

Title of Session: Classroom Assessment

Moderator: BJ Berquist, David Weksler, Susan Roseman

Title of File: 20070405ca

Date: April 5, 2007

Room: Classroom Assessment Group

BjB : we'll begin as soon as Maryann gets here...

BjB : while we wait, let's do some housekeeping chores...

DavidWe gets the vacuum (not his favorite chore)

BjB : a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BjB : if any urls are shared, either turn off your pop up blocker or hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url

BjB : Let's start with introductions. Please tell us where you are located and what interests you about assessment

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer and I lead a math education discussion here. I'm in New Jersey, close to New York City

SharonM: I am in Houston TX and since I am a preservice teacher, I am trying to learn all I can, especially about assessment.

TeresaJM: Hi I'm Teresa, and I'm from VA and my interest in assessment is that I am a first year teacher and was interested in learning more about the assessment process

DavidHer: I'm in Regina Saskatchewan Canada...I am in my 2nd year of elementary education and am here to check this out for my Ed computers class

MateenD: Mateen, San Antonio TX...elementary principal....I love assessing...

CristinaG: I'm a student teacher from University of Houston and I am in a second grade classroom. I'm interested in learning about different types of assessments I can use with my students

DavidWe smiles

MikeA: I am in Fredericksburg, VA. I am a grad student working towards licensure-HS social studies. I have a lot more to learn

MargoP: Hi, I'm Margo, a Teacher Librarian in Sydney Australia, it seems that traditional methods of assessment are changing in a digital world...

DavidWe likes Mateen's attitude towards assessment

MateenD: thanks David....very necessary component of education

DavidWe smiles and nods affirmatively

BjB thinks appropriate assessment with a purpose is important

DavidWe: Interested in portfolio assessment, Mateen?

MateenD: yes....

MateenD: would like more info

BjB : Mateen, have you participated in the ePortfolios discussions?

MateenD: no...don't think I have

MateenD: I've talked about them in a classroom setting...

BjB hopes DavidW and Sue are going to help lead this discussion until Maryann gets here

MateenD: but I was daydreaming at the time

SusanR : Sue from Ontario and interested in the changing nature of assessment

BjB : if you've not done so, you might want to check out the resources posted under Featured Items on the web window of this room

MargoP: Thanks, at our school we have written portfolio assessments, but seems to not be comprehensive enough - what does the eportfolio add?

DavidWe: A friend of mine, David Niguidula, runs a small company, Richer Picture, which works with schools to incorporate digital portfolios but also strategies for making schools more conducive to using alternative assessment

BjB : there is also a url on the whiteboard
<http://learnweb.harvard.edu/ALPS/tfu/info1b.cfm>

DavidWe: <http://www.richerpicture.com/>

MateenD: that sounds interesting David.

DavidWe: Very interesting

CristinaG: that's neat!

KristinaME: and fun

MargoP: what age group - looks like older kids in the photo?

DavidWe: One performance assessment I watched was a presentation by a student to two teachers to explain to them how she really understood a math concept - the video was the "digital portfolio assessment" item

DavidWe: I think the student I saw was in high school

CristinaG: they have elementary portfolio samples

DavidWe: but, I think it isn't necessarily only for high school students

DavidWe: I'm sure

TeresaJM: has anyone done portfolio assessments with preschoolers?

DavidWe: David is very interesting in teacher coaching, too - he sees it as an important way to do sustained professional development

DavidWe: Hold down the CONTROL key, Mateen, or...

MateenD: k....

SharonM: I have done traditional portfolios with preschool, but I really like the digital portfolios...

DavidWe: Allow pop-ups from Tapped In - a setting for your browser

MargoP: do you mean mentoring David?

DavidWe: I think that's another word for it, Margo

MateenD: what exactly is a digital portfolio?

BjB wonders if preschool could do ppt portfolios?

