

Title of Session: Teaching Teachers

Moderator: Dianne Allen

Title of File: 20081002teachteach

Date: October 2, 2008

Room: Teaching Teachers Group

DianneA: Welcome to Teaching Teachers

DianneA: Hi Dave

DrChristo joined the room.

DaveKe: hi

DianneA: Hi Dr Christo

DaveKe sits down and open notebook

DrChristo: Hi

DianneA: Teaching Teachers today is an open agenda for those who are here

BjB: Dianne, would you like to start with introductions?

DianneA: thanks Bj

DianneA: That might be an idea ...

DrChristo: I'm Elizabeth. I teach chemistry, but I also help my fellow faculty use computers. My school has a 1:1 laptop program.

DianneA: for intros what I am interested in is where you are from and your area of teaching interest

DianneA: thanks Elizabeth

BjB thinks Elizabeth covered that, Dianne ;-)

DianneA nods to BJ indeed she did

DaveKe: Dave from Morris County School of Technology in Denville NJ. I am a Structured Learning Coordinator.

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

development

BjB is glad there are no spell police in Tapped In

DianneA wonders if Dave could expand a bit more on 'structured Learning'

DaveKe: I am in charge of 108 seniors in high school

DaveKe: I monitor and assist students in finding meaningful employment as part of their graduation requirement

DianneA: I generally open up the session here in Teaching Teachers to problems you might have in this area and see if we can brainstorm and problems solve ...

DaveKe: They all have to do 160 hours at a job site related to their chosen career paths.

DaveKe: ok... now I'm done

DaveKe sits down

DianneA: So I am wondering if you Dave, or Elizabeth has a burning issue where the emphasis on technology and/or mentoring is part of the solution

DianneA: thanks Dave

DrChristo: My biggest problem is teachers not using the technology we have available.

DrChristo: I think it is mostly that they do not have time to rework their lesson plans.

DrChristo: They just don't know how to effectively use what we've got.

DianneA: Can I ask you Elizabeth how you started to use technology in your classroom?

DianneA: and Dave ... if you have your starting story that might help as well

DaveKe: without proper instruction given, there is no interest in use

DrChristo: Mostly I've played. I had the toys, so I thought of ways to use it. I also took courses, which gave me more ideas.

DianneA: Elizabeth, can you remember your first application lesson .. what did it involve?

DaveKe: I had a brand new smartboard installed in my classroom one year and could not get any instruction on its use from my supervisor. I eventually found that others were using it as a whiteboard, which ruined it.

DrChristo: I remember I took a professional development course which taught me about a program called Stella. I wrote a simulation on Stella and brought it back to my classroom, and we used it.

DianneA notes that part of what we are exploring is how do experienced teachers incorporate any new tech, especially when no-one else knows how to use it and what to do ...

DrChristo: I agree with you, Dave. Introductions to technology make or break attitudes towards it.

DaveKe: now, every classroom has one and the teachers are trained in its use

DrChristo: I incorporate new tech mostly by trial and error.

DrChristo: I see what works and what doesn't, and I'm not afraid to make mistakes during the lesson.

DaveKe: I was taught how to use an LCD projector and found that I was producing more powerpoint -like lessons then writing on the board

DaveKe: less time writing and more for a two sided discussion

DianneA: which is a form of playing .. and are your students aware that you are playing and do you use the playing approach as an opportunity to explore that aspect of being a scientist/chemist?

DrChristo: I try to.

DianneA . o O (playing is an aspect of learning too)

DaveKe: A main reason that I am here is for input into how to introduce Tapped In to my fellow teachers.

DrChristo: I try to get the students to play with the technology also.

DianneA nods to Dave ...

DianneA: so how did you start with Tapped In Dave?

DaveKe: I will probably hook up my projector to my laptop and do a mini lesson at a teacher's meeting someday

DrChristo: Dave, I'm introducing Tapped In to my students. I think they'll take the stories of how they use it to other teachers, and the other teachers will start using it too.

Hopefully.

DaveKe: I got started as an assignment during one of my grad school online courses

DrChristo: Me, too

DaveKe: once in and comfortable, hooked

DianneA: and how do you see it contributing to your teaching practice, that you want to share that with other teachers?

DaveKe: I am now using it to hold meetings with my 108 students at once. Dial in at 7 p.m. for a discussion

DaveKe: be there or be square

DianneA looks to BJ and wonders how we might use this for Tips and tricks and grad students and further collegiality at Tapped In

DaveKe: actually get a zero for that discussion

DianneA: always useful to have marks to give away or not

BjB: we can try to offer more tours at times good for the students/teachers

BjB: Dave, do you have questions posted to the discussion board for your students to answer?

DianneA: but not the stuff of intrinsic motivation and the kind of intellectual investment that moves beyond the know what to the incorporating in practice needed ...

