

Title of Session: Class Notes Online

Moderator: Patrick Flaherty

Title of File: 20051012classnotesonline

Date: October 12, 2005

Room: After School Online

BJB2: Hi, Jed. Welcome

JedGst5: Hello

BJB2: are you here for Class Notes Online?

JedGst5: I think so! This is my first time so I'm not sure where I am

BJB2 chuckles. You're in the After School Online room, Jed

PatrickJF: Hello Jed

BJB2: are you a teacher?

JedGst5: I am actually doing this for a class I am taking

BJB2: hopefully, you will make everyone jealous about the discussion you're about to participate in, Jed!

BJB2 . o O (should be very interesting.)

BobZw joined the room.

BJB2: how about if we start with introductions, please

BJB2: Hi, Bob!

BobZw: hi

BJB2 . o O (also, a reminder if you're new to Tapped In, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and DETACH)

PatrickJF: Hello Bob and Jed

BJB2: Please tell us where you are located and what brings you to the discussion

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

VW joined the room.

JedGst5: I am a graduate student in CT and am participating for a class I am taking

SusanR joined the room.

VW: Good evening

PatrickJF: my name is Patrick and I am a student at Brown, I made ClassNotesOnline this summer as a free resource for teachers

BJB2: Hi, **VW** and Sue. we've just started introductions

BobZw: I'm in the Dallas, TX area - I've joined the discussion tonight to see how TI works

VW: HI I am a graduate student as well -taking Online professional development

DesaiGst3 joined the room.

SusanR: Sue from Ottawa, Ontario..K to 8 teacher..today special education

BJB2: welcome, Desai. Please tell us where you are located and what brings you to the discussion.

BJB2: and then we can turn the virtual floor over to Patrick, our discussion leader for today.

DesaiGst3: Desai guest from California, 6 grade middle school.

BJB2 waits eagerly to learn about Class Notes Online

PatrickJF: Hello all!

PatrickJF: for reference during the discussion the link to the website is www.classnotesonline.com

BJB2 . o O (also, a reminder if you're new to Tapped In, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and DETACH)

BJB2: hold your CTRL key down as you click on the URL

BJB2 . o O (the URL will open in a new window)

PatrickJF: ClassNotesOnline allows you to create your own teacher website for all of your classes

PatrickJF: the website is free, all you need to create an account is an email address, as a part of your account you get 10 MB of space for any class files you want to upload

DesaiGst3: I am here as part of my online course assignment.

PatrickJF: a list of features available once signed up is at this address
www.classnotesonline.com/tour.php

DesaiGst3: Do you chat with students?

PatrickJF: there is not a chat room on the site, however there is a message board on each individual account

PatrickJF: there is also a main message board, the link is found on the homepage

BJB2: could a teacher use the site in conjunction with Tapped In?

PatrickJF: the individual message board does not need usernames and passwords, the main message board, however, does

DesaiGst3: How are you utilizing it for your classes?

PatrickJF: BJB in what regard do you mean?

PatrickJF: Desai, it can be used to provide an online set of all handouts, assignments, grades (with password protection for each student)....

BJB2: tapped in has a real time chat as well threaded discussion boards

PatrickJF: ...I find that most teachers use the site to keep students updated about homework assignments

PatrickJF: yes a teacher could use this in conjunction with TI

BJB2: but the teacher who brings her class to Tapped In could use ClassNotesOnline for the handouts, additional assignments and grades

PatrickJF: yes

PatrickJF: a teacher uses a WYSIWYG editor, much like Microsoft Word, to update all of the features (assignments, news, calendar)

PatrickJF: and also provide links to Tapped In related resources

BJB2: I like the calendar feature

PatrickJF: WYSIWYG is: what you see is what you get

BJB2 smiles. Thanks, Patrick.

BJB2: it's pronounced wizzywig

PatrickJF: regarding the message boards

PatrickJF: one teacher wanted to require students to post, I created a new discussion thread on the main message board:

<http://www.classnotesonline.com/bulletinboard/phpBB2/index.php>

PatrickJF: and made her the moderator to allow her to monitor and control posting

SusanR excuses herself..but likes the idea of using classnotes in conjunction with TI

SusanR: Thank you Patrick..I do have an assignment to do

BJB2: I see real names posted on the discussion board

SusanR left the room.

BJB2: do students use their real names?

PatrickJF: the teacher is in control of the content of that discussion thread

PatrickJF: real names are not needed

BJB2 nods. I wasn't able to access information about a specific poster...

BJB2: is that because no information is posted or that it's not accessible to guests?

PatrickJF: correct

PatrickJF: oh I understand

BobZw: do parents have access to their children's assignments and work ?

