

Title of Session: Preservice Teachers Forum
Moderator: Jan Naher-Snowden
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Room: On Tap Café

Jan_NS: Are all of you here for the Preservice teacher discussion?

AmberLD smiles

JenniHe: Yes

AmberLD: Yes Mam

Jan_NS: Welcome.

StephaniLo: thanks!

AmberLD: thank you

KristenHo: Thanks!

Jan_NS: I hope that each of you has taken the opportunity to look over the "Ten Step for a successful chat that is posted in this room.

KarenBor: Do you remember how to make the text box bigger. I can't remember

LisaS: Click on actions

Jan_NS: Anyone here for their first discussion at Tapped in?

AmberLD: I am

JenniHe: I am

StephaniLo: i am too

SofiaC: it gives you the "larger text" option..

LisaS: scroll down Karen

KristenHo: This is my first time as well.

LisaS: yep

KarenBor: Thanks!

Jan_NS: Lisa is sharing how to make your chat window larger so that the text does not go by so quickly.

SofiaC: no problem

Jan_NS: Go to "Actions" then select "Detach" - just make sure that you do not close the underneath window.

Jan_NS: Generally we begin the discussions with Introductions

KristenHo: I am an elementary education major at Montana State University. I will be student teaching next fall and am looking for some helpful ideas to use in my future classroom.

Jan_NS: I'm Jan - one of the facilitators for this discussion group. Faculty at Univ. of Akron Ohio, science education methods and instructional technology.

LisaS: Im a pre service teacher at UH in Houston

KarenBor: Hello, my name is Karen. I am a pre-service teacher at University of Houston (the semester before student teaching).

LisaS: Elementary ed

JenniHe: I am a pre-service teacher from Montana State University. I will be student teaching next spring.

MistyT: Hi my name is Misty I am also a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston

AmberLD: I am studying Elementary Education (K-8) at Montana State University, I will be student teaching in the fall

KarenBor: Elementary education as well

SofiaC: I'm Sofia. I'm doing Bilingual Elementary Education and will also be student teaching next semester

StephaniLo: My name is Stephanie and I am also a senior in the elementary Education program at MSU with a science option

SofiaC: (University of Houston)

KarenBor: Small group tonight. Hello everyone!

Jan_NS: Anyone we have missed?

Jan_NS: Welcome everyone.

StephaniLo: Thanks Jan!

Jan_NS: Glad to see that we have a congenial group tonight

KarenBor: So, what is the first thing we are going to talk about?

Jan_NS: Let's start off with a reflection question tonight - now that a good many of you are going to be student teaching in the near future...

SofiaC: ok

Jan_NS: how do you feel about your preparation for integrating technology into the curriculum to support meaningful learning?

Jan_NS: Take some time to think about that issue.

JenniHe: The first part of my degree training focused on technology integration, but now the focus is shifting to literature integration to support meaningful learning across the entire curriculum.

LisaS: I think that with the amount of classes we've had to take it's a little disappointing that we don't see technology as much in the schools

AmberLD: I personally feel very prepared to do this. I use technology often and can see both the pros and cons of technology

KristenHo: I wish that I had more experience using and teaching with technology. I also wish that I were more comfortable with various types of technology.

Jan_NS: any one else agree with that perception that Lisa shared?

MistyT: I feel like at U of H I have had a lot of preparation for technology, but now that I am in schools I don't see it as much as I feel that I should

SofiaC: I think that at UH we've received a good amount of preparation in integrating technology, I just don't like that the resources in the schools is not enough to support what we've learned (if that makes sense)

JenniHe: Yes, Lisa makes a good point that there is not much technology in the schools

KarenBor: I feel pretty well prepared. We have a great program at UH. I am a little discouraged my self with the little use of technology actually being used in the schools I observe.

StephaniLo: I feel somewhat prepared, but wish I knew more

AmberLD: I agree that the schools don't use technology much

MistyT: I feel that it scares some teachers

StephaniLo: I agree with Amber

Jan_NS: I am noticing two common threads here - do you agree?

LisaS: yep

KristenHo: Yes.

AmberLD: yes

SofiaC: yes

StephaniLo: yes

JenniHe: yes

MistyT: yes

LisaS: One problem is the resources

KarenBor: The teachers at my school I am at now only make it a habit to use technology if they are being evaluated.

SofiaC: same here!

LisaS: I agree they want to wow the observer

JenniHe: New technology is expensive and some school districts spend their money elsewhere

KarenBor: Lisa, our school actually has a good amount of resources, they are just unused.