DaveKe: I developed a site for my college classmates called Distance Learners from NJCU. It's still up and running. I am hoping to pass the reins to the next class and so on

DaveKe: no question yet

DaveKe: the first meeting will be later this month

BjB nods...always good to give participants a reason for participating

BjB . o O (concrete)

DaveKe: I am still trying to round um all up and make sure that they have logged on and signed the whiteboard

DaveKe: not all participated yet

BjB : good, Dave. Have you demoed the whiteboard?

DaveKe : demoed?

BjB : shown the students how to post to the whiteboard...and how to find the whiteboard

DaveKe : sounds offensive

DaveKe : no

DaveKe : I sent them log on instructions with detailed instruction what to do

BjB : I often see adult educators who are told to go to an office or group room and post to the whiteboard and they are clueless

BjB . o O (kids are probably better ;-))

DianneA : Elizabeth, can you elaborate some more about how you are using TI with your chemistry students

DaveKe : see?

DianneA : and how you anticipate that having a flow on effect to their other teachers?

DaveKe : What I'd like each of you to do is log on to the Tapped In site, look around and leave me a message on the whiteboard. I have assigned a log in for you to use and a password for you to get onto the site. What I would like you to do is log on, look around and leave a message for me and others to read. Even though we will not have a formal class, you will receive a grade each marking period and 10 credits towards graduation for your Structured Learning Experience (SLE).

DaveKe : At your leisure, go to Tapped In (<http://tappedin.org/>) Log in the member area using your last name with the addition of st at the end. For example, my last name is Keidel so my login would be keidelst. The password for everyone to get in the first time is sle2009. When you get onto the site, start by changing the settings to your own password in the "Me" section at the top, then under "settings" and "reset password". Once your password is reset, look around and leave me a quick note in the whiteboard section to let me know that you were there. (Click on the whiteboard on the left side.)

DrChristo : I'm using it for office hours. I have a regular time to be in my classroom, and the students come if they want extra help. Not all come, but my AP students have been using it to great effect.

DrChristo : Some of them really love it, and they are telling other teachers they should do the same.

BjB smiles...cool, Elizabeth!

BjB : good instructions, Dave

DaveKe : what I am going to do is post a discussion question and tell the kids to log on at 7, but I will be there until 10. They must add to the discussion before 10 if they want credit for the session

DrChristo : My sister (who teaches at the same school) has started a group, too.

BjB nods to Dave. Let us know if it works

DrChristo : She is using it so students in the same small group have a place to meet and discuss their project.

DaveKe : by allowing 3 hours, the student should be able to come in sometime during that time, even if they have to work or finish homework

DaveKe has his fingers crossed real hard

DaveKe : I have to uncross them to type now

DianneA : I am also wondering if both of you can think some more about what was it that made you feel comfortable at Tapped in ...

BjB : if 10% of your students log in, you're beating the odds, Dave

DaveKe : HELP DESK !!!

BjB smiles happily

DrChristo : I agree, Dave.

DianneA : and how you might convert that experience into tools that help others become comfortable with technology and Tapped In

BjB smiles more

DianneA : can you both be a bit more specific ...

DianneA : elaborate some more

DaveKe : if there are always watchful eyes, you don't feel threatened with making mistakes

DrChristo: It's easy to navigate here. And if you get stuck, there's always someone to ask.

DaveKe: there is always someone to ask for help

DrChristo: I also like that it's safe for the students. They can't go somewhere other than my room, and I always get a transcript.

DaveKe: I sometimes wonder if **BJB** and Jeff ever sleep

BjB . o O (overcoming fear of failure is important for both students and educators)

DrChristo: Even if they are having a private chat.

DrChristo: When I told my principal about Tapped In and my office hours, it was the safety I stressed to her.

DianneA: Do students at the K-12 campus have the equivalent of helpdesk?

DaveKe: I wanted to set up my discussion so that none of the other students could see each others responses

DianneA nods to Dave remembering that .. did you get some help that showed you how to do that here?

DaveKe: it isn't possible here but I am willing to give up that possibility to contain my kids in one spot rather than jump from site to site

DianneA nods to Dave

DaveKe: one of my fellow instructor told me to use turn it in dot com

DaveKe: you have the feature of turning the public viewing on and off

DaveKe: too much trouble to have the kids go here then there to do the same task

DaveKe:so we'll have an open discussion

DaveKe crosses his fingers again

DianneA: Focusing again on how to help other teachers find out more about tech and Tapped In, and how you might mentor another drawing on your experience ...

DaveKe: my biggest fear in the ir discussions is that some of the kids will piggy back too much on someone else's answer

DianneA: Elizabeth what was it that helped your sister make the connections?

DrChristo: She saw that I was having success with the site, and she knew she had me to help her if she had trouble.

DrChristo: My teachers like to know they have a safety net.

