School closings always present challenges. But with schools closing for the remainder of the school year, the situation is even more complex. How do you run a student-centered classroom when your students are not in the classroom? Do you try to finish the rest of the lessons for the year? Do you pick out only the important ones? Who decides which are the important ones?

CPM’s 8th grade support course, *Inspirations & Ideas*, is a unique course and presents additional challenges. However, because the course does not attempt to cover all the 8th grade standards, it does present some opportunities. Below are some thoughts for supporting the students in this unique situation. These ideas, however, are also worth considering for other classes.

**School Closure Ideas:**

**Focus on Students' Goals**
Now is a great time to ask your students to reassess their goals and/or write new goals. For instance, have your students set weekly goals, and write to you about their progress in a journal throughout the week. This can be set up as a shared Google Doc or through some other learning management system. This allows you to maintain and build upon two of the major aspects of the *I&I* course, goal setting and relationship building. Be sure to comment on their progress and offer suggestions. If you have opportunities to do so, share personal anecdotes with your students to make the work they are doing relatable. Keep communicating with your students! They may value their relationship with you now more than ever.

**Launch Activities**
Post a Number Talk or Which One Doesn’t Belong? for your students in a shared virtual space such as a Google Doc or in a Desmos activity that you create. Ask students to complete the work on their own first, and then record their thinking in the doc or in the Desmos activity.

**Games:**
Introduce your students to online games that invite logic and problem-solving.

- One example is the card game SET. This is a physical card game that also has a daily online version. Send your students to [www.setgame.com/set/puzzle](http://www.setgame.com/set/puzzle) each day. The instructions and a tutorial are located on this website for first time players.

- You may be familiar with the game Rush Hour by ThinkFun. This is a similar online version: [www.mathplayground.com/logic_parking_lot.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/logic_parking_lot.html)

- You can also take pictures of different pairs of Fraction Feud cards and share them with your students. Ask them to determine which card has the greatest fraction of area shaded and by how much.

- The Digit Place Game Desmos activity is a game from *I&I* that you can use as well. The details about this game are in Lesson 3.6. If you do not have *I&I*, you can send your students to student.desmos.com and enter the class code FR2 R34, or give them the link [https://student.desmos.com/?prepopulateCode=fr2r34](https://student.desmos.com/?prepopulateCode=fr2r34)