DavidWe: Mostly it's a portfolio that is kept on a hard drive, USB drive, some form of digital storage

DavidWe . o O (basic idea)

TeresaJM: that's really hard for preschoolers

MargoP: There are junior ppt programs that young ones can use - eg Kidpix

TeresaJM: because in most preschool classrooms there is little use of computers

MateenD: yea, Teresa, I was wondering how PK would do a digital portfolio

DavidWe: I think it is important for really young kids to use REAL materials too

TeresaJM: me too

SharonM: I think preschool could do it with the right support. I was surprised how much my preschoolers knew about computers.

DavidWe: They use them for games, Sharon, so...

CristinaG: yes I agree sharon

MikeA: Teresa, couldn't the teacher scan in examples-so to keep a digital port.?

TeresaJM: yes true...but that's a different story

SusanR: the digital portfolio gives students more ways to show what they know.

MateenD: yea, I have 3 yr old niece who can log onto websites, print etc...but her father taught her...

TeresaJM: that would be nice

MargoP: Does a digital portfolio only show complete products? What about thought processes that go on to get there?

BjB . o O (always can use scanners to make digital images...')

BjB . o O (Mike beat me to it!)

TeresaJM: but easier said than done

DavidWe: I think the digital portfolio is a tool

DavidWe: How the tool is used is up to the teacher, etc.

CristinaG: the students are always so eager to learn, we just have to find a way to give them more opportunities

MikeA: It is definitely more work for the teacher-but it might be easier to manage

DavidWe: I think it would be important to see developmental things, works in progress, etc.

BjB nods...same as any kind of assessment

DavidWe: Richer Picture provides schools with hardware/software solutions, too

MargoP: Yes, David, totally agree, especially when students are researching

TeresaJM: I know for me with having over 50 preschoolers that would be a lot because they have so much work to keep track of in their portfolios

KristinaME: digital work samples can accompany the traditional portfolio

DavidWe: But, mostly, my friend (also a David) is interested in the work with teachers - helping them figure out how to make the assessment meaningful

MikeA: 50 might be a little too many...

CristinaG: I agree Kristina

MargoP: Yes, big job to keep track of all their work

CristinaG: 50 students does sound like a lot

TeresaJM: yes, I know

DavidWe: Well, should students keep track of THEIR OWN work?

TeresaJM: a 3 year old?

MikeA: Teresa-That is Prince William County right?

TeresaJM: I think older students yes

CristinaG: if they are old enough, I think

MateenD: 3 is kinda young...

TeresaJM: yes

DavidWe: What work are we assessing for 3 year olds, anyway?

MateenD: where is PW County?

DavidWe wonders

TeresaJM: in va

MikeA: so that means next year will be 60????

DavidWe smiles

MikeA: or 70?

DavidWe: stop

TeresaJM: hahhaa

TeresaJM: mainly we assess their development based on what they should be doing for their age

DavidWe . o O ("plays well with others"?)

MargoP: lots to assess with 3 year olds - cognitive, social, co-ordination - lots happening at that age

DavidWe smiles

MikeA: I live in Spotsylvania, and the same growth is occurring and they are growing right out of their high stakes tests

DavidWe hopes we aren't giving 3 year olds paper and pencil tests

TeresaJM: nope don't worry

SharonM: The principal at the preschool where I just left wanted the 4 year olds tested for reading levels before the end of the year

DavidWe: Thank you

BjB . o O (crayons and fingerpaints)

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: much better

DavidW did some FINE work with fingerpaints

TeresaJM: well their are different ways to assess them with out "testing" them

MargoP: running records?

KristinaME: yes there is

SharonM: I agree

TeresaJM: yep

BjB: this was the point Maryann was trying to make last month, Teresa

KristinaME: anecdotal records

CristinaG: yes

TeresaJM: every "season"

CristinaG: digital pictures

TeresaJM: ok

MateenD: we have running records

KristinaME: yes pictures speak louder than words

CristinaG smiles

TeresaJM: that is true

SharonM: that's why I like the portfolios because they can actually show a child's growth over time

MargoP: Yes, maybe with older children too, we already use portfolios with lots of photos, lots of paper though!

MikeA: digital pictures can certainly show a work in progress

MateenD: I've heard a lot about portfolios...still haven't SEEN a good one...

KristinaME: yes they do and it allows students to select their best work also

MateenD: photos of what? school work?

