

Title of Session: Math Meets Here!

Moderator: Sandra Gassner

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Room: Math Meets Here Group

BJB2: welcome to Math Meets Here!

BJB2: we start all Tapped In discussions with introductions

BJB2: please tell us where you are located and what you teach or do

SandyG: I'd like to start out by asking everyone to share why they decided to come to Math Meets Here today

SandyG: or what BJ said.

SandyG: I am from NJ

SandyG: I am the math program coordinator for a k-8 public school district

SusanSi: howdy from NE Texas-4th math & science & TX History

SandyG: glad you could join us Susan

GailH: I am Gail Hoskins with Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) in Columbus OH. Before joining ENC in 1992 I was a math teacher and K-12 coordinator. I am really interested in what Sandy has to say about Investigations!

EmilyW: I am Emily from TX, I am a helpdesk volunteer at tapped in, I am a web designer, and interested in designing math related websites, I also like math

BeeD2: Barbara Dieu (Bee) teaches EFL to high school students at the Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo. She is here because she knows something about collaboration but does not have a clue about Math

SandyG: would anyone else like to introduce themselves?

DeborahCP: I teach in Stockton, CA. I'm here because I just went from a 1st grade teaching position to a multiage classroom of 9-12 yr olds. I need help!

MarshaR: I teach in KS..middle school math and science

SandyG hopes we will be able to help Deborah!

CarolF: Hi, I came in late. I teach 2nd grade in Azusa, CA. I am here to get ideas to help my students learn math better!

SandyG scans the room to see if there is anyone else who would like to make an introduction

JeffCoo: I'm Jeff Cooper an Education Technology Consultant in Oregon. I'm on Helpdesk here and facilitate the Math K-20+ Resources group.

KimMol: I am currently getting my Masters in education and this past year I worked as a special ed. aide

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler and I like math so much I talk about it in Tapped In

LaurenSe: This is my first Tapped In meeting.

SandyG: Lauren, would you like to tell us where you are from and what you teach or do?

SandyG is glad math meets here can serve as Lauren's first tapped in experience

LaurenSe: Yes. I am a student at the University of Akron. I am in the education program; middle school math and social studies.

GailH: It is neat that we have such a wide variety of people here (in terms of where they are in math professionally).

SandyG is hoping this is Jody from her school district

JodiL: YES it is! =)

SandyG is so glad Jodi could come

JodiL: GLAD to be here!

SandyG: Jodi, if you could just tell everyone what state you are from and what you do

JodiL: SURE....I am from New Jersey and I teach First Grade in Freehold Township.

SandyG: I hope I have given everyone enough time to introduce themselves,

SandyG: if you arrived late, please feel free to make your introduction at any time

SandyG: I'm going to tell you a little about why we are here today

HelenK: thanks - just dropping in from Quesnel, BC Canada

SandyG: I wanted to share with everyone how Tapped In could be used as a resource for elementary school teachers

SandyG: in our district of 5 elementary and 2 middle schools I am hoping this can serve as an online learning community

SandyG: in this way, teachers from all school can access resources and discuss topics at their convenience

SandyG: were any of you able to take some time to look around the room?

GailH has been checking things out and is quite impressed.

SandyG: thanks Gail

CarolF: looking now

EmilyW: this is more for elementary?

SandyG: yes Emily

SandyG: while you are looking around I will tell you a little about what is here so far.

CarolF: The Library of Virtual Manipulatives is a great site! I used it as a reference for my Masters.

SandyG: for those of you who are not familiar with the investigations math curriculum it is one of the NSF funded math curriculums

GailH: It is great K-12, I agree.

SandyG agrees library of virtual manipulatives is a wonderful resource

EmilyW: is there a website about the investigations math curriculum?

SandyG: I know Jodi is familiar with investigations, how about the rest of you?

DavidWe is

DeborahCP: Not really.

SandyG nods to Emily, we will look at their site in a few minutes

CarolF: No - I'd love to hear more about it.

SusanSi: no

GailH: Investigations in one of 5 or so elementary NSF-funded based math curriculums, right?

LaurenSe: I'm not familiar either...

SandyG: yes, Gail, investigations engages the student in a constructivist learning environment

SandyG: lots of manipulatives, right Jodi?

JodiL: Yes lots and lots of manipulatives!

SandyG: lots of students creating new knowledge, learning through experiences, learning strategies

SandyG: many districts have begun implementing this curriculum or choosing one of the other NSF (National Science Foundation) funded conceptual-based math programs

SandyG: would any of you like to share with the group the type of math curriculum you are using?

MarshaR: We use Connected Math, another NSF program.

SusanSi: we start using a Sharon Wells program this year

CarolF: Azusa is using Saxon - not a NSF program.

SandyG used connected math with grade 6-8 students in another district

DavidWe . o O (Saxon is DEFINITELY NOT a NSF program)

DavidWe grins

SandyG: are most of you content with the program you are using?

CarolF David - you feel my pain.

