

Title of Session: Teaching Teachers
Moderator: Dianne Allen
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BarbaraN: This is my 5th year and I moved schools 3 times. I teach 8, 10 and 11 graders right now.

DianneA nods to Barbara

DianneA: one minute folks while I see if anyone else is joining us today

DavidW joined the room.

DianneA: Hi David

DavidW: Hi, Dianne.

HenryH: Hi David

DavidW: Hi, Henry. How's it going?

DianneA: It looks like it might be time to get this show on the road ...

DianneA: Welcome to today's session of Teaching Teachers

DianneA: can we start with introductions ... where are you from and what is your current teaching area

DianneA: I am from Wollongong Australia, and my teaching area is professional development

BonnieHa joined the room.

DianneA: Hi Bonnie

DianneA: Welcome to today's session of Teaching Teachers

HenryH: I live in Naples, FL and teach Social Studies in a private school This is my 33rd year as a teacher.

BarbaraN: I am from Muhlenberg County, Kentucky and I am teaching 8th grade math, Algebra and Geometry.

DianneA: we are starting with introductions ... where are you from and what is your current teaching area

DavidW bows to Henry with respect

DianneA: thanks Henry, Barbara

BonnieHa: Hello everyone. I teach language arts to 7th/8th graders in a suburb of Chicago.

DavidW: I'm David Weksler. I work with teachers helping them learn more about educational technology. I'm in New Jersey, close to New York City

DianneA: thanks Bonnie, David

BJB2: I teach communication in Pennsylvania and am on Tapped In helpdesk

HenryH: I also teach at a small college people who have a college degree and want to become teachers.

DianneA: I have explained to Henry and Barbara that if any of you have something you want to raise for discussion with the group I run with a fairly open agenda

BarbaraN: I am currently pursuing my masters in educational technology David?

DianneA: and Barbara has shared that she is after ideas for motivating the bottoms of the barrel ...

DavidW: Good luck with that, Barbara

DianneA: by the way ... you might find it easier to keep track of the conversation if you detach your chat window

BarbaraN: Thanks

DavidW: Do you know about the Math Forum, Barbara?

HenryH: I taught the lowest level students in 10 and 11th grade for many years.

DianneA: does everyone know how to do this?

BarbaraN: No, Math forum?

DavidW . o O (www.mathforum.org)

DavidW: big web site for math education

BarbaraN: I'm pretty new Diane, but I have chatted for class before.

DianneA nods to Barbara

BarbaraN: Thanks David

DianneA: clicking on the actions menu and the detach option will make the chat space bigger

DianneA: David would you like to share some details on the math forum website so everyone can follow that

DavidW: Sure, Dianne

DianneA: and so we can see if it has something that sparks Barbara's ideas box

DavidW: The Math Forum began, actually, 15 years ago with a grant from the National Science Foundation

DavidW: At that time, the Internet was brand new to most everyone - so we did a lot of teacher training to help teachers learn the basics of Internet use

DavidW: Barbara, you may have come across the Ask Dr. Math project?

BarbaraN: Yep, even used it before

DavidW: That's one piece of the Math Forum

DavidW . o O (www.mathforum.org/dr.math)

DavidW: So, there's quite a lot of accumulated math education materials, online resources, educator communities for using technology on the web site

DavidW doesn't want to go too far into it

DianneA notes that clicking on the active link David has given opens that website page for us

DianneA: and questions from anyone to take the Maths forum site further?

DavidW: I lead a math education and technology discussion in Tapped In

DianneA: If not I'd like to ask Henry for one of his surefire lessons for low level math students

DavidW . o O (next one is Tuesday, 18 September at 7:30pm EDT)

BarbaraN: I think I say that on Tuesdays

DavidW smiles

DianneA waits to see what people want to follow up here, and right now

DavidW notes that we have an EXCELLENT Social Studies Forum in Tapped In

BJB2 . o O (fyi, there is a new group that will start in October - Math Transformers. It's for middle school level and the lessons will be focused on the idea that math is fun.)