MistyT: my school's idea of technology is the overhead

Jan_NS: First - in the schools, technology is not being used as much as we hope (a

variety of reasons for that) and second, that most of us would like to feel more prepared and experienced with a greater variety of technology.

AmberLD: My teacher uses the TV way too much, plus the old fashioned film reel

Jan_NS: Can we align with that statement?

KristenHo: Definitely.

StephaniLo: absolutely

JenniHe: yes

MistyT: yes

KarenBor: Yes

Jan_NS: Students where I teach say the same things.

Jan_NS: I went to an open house, visiting one classroom...

LisaS: Karen I think we have technology but not enough for each student to participate

Jan_NS: where all the computers were on carts with the monitors facing the wall.

KarenBor: WOW!

KristenHo: How sad!

StephaniLo: Oh no!!

Jan_NS: I was very upset - my son was in that class.

KristenHo: Ouch!

StephaniLo: In some lower income schools teachers would be so lucky to use those computers

AmberLD: bummer deal

DavidWe joined the room.

SofiaC: an elementary school?

KarenBor: The thing is, students actually love working on computers and other technologies.

Jan_NS: So, do you see any options to change this situation that you are noticing around the country.

DavidWe waves to Jan

Jan_NS waves and smiles to David

Jan_NS: We are all going to be faced with aging hardware, reluctant older teachers, and not enough to go around.

LisaS: I think it's a matter of effort, we have to be the next wave of teachers that integrates tech into many subjects

JenniHe: I know it is expensive, but some teachers use their own computers in the classroom. This could be helpful to have them available to students and let them use them whenever the opportunity arises

DavidWe notes that some teachers feel intimidated by students', often superior, knowledge of computers

KristenHo: I agree with David.

StephaniLo: Some teachers may feel intimidated by computers....I feel maybe some proper training needs to be put in place

MistyT: I think that is why it is important for new teachers to get more educated in technology

SusanR joined the room.

SofiaC: and as our teacher says, integrating technology isn't just computers. Teachers can do it using all types of things (cameras, etc.)

MistyT: I agree

LisaS: right Sofia

KristenHo: I think we forget this too often!

Jan_NS: exactly - we need to be open to creative thinking "out of the box".

Jan_NS: Each of you need to personalize this challenge - take a moment to consider three actions that you might take personally to influence change in the climate for using technology in any form in your future classroom and school.

DavidWe feels that is a tall order

Jan_NS: then let's share our ideas and possibilities.

MistyT: I think it would be great to help teach some technology things to other teachers at the school. I have already taught one teacher how to use powerpoint and now she uses it all of the time

Jan_NS: we can all start with baby steps.

Jan_NS: Great - Misty has identified a great way to assist another teacher.

KristenHo: Maybe I can make the first step just by pushing myself to use more technology in my everyday life.

JenniHe: good idea Kristen

Jan_NS: Exactly Kristen - now pick one area that you would like to make more of your routine.

KarenBor: When I am in the classroom, if my school does not have many resources I plan to bring in my own. Any exposure to different types of technology out there is helpful. ex. digital camera, ipod, laptop, etc...

SofiaC: I think I saw a teacher have her students take pictures of various activities they did throughout the year and at the end of the year she gave them each a copy of the class "photo album" on cd.

StephaniLo: I think we need to make technology available at all times in our classroom, not just every three months or so. If students see any form of technology being used a lot he or she will be more comfortable, therefore it can become more routine

LisaS: That's a good idea

StephaniLo: I saw a teacher do that too, Sofia

KarenBor: That is a cute idea.

Jan_NS: That is very personalizing approach - and one that could be done for any grade or class.

JenniHe: a variation of that is to let the kids take the pictures

KarenBor: Time consuming, but a great idea. I think that is why many teachers stay away from activities like that.

MistyT: Children love to use equipment other than computers this gets them activiey engaged in what they are doing

Jan_NS: exactly - over the course of the school year, you could scaffold the experiences so that by the end, the students are the coordinators of the project.

LisaS: that's very hands on! Maybe that could be turned into a digital story for them to add on to.

LisaS: through out the year

JenniHe: There are so many ways to take that project and make it student oriented

KristenHo: I like the idea of a digital story Lisa!

Jan_NS: Perhaps, changing our perspective about learning activities would be useful. And I see that you have some ideas about that.

KarenBor: They could even design their own class web site for parents to see what goes on in their classroom.

JenniHe: I like the idea Karen

LisaS: getting parents involved is a major plus!

KristenHo: Especially if the parents have experience with technology!

Jan_NS: A first grade teacher worked with her class to create a daily log of activities. The class negotiated would be included and added personal comments. This was posted everyday on the class website

JenniHe: Students learn so much better when they get to do the actual "doing" of the project.

