



Spark Teacher Guide

Courses, Resources, and Apps for High Impact Instruction

A Quick Guide for Getting Started with Spark

More support. Less searching. Better instructional decisions.

A teacher's guide to getting real value from your Spark membership

What is Spark?

Spark is a membership site that brings:

- high-yield instructional strategies,
- instructional frameworks,
- professional learning,
- classroom-ready teaching resources, and
- instructional planning apps

together in one place.

It is designed to help you move from “I know the strategy” to “I can use it well in my next lesson.”

Why use it?

SAVE TIME

Start with examples, templates, graphic organizers, and planning support instead of a blank page.

PLAN WITH PURPOSE

Use high-yield strategies with guidance that keeps the focus on student thinking, engagement, and evidence of learning.

KEEP GROWING

Learn at your own pace, then apply what you learn directly to lessons, assignments, and classroom practice.

Think of Spark as a practical cycle

1	2	3	4
LEARN	PLAN	USE	REFINE
Build understanding with concise, self-paced courses.	Use Spark Apps to turn ideas into stronger plans.	Grab classroom-ready resources and supports.	Return to Spark as your needs and students change.

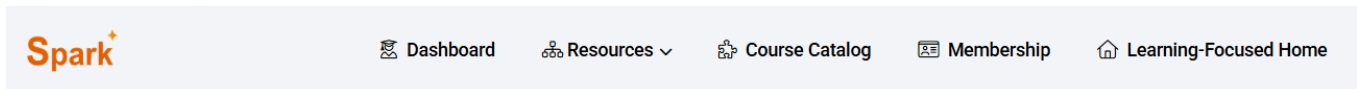
You do not have to use everything at once.

Start with one current need - tomorrow's lesson, a strategy you want to strengthen, or a course you are already enrolled in.

Your Dashboard:

The quickest way into Spark

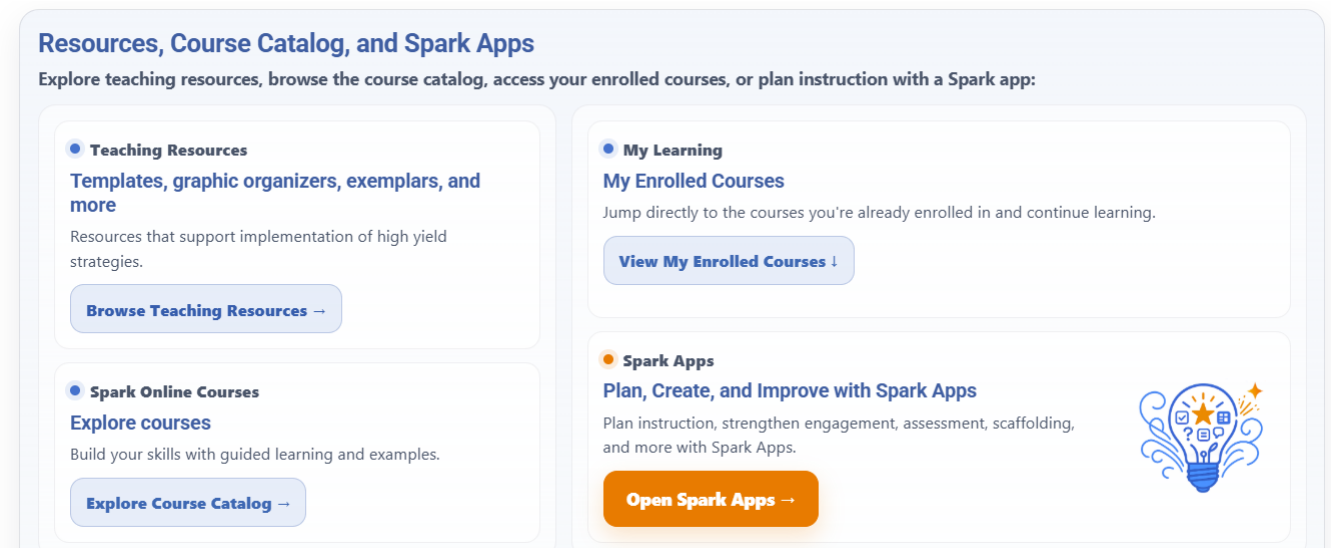
When you sign in to Spark, your Dashboard is your home base. Use it to jump to what you need right now - take or continue a course, find a classroom resource, or open a Spark App to plan or improve instruction.