TeresaJM: yes...but what to include...some say work in progress and some say final works...this question could apply to all grades

MikeA: for younger students...why not?

MateenD: what would a typical portfolio of a high school senior include?

KristinaME: photos of students engaged in an hands on activity, a photo of a finished product...

MateenD: over how much time?

MikeA: You could include essays, project outlines, almost anything. I actually have one for Grad school myself

TeresaJM: what about things other then photos?

TeresaJM: ok thanks

MikeA: All four years for high school...I'd think

KristinaME: that depends on what goals are set

MargoP: Yes photos of work and working on various projects - we have introduced student-led conferences for parents and kids to talk about their work - very effective

TeresaJM: sounds good

MateenD: hmmm....I can see the merit...

DavidWe . o O (videos, audios, FLASH animation)

CristinaG: that's great!

SusanR: take a look at the kindergarten journey here ..
<http://showcase.k12hsn.org/gallery.php?cmd=vi&typ=mda>

TeresaJM: ok thanks

SusanR: They are documenting their journey through their kindergarten year

DavidWe: cool, Susan

MikeA: Mateen-I think the merit is for the students to show real growth instead of being forced to sit in a pressurized environment where it is fail or pass

SusanR: there are other notable digital projects that can be used for assessment

MargoP: Susan, that's impressive

TeresaJM: that is true

MateenD: that's great....I just believe paper pencil should not be taken out

CristinaG: awesome!!!

SharonM: Susan, that's great!

TeresaJM: well it can't be

TeresaJM: especially with sol's

MateenD: the URL with Kinder is hot.....

SusanR: Take a look at Geometry Around Us

MargoP: What is sol's? is it standardized testing?

MikeA: Unfortunately

MargoP: in certain grades?

TeresaJM: we can't get completely away from paper and pencil especially when they are taking sol's...the government/state standard's tests

TeresaJM: that students must pass

MikeA: 3-12

TeresaJM: in order to go to the next grade...in va they expect everyone to pass by 2011 I believe...which is not likely

MateenD: everyone?

CristinaG: geometry all around us is awesome...students uploading digital pics and cropping the pics is great! It's amazing what students can do on their own these days

MikeA: It will be a miracle..this year when the expected rate is in the high 80s for passing

TeresaJM: yes....its part of the "no child left behind act"

MargoP: Are students graded on these tests? ie ABCDE?

MateenD: where ru Mike?

TeresaJM: no...just they need to pass it

SharonM: Texas is the same. Students must pass the TAKS test in order to go on to the next grade and/or to graduate

MikeA: VA

MateenD: yea...Sharon...I was gonna say the same thing

MateenD: same as Mike in VA

MateenD: I want to relocate to VA

TeresaJM: very tough teaching requirements here....

MateenD: where is that Teresa?

TeresaJM: va

MateenD: oh...u2

TeresaJM: yep

MikeA: You can find some relaxed areas, but you'll be out of civilization

TeresaJM: yep so true

MateenD: what part of VA...Mike, Teresa...

MikeA: Teresa is about 30 miles north of me in Prince William. I am in Spotsylvania- the southern tip of Northern VA

TeresaJM: northern va....but I've also lived in southern va

MateenD: oh....I've never heard of Spotsylvania.....

DavidWe . o O (Virginia!)

MateenD: what's the story behind the name?....didn't mean to get off track

MikeA: Read up on the Civil War and it will be there...four times(sorry, I'm a wannabe ss teacher)

TeresaJM: near Fredericksburg

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Good going, Mike

MikeA: Spotsylvania=Spotswood's woods for Governor Spotswood (England)

MateenD: cool Mike...civil war is interesting stuff

MateenD: wow....I learned something new every time I chat here....

TeresaJM: well if you come to va you get lots of it

MikeA: yes you do...it is EVERYWHERE

MateenD: is there a VA history requirement to graduate from high school?

TeresaJM: hahah...that is basically the only history we get

MikeA: I believe it is successfully passing four SOLs (Geography, World Hist, VA Hist, and Govt.)

MikeA: Or any other one you might try instead of those four, but they are the usual suspects

MateenD: hmm...there real anal about TX history around here....