MistyT: Not only do they learn better they have fun doing it

KarenBor: That is a good way to review with your students what yall did that day.

JenniHe: Technology can be a great way to get "hands-on" activities in your classroom.

Jan_NS: Important to remember that standards can be addressed through long term projects that are student directed.

SofiaC: When I was in elem school, our computer teacher started up a school newspaper that was totally formed by students... she served more as a guide. I have yet to see any other school do this

Jan_NS: Maybe a classroom newspaper would be another option.

KarenBor: I myself usually can't understand something unless I work with it myself and I feel that is the same for students.

LisaS: that's a great way to show the students it's not just about "Power points", Sofia

MistyT: I actually taught a lesson over classroom newspapers the students loved it.

Jan_NS: I agree Lisa - there is much more possible than Powerpoints.

SofiaC: yes, the students could be the ones who write the newsletters that go home

KarenBor: Great idea!

Jan_NS: Or that are posted to the class website.

SofiaC: true

Jan_NS: Digital images could be added for interest and to add another aspect.

SofiaC: images that the students could take as well!!

Jan_NS: Visual literacy is important and applies to all areas of the curriculum when students are involved in project-based learning such as this.

LisaS: this could also help ESL students make connections with language

AmberLD: great connection! We often forget about our ESL students

Jan_NS: Or students with specific learning needs.

SofiaC: Jan, what other equipment do you feel is easily accessible but often neglected by teachers?

KristenHo: good question Sofia

AmberLD: I was wondering the same thing

SofiaC: or resources even

Jan_NS: Well, we could consider that from two perspectives,...

Jan_NS: the first being resources, etc. for you as the teacher, ie. for classroom management, etc....

Jan_NS: or for use in supporting the curriculum

Jan_NS: Shall we start with the curriculum?

SofiaC: yes

KristenHo: yes

LisaS: I mostly see it as a management tool

LisaS: in the class rooms now

MistyT: I think it could be a good management tool also

AmberLD: how is it a management tool? Students get to go to the computer lab if they behave well?

KarenBor: Exactly

LisaS: As in a tool for the teacher

LisaS: Not exactly classroom mang

Jan_NS: Ok, Lisa - what are your thoughts on that.

MistyT: no not like that, they should always have access to technology it can be helpful to the teacher

JenniHe: Technology should not be used as a reward for good students. It should be accessible by all students

AmberLD: I agree

StephaniLo: I agree Jenni

LisaS: I meant as a tool to organize that all I see of technology now

MistyT: that's what I meant too

AmberLD: It is something they will work with for the rest of their lives, they need to learn how to use it now

Jan_NS: OK, most teachers feel comfortable taking their steps with organizing themselves and their work as a teacher.

SusanR . o O (lesson planning, worksheets, reporting, Individual Education Plans, teacher portfolios)

Jan_NS: Exactly Sue.

KarenBor: How can we apply that to our students?

Jan_NS: Now to bridge to including the students in using the technology - that is where many teachers feel more uncomfortable.

LisaS: right but it should be used as student centered in

Jan_NS: Yes,

MistyT: that is why there should be more training

AmberLD: most student can teach the teacher how to use the technology. Teachers don't like that idea

JenniHe: I think it is ok to admit to your students that you may not know how to use certain aspects of technology. It puts you as the teacher on the same playing field of learning together with your class.

Jan_NS: Training is definitely a plus - the idea of sharing how to use various tools and software, etc. with other teachers is a non-threatening way to ease into the idea of integrating technology into the curriculum.

KristenHo: nice Jenni

SofiaC: I agree

AmberLD: I also agree

KristenHo: I totally agree with you.

AmberLD: students love to teach the teacher something, makes them feel important

MistyT: me too

Jan_NS: Some teachers do not want to lose face with their students - confidence to let the students teach them is sometimes difficult.

JenniHe: But it is important to take that step

Jan_NS: Most of you sound comfortable with that prospect, however.

AmberLD: It is hard when it actually happens

KristenHo: I agree, but a good teacher should be able to deal with it knowing that in the end it is benefiting the students.

MistyT: but sometimes students need to know that teachers are not perfect

Jan_NS: true. but still difficult for some.

LisaS: teaching is a learning process

KristenHo: yeah, true!

Jan_NS: Exactly. thank goodness!

KarenBor: A never ending process.

MistyT: yes

AmberLD: But, I also like to have a student teach me their math or something to make sure they understand what they are doing, you could take the same approach

JenniHe: Exactly Amber

Jan_NS: True - difficult to organize in the day to day rush of the classroom and the lessons, etc.

