

Title of Session: Alt/Correctional Ed Forum
Moderator: BJ Berquist
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Room: After School Online Room

BJB2 waves to Melissa

MelissaIM waves hello

BJB2: Tell me why you're interested in this discussion, Melissa?

MelissaIM: I teach in an alternative school

BJB2: high school?

MelissaIM: high school

BJB2: what is the criteria for admission to the school?

MelissaIM: the kids are at risk

MelissaIM: could be any at risk criteria

BJB2 nods. That covers a lot of territory!

MelissaIM: low income, pregnant, truant, etc...

MelissaIM: exactly

BJB2: I'm assuming that most are reading below grade level?

DavidWe laughs

MelissaIM: some, but not all

DavidWe: Probably so

BJB2: tested for LD?

MelissaIM: there are some under achievers

BJB2 . o O (no one wants to be a failure)

MelissaIM: we even have Hmong married couples that find our environment nurturing

MelissaIM: and understanding

BJB2: cool, Melissa

MelissaIM: why is David here?

BJB2: moral support

DavidWe: I'm interested in many things, Melissa

BJB2: . o O (he supports my morals)

DavidWe: She IS so moral

MelissaIM: I see

BJB2 laughs. David and are friends, Melissa

DavidWe: I'm a believer in technology as a support for all sorts of things, actually, Melissa

DavidWe: Do you know about the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org

MelissaIM: I always feel out of the loop on these national chats

DavidWe: I started this "endeavor" of working with teachers through the Math Forum

DavidWe: Well, you are the only one here, Melissa

BJB2: hmmm...we should introduce ourselves.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in a male juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

MelissaIM: I was the only one with Jeff for the advanced tips and tricks

DavidWe: I'm in snowy New Jersey

DavidWe: We appreciate your patronage, Melissa

MelissaIM wonders maybe it's me

DavidWe: No, not you. You get MAJOR BONUS points for showing up

BJB2: or the phase of the moon or report card grades are due...a thousand reasons why one event has 10 people and another has only one

MelissaIM: I was the technology coordinator for a larger high school last year

BJB2 hands Melissa a gold star for participation

MelissaIM: and missed the kids

BJB2 thinks Melissa's tech skills are probably up to par, David

MelissaIM: sometimes

BJB2: ok, let me show you what this group has to offer you, Melissa

MelissaIM: ok

BJB2: The alt/correctional ed group has resources stored in the group room

BJB2: we've had some guest speakers...

BJB2: the transcripts are archived at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

MelissaIM: I looked at the group room

MelissaIM: and some of the links

BJB2: find anything useful?

MelissaIM: yes, but I haven't had enough time to explore...

BJB2 understands. Exploration is very time consuming!

MelissaIM: I am the Lead teacher at my school, and I want to share the resources with my staff

BJB2: I think one of the strengths of the group is that we understand the students and their problems...and strengths

BJB2: that would be great, Melissa.

DavidWe nods

MelissaIM: that's important

DavidWe agrees

BJB2: it's easy to become very isolated when you teach at risk and special needs kids

ErinAW joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Erin

MelissaIM: Hi Erin!

BJB2: hi, Erin

ErinAW: Hi to all

BJB2: are you here for Alt/Correctional Ed or just exploring?

MelissaIM: Erin works in my district 2

BJB2: ahhh...cool.

DavidWe: Welcome, Erin

ErinAW: I am in alternative placements in middle and high school

ErinAW: Melissa private messaged me to come on in!

MelissaIM: Erin and I have been talking about sharing resources in town, I thought this would be helpful

SusanR joined the room.

BJB2 smiles...excellent!

BJB2: hi, Sue. Welcome

MelissaIM: hi Susan

BJB2: what does it mean to be in alternative placements, Erin?

BJB2 . o O (do you place the children?)

SusanR: Welcome Melissa

MelissaIM: thanx

BJB2: Melissa, are many of your students ESL?

MelissaIM: not officially

BJB2: you teach social studies?

MelissaIM: right now, technology applications and art history

BJB2: ohhhh...cool! Great combination. Do you have internet access in your classroom?

BJB2: . o O (for students)

MelissaIM: yes, a lab if I need it a projector(full time), and a smart board in the lab

BJB2: what I recommend you look at is www.artsconnected.org

ErinAW: I teach special education in at risk settings (4)

BJB2: Kevan Nitzberg leads a monthly discussion/tutorial for artsconnected each month.
The next session is March 30

BJB2: Erin, do you use art with your students?