PatrickJF: I believe the teacher managing that thread just needed each student to verify their username in class and thus eliminated the need for real names online

BJB2: an example here in Tapped In is that Jed and Desai can ID a member and not see all the information that a TI member would see

PatrickJF: yes, a teacher can create usernames and passwords for all of their students to access their grades

BJB2 nods to Patrick. Thanks

PatrickJF: a parent can access a students upcoming assignments at any time without a password

PatrickJF: as well as all the other features of the site

BJB2: who funds/supports the site?

PatrickJF: I support the site myself, I have a few ads on the top and right side which just about pay for hosting

BrookeM joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Brooke!

PatrickJF: The idea came from talking with family and close friends who are teachers who stated a need for a free site that was complete, where most free sites are very basic

BJB2: we're looking at www.classnotesonline.com

BobZw: thank you Patrick - have to leave for dinner

PatrickJF: thanks for coming, take care

BrookeM: hi! thanks!

BJB2 waves bye to Bob

BobZw left the room (signed off).

BJB2: Brooke, I think that Patrick's site could be very complementary to TI...for posting grades and handouts

BJB2 . o O (free is good, too)

BrookeM: I like that

BrookeM: is there any one who has an account working?

PatrickJF: if you would like you can create an account in about a minute

BrookeM: are the URLs simple?

PatrickJF: if your username was brook, your URL would be

PatrickJF: www.classnotesonline.com/teacher/brook

BrookeM: so it is key to pick a user name for the kids

PatrickJF: yes

PatrickJF: however most usernames are available at this point

BrookeM: I am playing now

PatrickJF: the editor, Brooke, is much like microsoft word

BrookeM: cool

PatrickJF: also, anything can be copied and pasted into the editor and all formatting (tables, fonts, colors) will be preserved

BJB2 . o O (I was playing too...just registered)

BrookeM: Well thanks!

BrookeM: this looks pretty cool

BJB2: VW, any comments or are you multitasking?

BrookeM: thanks guys! I like this..I have to go fix my online classroom

PatrickJF: thanks for coming Brooke

BrookeM: see you!

BrookeM left the room (signed off).

VW: no comments

BJB2: thanks, VW

VW: I hope to use classnotesonline with my students

PatrickJF: if you have any questions in the future VW, feel free to email Patrick@classnotesonline.com

BJB2: what do you like about the sight, VW?

VW: I like how easy it is to navigate between syllabus and assignments, etc.

BJB2: great testimonial, Patrick!

VW: It seems pretty much straightforward

PatrickJF: I tried to make the site as user friendly as possible

VW: there is no fee right?

PatrickJF: correct

PatrickJF: it will always remain free of charge

VW: I would just need to create an account

PatrickJF: do you find the ads on the top and right acceptable?

VW: That could be a problem

PatrickJF: can you elaborate?

VW: why would advertisement need to be part of the curriculum?

PatrickJF: instead of paying a fee for the service

VW: Those are the sponsors?

VW: I see

PatrickJF: I made the ad spaces distinct from any teacher content so that there could be no confusion

VW: It is not confusing at all

PatrickJF: ok good

PatrickJF: I have not had any complaints so far, but it is something I am conscientious about

VW: Understood

VW: Is it okay now to tell other teachers about the site and let them judge for themselves

PatrickJF: oh definitely

VW: I would like to try it out myself too

PatrickJF: at this point I am trying to let many people know about the site

VW: Great

PatrickJF: do you have any other questions or comments VW?

VW: Are you having another session like this again so maybe I could have teachers join in next time

BJB2: thanks, Patrick, for showing us ClassNotesOnline!

PatrickJF: I could arrange one with BJ

BJB2: cool suggestion, VW!

VW: Alright

PatrickJF: what is a good time for you VW

PatrickJF: a similar time to tonight?

VW: 7pm same time

PatrickJF: what does the schedule look like BJ?

VW: Okay well, that would be all

BJB2: I haven't even had a chance to look at November...did you want to schedule then or

VW: Good evening

PatrickJF: good night VW

BJB2: you can just meet with VW in a private office

VW: Thanks for the class

PatrickJF: no worries

PatrickJF: can another event be scheduled

PatrickJF: ?

BJB2: let me know what you want, Patrick. I can add to the October calendar

BJB2: or we can plan for November...I don't know how soon VW would like to meet

PatrickJF: ok sounds good, do you have a Monday or Thursday at 7 available

VW left the room.

PatrickJF: I will take the next time one of those sessions is available

BJB2: October 24 at 7 is open

BJB2 . o O (Monday)

PatrickJF: ok

PatrickJF: thanks again BJ, I look forward to the 24th

BJB2: great, Patrick. I'll put it on the calendar

PatrickJF: ok, if anything changes we will be in touch

PatrickJF: take care BJ

BJB2 waves bye to Patrick