DianneA: thanks BJ

HenryH: Sorry, I taught English, but I did a unit on how to buy a used car that had some math. I also did a unit on opening a bank account, many of the parents did not even have one, I also did a two day unit on an apartment lease and how to budget for all these things.

DavidW: Super discussion yesterday about C-SPAN's web site for educators - www.c-spanclassroom.org

DavidW: Those are great examples of very useful math

DianneA: so Henry you were working on making those lessons relevant to the life needs of those students

BJB2 agrees....another fyi...if you miss a discussion, most of the calendar event transcripts are archived a week or two after the event at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

DianneA: thanks again BJ

BarbaraN: Sorry I'm not saying much I am busy writing it all down

HenryH: They all were planning to buy a car, rent an apartment, and live on their own. They did not see why they needed a bank account so I invited a banker friend to talk about that.

DavidW: Barbara, don't write it down!

DavidW smiles

BJB2 smiles...Barb, all this information will be in your transcript!

DianneA: Barbara you will get a transcript of this session in the email when you log off later today

DavidW: As a Tapped In member you'll receive a transcript of this discussion in your email shortly after you logout

BarbaraN: You don't happen to have a copy of those activities?

DianneA: no!

DianneA: welcome to Tapped IN!!!!

BarbaraN: Thanks

HenryH: Often banks will give you a free promotion education package on bank services.

DianneA: and making connections with real people from their communities Henry!

BarbaraN: Thanks I'll check into it

DavidW: When I lived with inner city high school students, we got everyone a bank account...even if it only had \$10 in it

DianneA: sometimes school can feel and be so far removed from 'real life'

HenryH: Get a lease for an apartment and just let them read it. One question leads to another.

DianneA: and that really switches off people

DavidW: . o O (compound interest is often a very good topic - to see how money increases)

BarbaraN: switches off people, what do you mean Dianne?

DianneA: I am talking about motivating kids that have lost the spark of learning at school ...

BarbaraN: ok,

BarbaraN: These are really great ideas.

DianneA: for them, relevance to their perceptions of real life is one way to start the spark again

DianneA: not my idea .. John Dewey had it long before me

DianneA: but like Henry, I have seen it work

DianneA: what you need to work at is finding where their interests lie and tailoring the maths applications to meet what they expect to need to know

HenryH: We did several units on want ads. I had them write down what they were going to make a month after they graduated or left school. We then developed a budget and looked in the want ads for apartments for rent and used cars. Their ideas on how much money they needed was not realistic.

DianneA: Bonnie do you find that works in your area too?

DianneA: and what Henry is also doing is combining maths and reading and writing ...

BarbaraN: That is a good thing since they just came up with writing folders for all students

SusanR joined the room.

DavidW waves to Susan

SusanR: Hi David and friends

BonnieHa: I usually don't combine math with writing except when I have 8th grade participate in a Stock Market Game.

BarbaraN: Hi Susan

DianneA: how do you run that Bonnie?

BarbaraN: Ohh do tell about the stock market game

DianneA: can you elaborate a bit for us

SusanR: greetings Bonnie

BonnieHa: www.smgww.org

DavidW: Some wonderful online projects DO combine math and writing

SusanR listens

DavidW: Often it is a superb thing for students to explain how they solved a problem; what steps would they offer to someone for how to solve a problem, etc.

BonnieHa: I have the 8th grade classes in teams competing in a stock market game, an online simulation. Tonight's homework was to write about 5 companies they are interested in, why they think the companies are doing well, etc.

BarbaraN: I wonder if I could get students blog accounts to let them blog about it, thus it doesn't feel like writing and they are more apt to do it.

JeffC joined the room.