KarenBor: You remember and understand things once you have explained it or taught it to someone else.

JenniHe: good habit to get into and if you have good classroom management skills it should not cause a problem

AmberLD: but if you have one student help teach the class, while you are, the same thing is happening

KarenBor: The students get more out of it.

Jan_NS: That is where project based learning and releasing students to work in small groups. etc. works so well.

KristenHo: good point Amber

Jan_NS: You are having good ideas tonight.

MistyT: cooperative grouping

AmberLD: All of us Montana people have great open minds, like our big blue sky! :)

KristenHo: Ha, Ha!

StephaniLo: hahaha.....that is right!!

Jan_NS: What about some resources that you could share with the more established teachers in your schools?

AmberLD: They should have a basic understanding of computers, if you slowly introduce software, that will get them used to the idea of technology

AmberLD: I say start them with something fun and enjoyable, not too tough

MistyT: basic

LisaS: not to intimidating

Jan_NS think Internet resources, unusual ideas for using common hardware, etc.

Jan_NS: "s"

SofiaC: as far as teacher or student resources?

Jan_NS: either

AmberLD: Tapped In would be a good start

Jan_NS: in what way, Amber?

KristenHo: true, we are using it

MistyT: but how many people actually know about this?

KarenBor: To get ideas from others in the chat.

SofiaC: definitely, I think they would enjoy sessions in which they get ideas for integrating technology in the classrooms

AmberLD: If we know, we can share

KristenHo: good point amber, that's how we found out about it

Jan_NS: great - I obviously agree with you on that idea.

KarenBor: It is just getting them to join.

Jan_NS grins

AmberLD: Tell one person at a time in your school. A good resource makes its way around fast

SofiaC: maybe talk to other teachers who have the same fear of increasing the use of technology

MistyT: I agree

KristenHo: promote it at faculty meetings

AmberLD: good one Kristen

JenniHe: good idea Kristen

Jan_NS: Each of you could offer to do a brief overview of what Tapped In offers - perhaps as a professional development workshop

AmberLD: or state wide workshops

MistyT: good idea

Jan_NS: true.

Jan_NS: how about an article in a local teacher newsletter.

SofiaC: in fact, I think these sessions might even be more beneficial than the actual school trainings because from what I hear all they go over is software such as Word and PowerPoint...

LisaS: I like that

KristenHo: are there specific sessions that explain how to use various programs?

SofiaC: that is a good idea

MistyT: true but if you get people who know more about it then the staff would get more out of it.

Jan_NS: Good observation Sofia - long term exploration of tools, software etc. with brainstorming for possible uses

AmberLD: have beginner, moderate, and advanced courses

Jan_NS: or peer sharing, tutoring, buddy system

AmberLD: That is what I was trying to say about sharing in your own school

Jan_NS: Like someone said earlier, if you teach it, you learn it better, too

MistyT: I agree

Jan_NS: For example, authentic assessment through the use of rubrics can be threatening.

Jan_NS: How can we make that process less painful? Introduce others to "Rubistar"

KristenHo: good idea

MistyT: I like that program

LisaS: I forgot about that website

SofiaC: what is the URL?

Jan_NS: <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/> -

KristenHo: thanks

SofiaC: thank you

KarenBor: This site is good for learning about new tools as well, not just how to do them. Just the other night I heard about blogging for the first time, then I did more research to find more out about it. (going back to get est. teachers to join).

KristenHo: what is blogging?

Jan_NS: good point, Karen.

KarenBor: Exactly!!!

BJB2 looks at the clock

Jan_NS: I discovered a class blog where others can comment and communicate with students.

Jan_NS thanks BJ for the reminder.

Jan_NS: Seems to me that we have come up with some action plans to assist the schools

we will be working with in the future.

JenniHe: Thank you Jan

MistyT: this discussion was great

MistyT: Thanks

LisaS: Thanks Jan! I've got some good ideas about technology integration

Jan_NS: What a great discussion tonight! You are great group

AmberLD: thanks

KarenBor: Thank You!!

KristenHo: thanks Jan and it was nice to hear from you all

BJB2: the next preservice teachers meeting is May 12

Jan_NS: Please come again and share more of your ideas and thoughts.

ElizabeGst9: thanks

BJB2 hopes everyone joined the preservice teachers group so they can access the resources there

SofiaC: thank you everyone!

LisaS: Bye All!

BJB2: and communicate by using the discussion board

Jan_NS: Thanks everyone.

BJB2 waves goodnight

KarenBor: BYE!

BJB2: thanks, Jan

Jan_NS: very welcome

Jan_NS hugs everyone

Jan_NS: Come again.

