After reading the article "What is STEM Literacy" by Hans Meeder, I am pleasantly surprised that I am Fostering STEM literacy in my classroom without even knowing it. In my classroom we have been using College Prep Math (CPM) which seems to be based on the principles of STEM literacy that Meeder defines.

My math class is set up in groups of 4 and each student has a role to play to keep the group moving through the material. There is a recorder, facilitator, resource manager, and a task manager who keeps things moving. The program is researched based and believes that students must work in groups to be successful. Each person has a job to do and without the collaboration of all group member they will not be successful in solving the problem at hand.

CPM's goal is to enable students in learning mathematics through problem solving, reasoning, and communication and envisions a world where mathematics is viewed as useful, and is appreciated by all. Powerful mathematical thinking is an essential trait that is at the core of all CPM problems and students are empowered by mathematical problem-solving and reasoning to apply those same skills to solve the world's problems.

As I reflect on some of the CPM classes that I have taught over the past couple of years I have changed my teaching style from the "sage on the stage" to more of a facilitator guiding students to right answers through the use of questioning, instead of just modeling for them. It has been a tough transition for me as well as my students. I have felt that the CPM program's lack of direct instruction and forcing student to work in groups even though they don't want to were causing my Standardized test scores to drop. What I did not realize is that the students

while not learning “math skills” the students were becoming STEM literate and building problem solving to solve the world’s problems.