DavidW waves to Jeff

JeffC waves

SusanR . o O (wonderful project, Bonnie)

BarbaraN says hi to Jeff

HenryH: Tell the students that other students like them really need help doing these things so we are going to help them by putting our material on a blog. Go to gmail.com and open a gmail email. Then go to more and then to blogger. Sign in with the same password and now you can create a blog for free in less than a minute. Last year I taught middle school students that were suspended for one to ten days in an alternative school. I had them write every day, but we did not give grades and so they did not get feed back. I started a blog suspendedvoices.blogspot.com and posted their essays with just initials. Students who were failing all their classes and were getting suspended for ten days (the max) over and over wanted to write two essays a day. I gave them printed copies of their essays because many did not have computers at home. When they saw their first essay, they were really excited.

BonnieHa: I also teach computers, so we go into the lab and do research on investing, etc. They will write an essay on if they had a company would they stay privately owned or go public, etc. I sneak in the writing as much as possible.

DavidW: One of the Math Forum activities, Problems of the Week, requires that students express their answers to math problems in paragraph form. They need to COMMUNICATE

SusanR: Do students still keep reflective journals..re math assignment?

SusanR: or math skills

DavidW believes it is getting easier to do that

BarbaraN: Great thanks Henry, Are you saying that they can all have blogs under my account?

BarbaraN: not mine

JeffC: Great project Henry. Take a look at what I did with kids at Richmond High 10 years ago: <http://snurl.com/netc1> (hold the Ctrl key down when clicking or accept popups from this site (best)).

BarbaraN: most of my students can't spell and all have IEP in English. They usually have lots of trouble reading and writing

JeffC: Barbara, have you ever thought of trying to use "speech to text" on computers?

DavidW smiles

BarbaraN: no, do all computers have that?

DavidW: not typically, Barbara - it's software/hardware you may need to get

JeffC: yes... to an extent. Windows XP is ok, and Vista is supposed to be better.

DavidW . o O (VISTA is supposed to e quite good)

JeffC: And Macs do too, David!

HenryH: No, I did not do that. We had one blog that only I posted their essays to after I proof read them. Several essays I showed my assistant principal and we decided whether to publish the essay or not. You must keep control and keep their "safety" in mind all the time. One girl wanted to write on how she cut herself and was recovering. No.

BarbaraN: we have a mac lab

JeffC: You can also get Dragon Naturally Speaking... but it costs like 90... although I'm sure you can get an educational discount.

DavidW . o O (site license, too will drop the cost considerably)

BarbaraN: So, Henry you typed all of them in for them

JeffC: Well Henry, that's where there's a fine line... a girl who wants to write about cutting... and the school cuts her off (pardon the pun).

BJB2: I have a blog for my students...

BJB2: they write in their journals and I type their entries into the blog....

BJB2: <http://voicesfromloysville.blogspot.com/>

JeffC: I think students need to feel safe in expressing what's going on in their lives. The Net can facilitate that... and that can increase productivity. That's what my project at Richmond High demonstrates. None of these kids were decent writers, but all started really discovering that they had something to say... their life stories were important. Building self-esteem (through writing) while simultaneously playing "the safe card" and telling students *not* to write what's important to them seems to be socially not where we want to be as professional educators.

BJB2: your students may be interested in responding to my student's blog entries,
Barbara

BarbaraN: I thought about letting them blog on their own and taking them in only on special occasions to blog. I know they all have a myspace account

HenryH: No, we had six computers in the room, Some of the students typed theirs and often I asked for volunteers to type essays. I typed a few. I read and proofed all of them. I left some errors in and left them in their words.

HenryH: <http://suspendedvoices.blogspot.com>

BarbaraN: Ok, I'll take a look at it BJ

BJB2: our topic this week is What is art?

BarbaraN: Sounds like a good idea for collaboration with blogs. Love it

BJB2: you can see the wide range of writing abilities...from first grade to high school

HenryH: Set up an editing committee.

DavidW . o O (group writing?)

