced books as perfect bell-ringers, helping students get focused and getting their brains warmed up. Similarly, they can help fill a five or ten minute gap at the end of class when the lesson is over but learning should not stop. Additionally, students are often inspired to write their own mysteries or science/math and questions, using the books as models.

Content for Non-STEM Educators:

These books add instant energy to the classroom. After all, a mystery (or a question) a day keeps boredom away! The books can be great resources for non-STEM educators who are taking over a STEM class temporarily or are tasked with incorporating STEM content into their classes, such as in a Literacy and Numeracy period, which many schools are adding to their school day.

Book Fair and Other Fundraiser Resources:

If your school holds book fairs, consider adding Science, Naturally! books to the selection. Book fairs promote an excitement for reading while providing a place where kids can easily preview and purchase affordable books to develop their home libraries. You might purchase the books at the bulk discount rate of up to 50% off (contact us for 500+ quantities) and use the fairs to raise funds to support your school library budget.

