

Kearsarge School District
July 1, 2010 – October 29, 2011

MSP STEM LITERACY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
Grades K-9

Project Abstract:

Kearsarge Regional School District will act as lead entity partnering with National Geographic's JASON Project, North Country Education Services, Plymouth State, UNH/Cooperative Extension and The SABENS Group to offer year long science professional development and technology assistance to grades k-9 teachers in order to build a STEM Literacy Community of Practice. By using a blend of both traditional workshops and technology support, the partnership will enable cohorts to assess both individual needs for content and acquisition of digital classroom skills and to build learning progressions between grade levels as expressed in the NH Science Education Frameworks. The partnership will continue the learning progression in ecology initiated through the KRSD and developed by the MSP Building Vertical Science to extend to grades 5-9, augmenting life science specifically with physical and earth/space science content. Addressing expressed and emerging district content needs, participants will learn to use, develop and access digital resources in targeted areas of ecology, weather and energy topics with existing NH based materials, products of other MSP projects and the national science resource, JASON Project. The project includes school districts applying for JASON's Professional Development and web based materials including: KRMS, Newport, and Contocook Valley, and include North Country Education Service area's SAU.

Plymouth State University and UNH/Cooperative Extension will recommend local researchers, existing programs and coaches to augment JASON's year long content material. Existing programs by consultants and peer coaching will be offered to increase the JASON online impact and build community. SABENS will coordinate the project, moderate JASON's message boards and facilitate the online support site. All partners will collaborate to add perspective, resources and advise on the design of the second year summer institute design. Each will examine the JASON Project materials and online tools to connect with local content consultants and ongoing MSP programs. Seminar topics and 2011 summer institute will be specific to the needs of the schools in the MSP partnership. North Country Education Service will provide Moodle Learning Management Systems and structure ongoing professional development session support.

After pre tests of participants, The STEM Literacy 2010 summer institutes will introduce online skills to use JASON. All schools will utilize JASON through the full 2010-2011 school year with the additional quarterly local and/or moodle "seminars". Evaluation will be formative through the online systems, observing measurable participation and concept development assessed by rubric. A post test after the 2011 institute will complete the evaluation. Stipends will support teacher travel, seminar engagement and time invested in discussion of student needs. Digital teacher portfolio development will be included in the seminar sessions and a goal of the project.