

# “Better Together”

## Welcome Letter

### Restoration

*“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.” –Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer*



**Restoration** is an act of returning something to its former place or condition. How do we move past something if we don't acknowledge what has been? Restoration can mean so many things, but the first step to restoration is to acknowledge the history of where we stand. We can think of the history of the land on which we plant our feet. We can think of the history of our life. We can think of the history of our community. All of this involves taking time to sit in silence, understand the past, work through uncomfortable feelings, and acknowledge there is so much to learn from all of this.

Recognizing the importance of our past can be hard but it can also bring joy. Memories of past friends or loved ones can bring a smile to your face. Other times memories can make us squirm. Oftentimes, thinking of things that were beyond our control can bring up feelings of shame, guilt, and powerlessness. Taking time to sit through these feelings involves courage and vulnerability.

This week **restoration** will be our theme. In our mini-lessons we will dive into deep concepts of Seminar, Erdkinder opportunities, microeconomics, and thematic studies. During our several days together, we will find ways to connect through kick-off activities and culminating activities. We will guide and learn from each other in brainstorming sessions. All of this will be done while we consider and acknowledge where we are standing and what brought us here, together.

### Guiding Questions

1. Why is restoration important for us as humans?
2. What influence does restoration have on our world?
3. How is restoration important for us and the adolescents in our classroom?

# Better Together

Date: July 18-22, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM (EST)

Format: Zoom Classes

Online, Asynchronous Learning Format

Options:

## Better Together Summer Work Sessions Discounted Rates for Graduates

<b>2 Days</b>	<b>3 Days</b>	<b>All 5 days</b>
<b>10 hours</b> Professional Development (flexible, you choose the days)	<b>15 hours</b> Professional Development (flexible, you choose the days)	<b>25 hours</b> Professional Development hours
<del>\$275</del> <b>\$175</b>	<del>\$350</del> <b>\$250</b>	<del>\$500</del> <b>\$350</b>

Thank you for signing up for “Better Together” Professional Development through CMStep. We welcome you to our first-ever online Summer Graduate Intensive.

Many of our alumni gave us the feedback,

*"I have never been more productive or inspired as a teacher  
than those summer days with CMStep!"*

So we are excited that you have opted to join us for this asynchronous week of learning, collaborating, and brainstorming!

In preparation for class, we ask that you do the following:

- Create a list (for your own use) of those areas you need to work on that will help you and/or your students be successful.
- Optional, but many past participants have found this helpful: take photographs of your classroom environment/space, ways you organize, routines you have (or need), etc. These could be areas you'd like help with, as well as areas you are proud of. You may use these to get help/advice from others, as well as provide suggestions to others.
- Accept the invitation to the Canvas Course, “Better Together”

We are excited that you will join us for a week of collaborative learning, where you'll work towards your own goals supported by familiar routines and useful take-aways, including community meetings, seminars, group initiatives, optional refresher lessons, and guided work time. We'll have times for sharing and collaboration, and you can get feedback and guidance from CMStep faculty on your work.