The menu across the top keeps the main parts of Spark within one click.

DASHBOARD	RESOURCES	ENROLLED COURSES (ON YOUR DASHBOARD)
Your launchpad Return here to open My Enrolled Courses or Spark Apps and keep moving with your current work.	Find classroom support Use Resources to browse teaching tools, templates, graphic organizers, examples, videos, and pictures.	Build your learning On your Dashboard, scroll down to My Enrolled Courses to start a course or resume what you are already taking.

Your Dashboard puts the most-used destinations together



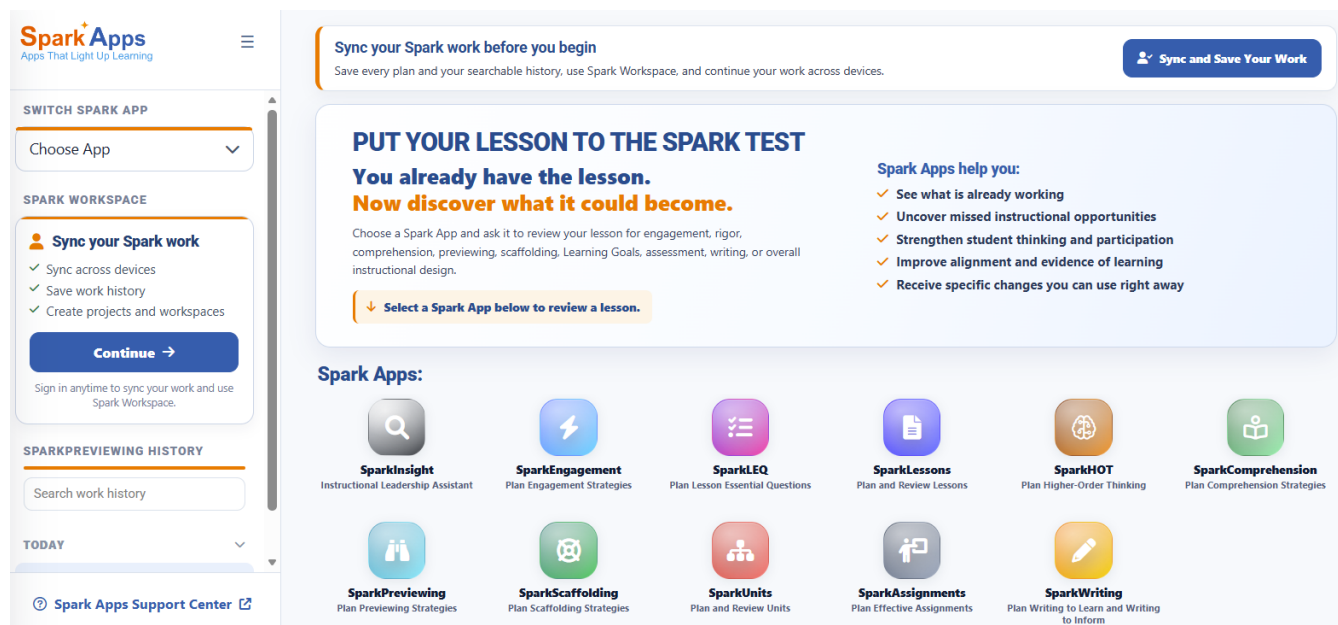
From the Dashboard, use My Enrolled Courses to continue learning, Teaching Resources when you need ready-to-use support, and Spark Apps when you want help planning, creating, or improving instruction.

A good habit: start on the Dashboard, choose the tool that matches today's need, and come back whenever you are ready for the next step.

Spark Apps:

Instructional support when you need it

Spark Apps help you plan learning activities, lessons, units, essential questions, writing, scaffolds, assignments, comprehension, higher-order thinking, and engagement - all while keeping high-yield instructional practices at the center.



The Spark Apps suite gives teachers multiple entry points based on the work they are doing right now.

WHY TEACHERS USE THE APPS

- Get a stronger starting point when you are not sure how to approach a lesson or strategy.
- Review an existing lesson and uncover missed opportunities for engagement, rigor, comprehension, and evidence of learning.
- Receive concrete suggestions you can actually use - not just general advice.