DrChristo: It's just as true of my students.

DrChristo: They ask a lot of "reassurance" questions.

DianneA . o O (Montessori's idea of order/security)

DianneA . o O (and being able to explore from a place of safety)

DrChristo: I also think one of the key factors is that someone else has tried it first, and paved the way. If it worked for one teacher, they think, it might work for me.

DaveKe: brb... gotta check on kids in my classroom ssshhhhhh

DaveKe left the room.

DrChristo: That's why I want the students to talk it up to the other faculty.

DaveKe joined the room.

DianneA: Elizabeth, I can see advantages and disadvantages of that ...

DianneA: for me the biggest disadvantage is the old issue of the power of knowledge and status

DrChristo: ?

DianneA: the kind of difficulty that adults who are immigrants have as parents when their children learn the new language more quickly than they

DianneA: it sort of flips over the proper order of things ...

DianneA: it takes a 'big' teacher to be able to operate in a classroom where others might know more and be able to mobilize that knowledge so that all learn what more is known

DianneA: it involves that teacher moving to another role that of helping a student to learn how to teach/ help others learn

DianneA: it involves being able to leave content to someone else while you focus on process ...

DianneA: am I making any sense to any one?

DrChristo: I think I understand.

DianneA: is this being of any value for what you came to this session for today?

DrChristo: You're saying that faculty are uncomfortable learning from students, is that right?

DianneA: yes that is my first point

DianneA: and it is this disconnect between generations around technology that is an ongoing issue for all educationalists

DianneA: and so far as I can see technology will always be many steps ahead of the teaching generation

DrChristo: I agree. But I also think we have to try the technology to reach today's students, since that is the world they are living in.

DianneA: so the question for the teaching generation is can they learn to operate at another level ..?

DrChristo: How do you get them to even try?

DrChristo: Teachers, in general, don't like change, I think.

DianneA: to let the students continue to be the techno experts, but helping those who are at the forefront there learn how to mentor their peers

DrChristo: Do you suggest a tech club?

DianneA: and that is teachers don't know how to mentor their peers (other teachers) then they will not know how to help students mentor their peers

DianneA: sorry this should read ...

DianneA: and that IF teachers don't know how to mentor their peers (other teachers) then they will not know how to help students mentor their peers

DianneA: which brings us back to one of the themes of this group ... learning to mentor .. and to mentor in a peer context

DianneA: whatever it be .. technology ... chemistry transitioning from school to work mentoring peers

DaveKe: you can only mentor if the other party is receptive to your offering

DianneA nods to Dave

DaveKe: some teachers shut down.... myself included if i am not interested

DianneA: so we are talking in part the kind of emotional intelligence that builds that rapport

DianneA: and some of that can get well and truly lost over the years of managing classrooms of hard to motivate conscripts

DaveKe: I am going to introduce Tapped In soon, at a PD session (maybe Columbus Day) and see what the outcome will be

DianneA nods to Dave

DianneA: I will be interested too, Dave

DaveKe: I will predict favorable by most..... of the young teachers

DrChristo: The trick, I think, is to get the teachers to see the value.

DianneA: I will be interested in how you design that interchange

DianneA: I think it needs to be something other than a chalk and talk/ powerpoint thing
...

BjB looks at the clock on the wall...

DaveKe: well, as I mentioned earlier, there is no way that I can see to get 108 high school seniors sitting at the same time

DianneA: drawing more on your experience of becoming comfortable with the technology

BjB: perhaps Dave can be the guest speaker for the November Teaching Teachers?

DaveKe: we'll have to see what happens

BjB: the November discussion will be on November 6

DaveKe: maybe

DianneA: Dave would you like to take up that challenge?

DaveKe is thinking

DianneA: and very comfortable even in reporting failure because we are friends here?

BjB . o O (zone of proximal development)

DaveKe: I don't want to commit, but will try and get back on the 6th

DianneA: Fine and I will continue to have an open space for that sort of thing

DianneA: thanks both of you for our discussion today

DaveKe: is there a way to remind myself to comeback? ... with Tapped In?

DianneA looks to BJ

BjB: are you signed up for the weekly reminders on MEETME?

DaveKe: yes

DaveKe: ... I think

BjB: <http://ti2.sri.com/mailman/listinfo/meetme>

DaveKe: I knew you'd do that

DaveKe smiles

DaveKe: thanks

BjB: not a lot of mail from that list

DaveKe: going now to the Meet Me site bye

DianneA: Again, thanks both of you for today's discussion ...

BjB: mostly just the weekly posts I make

DaveKe: 'thank you too

DrChristo: Thank you.

DianneA: and I look forward to November's session

BjB: Thanks, Dianne

DrChristo: Goodnight.

BjB: thanks for your terrific input, Dave and Elizabeth

BjB waves goodnight