SandyG: investigations is flexible in that it can be used alone or it can be used to replace units of instruction

MarshaR Nods yes

DavidWe nods to Carol

DavidWe: I've met some of the Saxon folks at NCTM...

SusanSi: glad to be saying bye-bye to Saxon

DavidWe: They do have their adherents

GailH agrees with those sentiments.

SandyG: I am a firm believer in philosophy behind investigations and other reform math programs

SandyG: but back to why we are here

SandyG: I think it is important when any district takes on an initiative to provide professional development and resources for teachers and other stakeholders

SandyG projects http://www.freeholdtwp.k12.nj.us/gassner/math/gassner_math.html

SandyG: this is the math resource page for our district, grades k-8

SandyG: here we have links to many math resources as well as links to resources that our specific to our district

MarshaR . o O (I wish we had something like this!!!!)

EmilyW: this page is great

SandyG: take a minute and look at the page if you can

BeeD2: Lots of good resources there...I will pass them on to my colleagues at school

SandyG: one of the things that has been helpful to teachers has been the links to state resources and the links to resources specific to our math program

MarshaR: There are hundreds of links. Did you review what you have up there? Were they already "field tested" ?

LaurenSe: There are a lot of links. I've been searching for a webpage like this.

SandyG: Marsha, the links have been tested, and will be revised to be listed on multiple pages so you're not scrolling down all day, it is on my "to-do" list

SandyG: is everyone ready for another projection?

LaurenSe: I especially like the literacy connections section.

LaurenSe: yes.

MarshaR: That's what will make this extremely powerful. that you know these are relevant and good

SandyG: the next page is not so big, it is our link to curriculum specific resources

SandyG projects

http://www.freeholdtwp.k12.nj.us/gassner/investigations/gassner_inv.htm

DavidWe: Are you using Investigations in Freehold, Sandy?

GailH nods yes.

SandyG: great!

LaurenSe: yes

EmilyW: I like this background of the page

SandyG: if you aren't familiar with investigations, take a minute to check out this page.

CarolF: Yes

DavidWe . o O (cool!)

MarshaR: How slick is this that it links to Math Forum? Very cool

DavidWe has gotten to meet some of the TERC folks who developed the Investigations curriculum

GailH: I like the "He who dares to teach must never cease to learn" sign.

SandyG finds math forum to be one her favorite math resources, along with end of course

DavidWe appreciates Sandy's fine taste in math web sites

SandyG thanks everyone for their complimentary words

GailH joins David in admiring Sandy.

SandyG: I created this page so that the teachers in my district would have the resources that they needed at their fingertips

BeeD2 does not understand much about Math but is impressed by the quantity of resources

BJB2: a reminder to all participants in this session....Math Meets Here is a group room. If you would like to be able to use the resources in this room, please join the group. The Festival is giving you a showcase view of some of the groups and what they do.

SandyG: it would take much more than a one hour session to share all of the wonderful math resources online, as many of you attendees know

BJB2 wonders if that means Sandy is interested in leading a monthly Math discussion?

SandyG: I hope all teachers of math will join Math Meets Here, not just investigations users

JeffCoo wonders if she would like to facilitate Math Resources?

SandyG smiles at Jeff

JeffCoo: No joke Sandy... I'm not a math educator... you are... you'd be better at facilitating the group.

JeffCoo: I could co-facilitate and handle the Tapped In issues.

DavidWe will promise to help

SandyG smiles at BJ too, but thinks she has too much on her plate already, I'll help out as much as I can

JeffCoo: What are you trying to do David... scare Sandy away?

MeganCH: I remember loving math but unfortunately I didn't need to take any classes in college, so I haven't played with math since high school!

GailH . o O (This is so much fun! and so crazy too!)

SusanR: I would be willing to help as well

DavidWe laughs

EmilyW: me too

SandyG: Megan, you would love math even more using one of the new programs

DavidWe: A lot of administrative support, Sandy

EmilyW: I loved math in school

SandyG: maybe I should just have monthly math sessions, where we could learn math the right way

JeffCoo: To join the group here... scroll down the top frame and click the link to Math Meets Here (next to the "i" in the green circle). Then click the link to join the group.

MarshaR: I think the new programs teach the teachers as much, if not more, about math than the kids!!!!

SandyG: glad to hear Emily had a good math experience in school

SandyG agrees with Marsha

MeganCH: wow- that's impressive

SandyG: and it is important for teachers to be engaged learners

MeganCH: agreed

SandyG: getting back to this online learning community

SandyG: I have one of the teachers from my district here with us today

JeffCoo also encourages people to join the Math Resources K-20+ group here... there's a Passage from this room to there (click the Passageways link on the left of the top frame).

MeganCH: so what can we learn from each other and our various experiences

SandyG: and it is my hope that after she has seen how much fun tapped in can be that she will encourage the other teachers in her school to join us online

DavidWe notes that there is also a Math + Technology group, as well

GailH: I'd like to share a resource that would be helpful in the big picture (and I would hope that when you get your transcript of this session you will explore in detail -- not now).

