

## Insect Investigations Virtual Professional Learning Workshop for Elementary Teachers (grades 3-5)

Towson University's [Center for STEM Excellence](#) is excited to announce a **virtual** summer professional learning workshop for elementary teachers of grades 3-5. The *Insect Investigations* workshop will focus on how to use live insects in your classroom to engage students in the Science and Engineering Practices that are an essential part of the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Mary Stapleton, Director of Towson University's [Center for STEM Excellence](#) and Dr. [Faith Weeks](#), a professor of entomology and science education at Towson University. Support for the *Insect Investigations* is provided by a generous grant from Wells Fargo.



Workshop goals include:

- increased knowledge about, and understanding of entomology and the role of insects in the environment
- increased understanding of how to handle and maintain live insects in the classroom
- increased knowledge about, and understanding of the NGSS Scientific and Engineering Practices
- increased ability to engage students in the Science & Engineering Practices using live insects
- self-reflection and assessment of teaching and of student learning



**Who can apply?** This workshop is appropriate for any elementary teacher of grades 3-5 in Maryland who is interested in incorporating insects into their classroom teaching and learning more about the NGSS Science and Engineering Practices.

**What:** The workshop will take place **100% virtually**, with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous online work (see schedule below). Participants will work in a collaborative, hands-on, learner-centered environment to learn how to incorporate live insects into their curriculum and actively engage their students in the Science and Engineering Practices that are at the core of the Next Generation Science Standards.

During the workshop, participants will engage in model lessons aligned with NGSS that focus on insects and explore how to handle and maintain live insects in their classroom. Participants will be challenged to develop and implement a science lesson that includes the use of live insects and is aligned with NGSS and report on the implementation during the Fall follow-up meeting. All participants will be provided with an insect 'starter' kit that includes live insects and the materials needed to keep them in the classroom.

Participants are expected to:



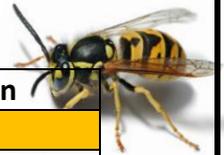
- Complete a pre- and post-workshop survey and participate in all synchronous sessions of the workshop, as well as complete all asynchronous online assignments.

- Create and implement a classroom lesson with live insects that engages students in the Science and Engineering Practices. If schools are not serving students in-person, teachers will be expected to implement lesson remotely (e.g. Zoom, Google Meets).
- Share implementation experience/plan with colleagues during fall meeting and complete a final written reflection.

**Where:** All sessions of the workshop will take place virtually with one optional in-person field trip at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County, Maryland.

**When:** Participants will be expected to attend all synchronous sessions of workshop (8 hours total), as well as complete asynchronous online assignments (~7 hours):

Date	Time	Type of Instruction
July 13	9:00 am – 11:00 am	Synchronous (online)
July 13-19	Independent assignments	Asynchronous (online)
July 20	9:00 am – 11:00 am	Synchronous (online)
July 20 - 26	Independent assignments	Asynchronous (online)
July 27	9:00 am – 11:00 am	Synchronous (online)
July 27 – August 10	Independent assignments	Asynchronous (online)
November 13	9:00 am – 11:00 am	Synchronous (online)
July 15	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Optional in-person <i>Insect Walk</i> field trip at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County



**Why:** All participants who successfully complete the workshop will:

- Receive (1) Continuing Professional Development Credits (CPD) from MSDE
- Learn more about implementing the new NGSS state science standards in their classroom, as well as learn how to effectively engage their students in science using insects.
- Receive an insect 'starter kit' that includes live insects and materials to keep them in classroom

**How:**

- Fill out the application at <https://forms.gle/KC7bV89fgfaB3VBM7>
- Have your principal fill out the “Principal Support Form” found online at <https://forms.gle/B5yKV5rSVneMWqhUA>. It is your responsibility to forward link to your principal. Contact Dr. Mary Stapleton (mkstapleton@towson.edu) to confirm receipt of principal “Support Form”.



Please note that we will send a confirmation email for every application we receive. If you do not receive this confirmation email, you can assume we did not receive your application and you should re-submit. Only complete applications (application and principal support form) will be considered. Contact Mary Stapleton at mkstapleton@towson.edu with any questions.