BarbaraN: ok guys, love to keep chatting ,but I have another class to attend, but I am going to keep my account open so I can have all the chatting in my email later. Thanks so much

BarbaraN: Bye

DavidW waves to Barbara

BJB2: Bonnie, did you have any questions?

BonnieHa: Not so far, thanks.

SusanR . o O (Beacon Bytes)

DianneA: what do you mean please Susan?

HenryH: One part of the Alternative school was Beacon High School an 7 to 1 all internet school.

SusanR: got it

HenryH: I have a question can I bring a guest presenter into my room if they are not a Tapped In member?

DianneA: yes Henry

DianneA: I take it your room is open to anyone

HenryH: How do I sign them in?

DianneA: and not locked?

HenryH: Yes

BJB2: to your office, yes. To your K-12 Student room, no

DianneA: they sign themselves in as a guest

DianneA: ah thanks BJ

DianneA: subtle differences here

HenryH: Thank you.

BJB2: to enter your K-12 group room, Henry...

DianneA: if you know when they are coming and can meet them in Reception and take them to your room all will be well

BJB2: they would have to have a TI membership and then you would allow that person to enter as a visitor

DianneA listens to BJ

BJB2 . o O (or invite them to join your student group)

BJB2: does that answer your question, Henry?

HenryH: Yes, thank you both.

DianneA: any other burning issues for the night?

BJB2 sniffs for traces of smoke

DianneA lol

SusanR: Thanks ..loved your students responses to "What is Art" ..Bj

DianneA: trust Bj to take me literally!

BJB2: thanks, Sue. I was very pleased with some of the responses.

BJB2 . o O (and very surprised by some)

SusanR . o O (and touched by Suspended Voices)

DianneA nods to Susan, they looked very interesting ...

SusanR: similar to the responses I received when I did my "Looking at Art" presentations

DianneA: reminds us what is really in those kids .. that we can bottle down in some of our curricular straightjackets

DianneA: Henry ... if I was to ask ...

HenryH: When I showed my student their first essay on the blog, their face lit up and then I told them you did this and you can do much more. Teachable moment.

DianneA: what is the highlight of your long service

DianneA: and what is it that rejuvenates you to stay in the job so long ...

DianneA: what would be your answer?

HenryH: The kids, the kids, the kids. They all have special gifts, our job is to find them and help them find them and then to help them grow these gifts.

DianneA: thank you ...

DianneA: for you Susan, what is it?

SusanR: good question..when students really enjoy learning

DianneA: and BJ?

DianneA: and Jeff

SusanR: and they show enthusiasm ..and the little light goes on

BJB2 agrees that it's a good question....there are so many reasons...

DianneA: I think I would add, besides the kids, the surprises ...

BJB2: that aha moment is priceless...

HenryH: I had and have now four rules for me in the back of the room so I could see them all the time. 1. Try to survive. 2. Try to do no harm. 3. Try to do some good. 4. Try to have fun.

BJB2: and when a student learns that they can learn

HenryH: a men

DianneA: well that looks like as good a note to close tonight's session on as any

HenryH: That is magic moment that unlocks the world inside them and outside them.

DianneA: thank you all for your company again

SusanR: Thanks Dianne

BJB2 smiles...nice, Dianne.

HenryH: Thank you.

BJB2 waves goodnight

SusanR: I am inspired!

DianneA: and thank you for your inputs to mentor Barbara who was a starting out teacher battling with the bottom of the barrels

BJB2: glad you could join the discussion, Henry

DianneA: and for your inputs to my 'stress busters list

HenryH: There is no bottom of the barrels. There are only classes where you really earn your money and classes you would teach for free.

DianneA: agreed Henry ...

DianneA: and it is learning that that is the key lesson for teachers ..

DianneA: never, or hardly ever address in pre-service training

SusanR: I am just reading your profile, Henry..interesting in school suspension programme

HenryH: I am still learning and that helps help my students.

DianneA: another item for my list too!

BJB2 . o O (good educators are lifelong learners)

HenryH: Yes