Inspirations & Ideas, CPM’s eighth grade support course, aims to inspire students to think about mathematics in new ways, challenge unproductive beliefs about learning, and develop a love of mathematics while improving achievement.

**Research:**
To best inform the development and design of CPM’s support course, the writers attended several conferences which discussed and presented research on the best practices for support. Again and again, the message was that students must be engaged and discussing mathematics. Most importantly, the team learned that the cognitive demand of tasks should not be lowered in an effort to make the math “easier” for students to learn.

**Professional Development:**
Schools planning to use Inspirations & Ideas must sign a purchase agreement. Teachers of Inspirations & Ideas are required to attend CPM’s Summer 2020 Residential Workshop at the University of Utah. Teachers should be selected to teach Inspirations & Ideas based on their ability to relate to students, compassion towards students’ struggles, patience, and unwavering commitment.

**this course:**
- Builds student-teacher relationships
- Bolsters students’ problem-solving abilities
- Is cognitively demanding
- Has students set goals
- Builds number sense
- Fosters productive struggle
- Focuses on student justification
- Presents grade-level content in different ways
- Develops an interest in learning math
- Includes detailed teacher supports

**this course is not:**
- Skills-based
- Meant to pre-teach concepts
- A time for homework
- Summatively assessed
- Graded (CPM recommendation)
- Study hall

Inspirations & Ideas is a year-long course to be taken concurrently with Core Connections, Course 3. For more information visit CPM.org/iandi or email intervention@cpm.org.