SandyG notes that there are many excellent math groups in tapped in, just go to groups and click on the m section, you'll find excellent math groups to join

SandyG please share Gail

MeganCH: yes I am interested

GailH: I am going to type a url in a moment. It is about the NSF-funded elementary math programs (of which Investigations is just one). Please notice that the navigation for getting to them is on the RIGHT of the window.

GailH: If you are interested in middle or high school level NSF-funded math programs, look at the graphic on the page that I give you, and you will see links to the middle or high school level of NSF-funded math programs (and once there, you'll find the navigation on the RIGHT of that window.)

GailH: <http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/nsfmathelem/>

GailH: By using those links on the right, you can get to the "real" stuff about each program.

MeganCH: cool

DavidWe . o O (Gail IS cool)

SandyG thank you Gail

SandyG: if you click on links page of this room you will also find a link to a resource that evaluates all the NSF funded programs as well

SandyG: I'd like to move on to the other focus of this session

MarshaR: We use Trailblazers 1-4 and CMP 5-8. I didn't know TB was an NSF program.

SandyG: using internet resources in a constructivist learning environment

SandyG: Marsha, I used trailblazers as well, it is a very good program

SandyG: I am going to project another site, is everyone ready?

DeborahCP: ready

MeganCH: I'm ready

LaurenSe: yes

JodiL: READY =)

SandyG: ok

CarolF: yes

SusanSi: yes

MarshaR: If you can coordinate the 27 books it takes to teach it!!!! I understand the new version will be much more simple.

SandyG: recently an excellent workshop was presented at the NECC conference in Philadelphia

MeganCH: wow that's cool

SandyG: I was unable to attend the session but luckily all the resources have been shared online

SandyG projects <http://www.mathcats.com/necc2005/whatisamathjewel.html>

SandyG: Wendy Petti of mathcats presented the session on web sites she considers to be a "math jewel"

GailH: So philosophically wonderful an idea!

BeeD2: This is lovely

SandyG: this list can help you develop a criteria by which to choose the websites used in an elementary math classroom

SandyG: it gets even better, here comes another projection with links to some of the sites you have already visited and some new ones as well.

SandyG projects <http://www.mathcats.com/necc2005/mathjewels.html>

SandyG: take a minute to look at this page, visit the links if you would like

MeganCH: wow- really helpful. Thanks sandy

MeganCH: what grade do you teach

SandyG: Megan, I am the math program coordinator in a K-8 public school district, unfortunately I don't get into the classroom to teach as much as I'd like anymore

MeganCH: oh I see

MeganCH: that's impressive

MeganCH: I am just beginning to teach

SandyG: but I have taught, pre kindergarten, grade 3, grades 6-8 math and even some educational technology classes

MeganCH: cool

SandyG welcomes Megan to a wonderful professions

MarshaR: I haven't seen some of the software for exploring math resources....this is exciting.

MeganCH: I am getting a masters in special education currently

SandyG: I wanted to share another part of Wendy's presentation if you are all ready

MarshaR nodding to Sandy

GailH: Your list is amazing.

GailH: Some of what you show has SO much good stuff...

SandyG: as an educational technologist as well as a teacher, I think it is important that we are using computers in a constructive way in the classroom

MeganCH: I agree

GailH: like the Math Dictionary for Kids -- if you go to bar graphs under B, you get to MAKE a bar graph with YOUR numbers.

SandyG: Wendy has developed a great chart stating what we should see when students are using the computers

SandyG: I will project it now

SandyG projects

http://www.mathcats.com/necc2005/Constructivism_Meets_Technology.doc

SandyG: that didn't work too well on my computer, how about anyone else, were you able to get it?

DavidWe met Wendy in Philadelphia recently, at the NECC conference

GailH: It is a document, not an html page

SandyG: David, she created a great presentation

SandyG: you're right Gail, I will have to upload the file to the group page

GailH: but I got that page you projected.

SandyG: Gail, you were able to get it as a word document

JeffCoo: The last url was for a Word document... so that it will be downloaded.

GailH: It is a chart comparing two things...

SandyG: yes Gail, that is it.

JodiL: I did not get it Sandy.

LaurenSe: I couldn't get the chart.

SandyG: Jodi and anyone else who didn't get the chart, I am going to give you the link to Wendy's presentation <http://www.mathcats.com/necc2005>

SandyG: from there you can click on Constructivism Meets Technology and download the word document

SandyG: time is just about up

JodiL: THANK YOU! =)

SandyG: so I'd like to wrap things up

SandyG: you're welcome Jodi

HelenK: thanks - lots to think about

LaurenSe: I got the webpage, thanks.

LaurenSe: Thanks Sandy.

DeborahCP: Thanks.

SandyG: I am so happy that all of you could be here today to share what we are doing in my district

KimMol: thanks

CarolF: Thank you

SandyG: I hope you will be able to join our group and come back and visit

GailH: This is a wonderful session Sandy.