

Title of Session: Tapped In Groups

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: After School Online

BJ: cool. Since we now have a crowd, let's get started. We usually start the TI discussions with introductions

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

JimHi: Science teacher Kenton County Schools in Northern KY

BJ: Susan? Michelle?

MichelleDS: I am a 6th grade Math & Science teacher in Georgia. I am also ESOL certified.

BJ: Thanks, Michelle and Jim.

BJ: Do either of you already own or belong to a group?

JimHi: 1 teacher and 1 student

MichelleDS: No

JimHi: I belong to several others

BJ: cool, Jim. Hopefully, you'll be able to help me out tonight then

JimHi: I am always in the need of help

BJ smiles...that's one of the nice things about Tapped In. We all help each other!

MichelleDS: This is my first time in Tapped In. Once of my assignments in my Masters class was to sit in on a class. May I ask how your groups work?

BJ: As Jim mentioned, Michelle, there are a couple of different kinds of groups

BJ: each member of Tapped In can create two groups and can join an unlimited number of groups

BJ nods to Jan

BJ: Recently the Student Center was opened, Michelle...

BJ: teachers can create a group room in the Student Center and bring in a class of K-12 students

BJ: to meet with other students, a guest speaker, etc.

BJ: There are also many groups in the main part of Tapped In...

MichelleDS: Oh, okay.

BJ: some of the groups are private, some moderated, and some open to anyone

BJ: moderated means you need to request to join the group and the moderator approves your request

BJ: to get an idea of the groups available, click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen, Michelle

BJ: then click on GROUPS

BJ: there are currently 441 groups!

BJ: Quite a few of the events that are on the calendar also have a group that allows the participants to contribute to and continue the discussion on the asynch threaded discussion board

BJ: questions, Michelle?

MichelleDS: Thanks. I checked it out. Seems like some interesting and helpful groups.

BJ: Jim, do you have anything to add? Problems you've experienced?

JimHi: Few problems

KimFo joined the room.

JimHi: actually it is easy

BJ: Michelle, there is a monthly Math and Science discussion...they've mentioned starting a group room for each, but I'm not sure where it is at this point

JimHi: Sometimes you may have to wait for awhile for approval for moderated groups

BJ: Hi, Kim. Welcome!

KimFo: Thanks BJ. Hi.

KimFo: Sorry I'm late. I wanted to find out more about groups. how to start one, how they work...

MichelleDS: Where would I go to be in on the discussions?

BJ: Michelle, Math and Science meet on the first Tuesday of the month, I believe

MichelleDS: Okay, thanks!

BJ: check the December Calendar when it comes out

BJ: Kim, have you joined any groups?

KimFo: No. I just found out about them when I inquired last week.

KimFo: I don't know anything about them.

BJ: ahhh...cool.

BJ: click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen

BJ: then click on GROUPS, Kim

BJ: that will show you all the groups currently created.

SusanR joined the room.

BJ . o O (although the private groups don't appear on the list)

BJ waves hi to Sue

SusanR waves to all

KimFo: hmmm....so should I try to create one right now? and then ask questions? or is there a format here...

BJ: you can try that, Kim. It's pretty easy

BJ: each member is allowed to create two groups

KimFo: I am looking at one of the groups, the AAMU Writing Project. All I see is a description of it and a list of members. So what is the purpose, how does it work?

BJ: I suggest that you start out with a group that is public or moderated...

BJ: because it's easier for people to join it

BJ: Michelle, why don't you try joining a group

BJ: to find a group you might be interested in, Michelle...

BJ: click on the SEARCH tab at the top of your screen and then click on GROUPS

BJ: Sue, you've created groups and have joined a number of groups...any suggestions, recommendations?

KimFo: If I create one can I easily delete it ?

SusanR: the K to 3 Resource Group or Bernie Dodge's Group

BJ: ahh...Sue is the leader of the K-3+ Resources group that meets here twice a month...

SusanR: I created the K to 3 Resource Group

BJ: and Sue created a group to go with the calendar event group

BJ: Kim, you can't delete a group

BJ: but you can edit it

SusanR: If you click once on my name you can ID me and see the groups I have joined.

BJ: do you find it's better to have the group public, Sue?

BJ . o O (unless you want to control who joins...then you should have the group moderated)

JimHi: I made mine public

SusanR: Yes, I would like to attract new members (preservice teachers for instance) and welcome the sharing of resources and ideas

JimHi: Just like the input from a variety of people

SusanR: same here, Jim

BJ: I agree, Sue and Jim

KimFo left the room.

BJ smiles...Kim created a virtual field trips group!

KimFo joined the room.

SusanR . o O (Vft_Grp)

BJ: Kim led the monthly virtual field trips discussion groups here for quite a while...

KimFo: So....I just created a group called Virtual Field Tripping. how do you think I came up with that one? :))))

BJ: but time and other obligations have caused her to no longer be able to schedule those sessions...

BJ: but, now she can let people find out more about her VFT's by joining the group

BJ: If enough group members express interest, they can meet in real time like we're doing, but in the group room

BJ . o O (did I get that right, Kim?)

KimFo: As much as I understand about groups, it sounds very good. Does a group basically give you a "room" and the chat window from which to meet?

BJ nods to Kim...and a threaded discussion board

BJ: and you can upload urls, documents, files to the group room too

KimFo: Can I keep this chat window open at the same time as I go look at my group?