TRY THIS FIRST

- Already have a lesson? Use a Spark App to review it.
- Planning from scratch? Choose the app that matches your immediate goal.
- Need a specific strategy? Pair the app with Spark teaching resources for examples and student supports.

The point is not to let an app “plan for you.”

The value is having an instructional coach that helps you make stronger decisions, see possibilities you may have missed, and keep the high-yield instructional strategies visible in day-to-day planning.

Spark Online Courses:

Learn, apply, and keep moving

Spark courses are self-paced professional learning experiences built around proven instructional strategies and practical application. Courses include planning and classroom resources, and professional development certificates are available.

Spark Online Courses

Expert-designed courses and resources that boost student engagement and instructional impact



Features of Spark Online Courses



- Self-Paced Learning: Progress on your own schedule, anytime, that increases your impact.
- Research and Evidence Based: Built on proven strategies that work.
- Planning and Classroom Resources: Downloadable tools for instant impact.
- PD Certificates: Earn professional development credits.

Spark course features emphasize self-paced learning, research and evidence, classroom resources, and professional development certificates.

Choose the depth that fits your goal

TARGETED STRATEGY COURSES

Focused learning on a specific high-yield strategy. Use these when you want practical tools, clearer implementation, and a deeper understanding of one instructional practice.

COMPREHENSIVE COURSES

More immersive professional learning for strengthening the Learning-Focused Instructional Framework and exemplary practices through research, interactive content, reflection, and planning tools.

Your enrolled courses stay easy to find on your Spark Dashboard

Enrolled Courses Keep the momentum going!

Search...

Q

Showing 3 results

Filters

Course Progress

☐ In Progress 1

☐ Not Started 2

☐ Completed 0

Learning-Focused Essentials Course

☐ Learning-Focused Essentials 0

Targeted High-Yield Strategy Courses

☐ Targeted Strategy 0

Spark by Learning-Focused
Overview Course

Overview Course: The LEARNING-FOCUSED Instructional Framework

0%

Learn why instructional frameworks impact achievement significantly and why The Learning-Focused Instructional Framework is so effective. Start transferring exemplary practices into your planning and instruction.

Spark by Learning-Focused
Targeted High Yield Strategy Course

Strategies for Increasing Learning with the Classroom Environment

1%

Transform your space, transform their learning. A well-designed classroom uses smart visuals and flexible furniture to empower students, creating zones for collaboration and focused work where every learner can thrive.

Spark by Learning-Focused
Targeted High Yield Strategy Course

Structured Review

0%

Transform reviewing into a powerful tool for success. By revisiting key concepts across lessons using specific activities, it boosts retention, strengthens confidence, and ensures every student masters rigorous content with lasting impact.

Your Enrolled Courses view makes it easy to return to a course and see your progress.

A simple habit that makes courses more useful

Do not wait until you have time to “finish a course.” Complete a short section, choose one idea to try, use it in your classroom, and then return for the next section. The value comes from application, not just completion.

Teaching Resources:

Ready when you need an example, tool, or support

Spark Membership includes hundreds of resources organized around planning, instructional strategies, graphic organizers, critical thinking, videos, pictures, and other classroom supports. The goal is simple: help you move from an instructional idea to something usable with students.

Teaching Resources

Browse resources by section:

- Planning
- Instructional Strategies
- Graphic Organizers
- Critical Thinking Resources
- Videos and Pictures

- Planning
- Instructional Strategies
- Graphic Organizers
- Critical Thinking Resources
- Videos and Pictures

Teaching Resources are organized by section so you can quickly browse planning tools, strategy resources, graphic organizers, critical thinking supports, videos, and pictures.

Use Spark when...

You are planning tomorrow's lesson Start with a Spark App, then pull a template, organizer, example, or student support that fits the plan.	You want students more engaged Review the lesson for participation, collaboration, writing, previewing, or other engagement opportunities.
You are learning a new strategy Use a course to understand the strategy, then use Spark resources and apps to plan your first implementation.	You already have something that works Use Spark to refine it: strengthen questioning, rigor, comprehension, scaffolding, assessment, or student thinking.

START WITH ONE REAL NEED THIS WEEK

Open Spark with a lesson, strategy, or student challenge already in mind. Use one course, one app, or one resource to make your next instructional decision easier and stronger.

Learn more: spark.learningfocused.com/pages/membership