DavidWe: Great discussion, actually

DavidWe: I even show up for those, sometimes

MelissaIM: we are trying to do a dual art and history, more of a combo class

ErinAW: that sounds neat. One of my middle school settings has a full time art teacher
and they have art everyday

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Lucky students

BJB2: then perhaps you can collaborate on artsconnected...

ErinAW: the other schools have art therapy every Friday

MelissaIM: not really, I'm more technological than artistic

BJB2: it's a site that allows you to make a collection of artwork....

BJB2: and annotate the pieces...write descriptive paragraphs

ErinAW: I have to your hat project site before

BJB2 . o O (doesn't require artistic skill...but lots of language arts and looking)

BJB2 smiles. I love you, Erin!

BJB2: observation skills are an important thing to teach our special needs students

MelissaIM: I'm looking at the site now, it's pretty neat

BJB2: and communication skills

ErinAW: it was awesome and I shared it with our art teacher

DavidWe . o O (love?!?! What did I miss)

BJB2: thanks, Erin.

BJB2: I also lead a monthly arts and literacy discussion...

ErinAW: I was sucking up to the great leader

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Oh, I see

BJB2 laughs..and doing it very well, I might add!

BJB2: this month I'm going to be looking at music and literacy

BJB2 . o O (March 7)

ErinAW: David where are you and what do you do

MelissaIM: it's difficult to get all the fine arts in in a small school

BJB2: that's why I try to use interdisciplinary lessons, Melissa

BJB2: combining arts with social studies or language arts or math or science

BJB2: my current passion is visual and aural literacy

ErinAW: I cannot believe all of the supplies our art teacher has for a school of 75 students

BJB2: past funding for alternative ed has been generous. I don't think this is going to continue much longer though

ErinAW: At my high school they have oodles of stretched canvas!

MelissaIM: we sure don't

BJB2: you don't really need access to a lot of arts supplies to have a successful program

BJB2 . o O (and all my stuff has to be non-toxic)

ErinAW: no, but it sure helps the creative juices to flow when you have the goodies

ErinAW: why non toxic, too much stuff to sniff?

BJB2: right...and nothing sharp

BJB2: all pencils have to be counted

BJB2 . o O (every period)

DavidWe smiles

BJB2: my goals for my students are that they be self motivated, learn how to communicate appropriately, and become more aware of the world around them

MelissaIM: my current kids aren't that restricted, but I have worked in an adjudicated day treatment setting

DavidWe: Sensible goals for ALL students, Bj

BJB2 agrees with David.

ErinAW: I will have to admit that I am the queen of rummage sales in the summer. I can get a lot of discards to be creative with-

MelissaIM nods

BJB2 chuckles. Erin, I'll keep that in mind

ErinAW smiles

MelissaIM: I took my budget to Walmart and Michael's just last week

ErinAW: I would like to make clay or play dough any site to tell you how to make it correctly?

BJB2 wonders what kinds of projects Melissa does with her students

BJB2: lots of recipes for play dough, Erin

BJB2: do a google search

BJB2: . o O (probably some for plasticene clay too)

BJB2: <http://www.teachnet.com/lesson/art/playdough061699.html>

BJB2: try that!

ErinAW: thanks, great medium for students to be hands on from creating finished pieces to quick shapes to stress balls thanks!

BJB2: here's another recipe site

BJB2: . o O (I love bubbles)

BJB2: <http://www.recipegoldmine.com/childclay/childclay.html>

ErinAW: I asked the right person

BJB2: or try making your own sidewalk chalk..that's fun

ErinAW: My middle school is near an elementary school and we are building classroom buddies, this would be fun to do together

BJB2: we're almost at the end of the hour. Any questions? Suggestions for the Alt/Correctional ed group?

BJB2: cool. Erin. Another thing you can do is make books

ErinAW: When do you typically meet

ErinAW: I mean for the Alt/Correctional ed

BJB2: usually the third Thursday of the month

MelissaIM: this is a good site too

<http://www.brigitine.atlnet.org/GigapaletteGALLERY/websites/ARTiculationFinal/MainPages/ElementsMain.htm>

MelissaIM: lots of lessons and worksheets, and a simulation