BJ: no, if you go to your group room, you'll leave this chat window/room

JimHi: I use mine as a resource room as well

BJ nods to Jim...excellent idea.

KimFo: Is it akin to the groups on yahoo without the advertising?

BJ: yes, it's a bit like that but with all the features of Tapped In

KimFo: ok...I'll be right back.

SusanR: the rooms have the same capabilities..each room can have a different focus

KimFo left the room.

BJ: right, Sue.

BJ: Michelle, did you find any groups that sound interesting to you?

BJ: one thing that should be pointed out...

BJ: only Tapped In members can join a group...

MichelleDS: I saw a few, but I don't think I want to join anything tonight. I'm just observing.

BJ: and only group members can enter a group room. No guests are able to enter group rooms

BJ nods to Michelle.

BJ: you can do a lot with group management...the owner of the group can edit quite a few features

MichelleDS: You all have been very informative. I have to leave now, but I will certainly come back and check out some groups.

BJ: or, you can give the group power to do all the editing...which makes the group much more collaborative

BJ: Great, Michelle. Don't forget to look for the math and science discussion groups

JimHi: I have done that with my IEQ group

MichelleDS: Absolutely. Thanks for the info.

BJ: there is also a middle level science group that will meet later this month

JimHi: I want them to share resources...add...edit

MichelleDS left the room (signed off).

BJ: cool, Jim. How is it working?

JimHi: OK so far..getting more in our lead teacher group to get online

JimHi: Lead teachers in middle school science

BJ: great! They would enjoy seeing the discussions that Jan does for mid level science..she's excellent!

JimHi: There are many good science groups

BJ agrees with Jim

JeffC joined the room.

JimHi: hi Jeff

BJ: Sue's K-3 group also provides science information

BJ waves hi to Jeff

SusanR does a search for Science groups

KimFo joined the room.

KimFo: So, if you have a group, and you want to have a discussion with a number of the members, you just have them go to TI, click on Tapped In, click on Groups, then click on your group?

JeffC: Hi all... I figured I'd drop in... I have a number of science search engines in my bookmarks at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> in the Search folder

BJ: Kim, have them go to the search tab and then groups and enter your group name

BJ: Jeff, you mentioned something during the science and math discussions about starting group rooms as resource rooms

BJ: did anyone take you up on that?

SusanR: There are some interesting Science Groups...Science Geeks..Science Teaching

SusanR would like to join Kim's group...does a search

BJ: I'm not sure all those groups are public..some are only open to specific tenant members

JimHi: I welcome anyone to our group (IEQ)

KimFo: Susan, my group is public :)) glad to have you!

BJ: good to know, Jim. Thanks

JimHi: It deals with KY Core Content but our core content standards are the same as the national

SusanR: Thanks, Kim

SusanR: entered "Field" into the search bar and it came up

JeffC: Right... if someone would like, they could set up a resource room for Science, with grade level specific support, discussions, file sharing, links.

JimHi: We are allowed two groups...right?

BJ: right

JimHi: Does my student group count as one of them?

BJ: I think it does, Jim

JimHi: Well..I have my two then

KimFo: Jeff, there are about 20 science based virtual field trips for K-12 on my site. You might want to add that to your resource room?

JeffC: Absolutely Kim... what's the URL?

BJ: www.field-trips.org

KimFo: Kim grins as she says.....go to my group:))) Actually BJ....

KimFo: I'm using tramline.com these days.

BJ nods..sorry, Kim

SusanR: and there are some K to 3 Vts, Kim

KimFo: it's easier than people having to remember the dash in field-trips...but both work and not a problem at all!

KimFo: Where Susan?

KimFo: Jeff, if you go to <http://www.tramline.com/trips.htm> and scroll down a little, you'll see all the science trips.

SusanR: on your site, Kim..can I add them to the K to 3 Resource Group?

KimFo: Oh! duh! Of course, please do.

JimHi: gotta go guys....good discussion thanks!

KimFo waves bye

JimHi waves bye

JimHi left the room (signed off).

BJ: any last comments? Questions?

KimFo: Jeff, do you organize regular meetings with your group?

SusanR: Thank you Kim and BJ

KimFo: Thank you Susan!

JeffC: There are Science and Math forums here that I have started leading.

JeffC: I'm working on what to do next... so any and all input from you would be appreciated.

KimFo: Ah...but do you use your group for that or one of the TI public meeting rooms?

JeffC: I don't have students

BJ: Kim, you can do both

KimFo: but you are offering your forums to teachers?

BJ: yes, Jeff's math and science discussions are on the calendar

KimFo: But the advantage of using one of the public TI groups is that BJ broadcasts on the lists, yes?

BJ: also, you can have the threaded discussions to communicate with the group between monthly meetings

BJ: and store the resources in the group room

KimFo: do the discussion posts automatically get sent to any of the group members?

KimFo: I mean emailed to them?

BJ: yes, all posts to the threaded discussion go to the members of the group

BJ: most are emailed, but some people prefer not to subscribe

KimFo: Thanks so much BJ. Thanks Jeff for your insights as well.

BJ . o O (you know how overwhelming emails can be)

BJ: Thanks for joining us, Kim.

KimFo: boy, no joke!

KimFo: The pleasure is all mine :)))

BJ: you can read the threaded discussions in the group room if you don't want to read them via email

KimFo: good to know.

KimFo waves good night and see you later.

BJ waves goodnight