TeresaJM: yes....but I would have to say there is a lot put on va history at an early grade

SharonM: isn't that the truth!

TeresaJM: I think that's the way it is where ever you live

BjB thinks that each state does pretty much the same thing

MikeA: Tell me about it....my wife is a fourth grade teacher

MikeA: she hates history

MateenD: 4th...7th....college.....

MateenD: and we still don't know what Mar 2nd represents....

TeresaJM: ok so have another question about assessments....has anyone ever had a problem with a parent after showing them their child's assessment?

MikeA: I spend a lot of March, April, and May trying to help her prepare her students with fun review activities

MateenD: lol Teresa...

MateenD: data doesn't lie....only to parents

TeresaJM: hahaha...true

MikeA: problems with parents...that doesn't happen, does it???

MateenD: Dinah Zikes Mike....

MateenD: check her out...

MateenD: excellent materials

MikeA: you teachers are scaring me...

MateenD: what do u do Mike?

TeresaJM: hahaha....well not every teacher likes you

MikeA: I'm still working towards my licensure. I am currently self employed

DavidWe: Good luck, Mike

MateenD: oh....u will love teaching....if u like kids...

TeresaJM: hahaha...well isn't that a must

MateenD: ALL kinds of kids...

MikeA: My experiences haven't been too bad to date

MateenD: u would think Teresa...

CristinaG: definitely a must

MateenD: a principal once told me....the problem with these teachers is that they don't like kids

SharonM: I think I've met a few of those teachers!

BjB : right!

TeresaJM: I know....there are a lot of teachers out there that don't really care for kids

MargoP: what a shame, I guess too some it's just a job, shame

TeresaJM: yep it is a real shame

KristinaME: yes that just love summer break

MateenD: and the kids know if u don't like them...and eat your lunch daily thereafter

TeresaJM: yep

MikeA: Were they like that at the beginning though...or was it a S-L-O-W decline

CristinaG: you can tell when the teachers are truly there for the students

MateenD: slow decline I believe...

MateenD: took about 1 week

TeresaJM: I think some are burned out but others never really had the passion

MikeA: My wife is always there for the students...but this year she has hit the wall

MikeA: HARD

KristinaME: yes those teachers do not mind tutoring during planning time, before school, or after school. It is all about the students

TeresaJM: what does she teach?

BjB hopes it's not history

MargoP: IN Australia, people don't choose teaching as a career for the pay, must begin with a love of kids

MikeA: 4th grade-language arts

MateenD: why Mike?

TeresaJM: well in the usa we don't choose it for the money either

MateenD: I agree Teresa

MikeA: She has a very chatty group of students and parents who believe their children are either geniuses or angels

MateenD: I didn't

BjB agrees with Teresa

MikeA: And they are neither

MateenD: 19,500 per year in 1996

CristinaG: also agree with Teresa

MateenD: 42+ in 2007

MikeA: I certainly am not switching for the money!

MateenD: I love it for the teachers...

TeresaJM: well in va its between 30-40 for starting teachers

BjB : does the admin support your wife, Mike?

MateenD: if u coach at the high school level...starting salary for 1st year teacher....48+

CristinaG: wow!

TeresaJM: wow

MikeA: Her principal does not like confrontation and it is like Customer Service at Macy's for the parents "whatever you want!"

BjB . o O (successful schools have to have a good collaboration between admin and teachers)

TeresaJM: if you get your masters you may get some more in va ...it all depends on the county

MateenD: agree bj

TeresaJM: I agree too

TeresaJM: I have run in to more principles that are like that though...the ass. principles seem to be stronger/harder on the students

MateenD: I can't believe the jump in salary.....but I'm all for it....teachers should start at least around 50

MateenD: we principal have to be politicians sometimes

MikeA: I think that is the major problem (admin support in this school)

TeresaJM: yes that would be nice

MateenD: teachers want kids punished to the fullest extent of the law....

TeresaJM: not all teachers

TeresaJM: I think teachers really want respect

MateenD: however,,,,,,students have due process.....

MateenD: I agree Teresa

TeresaJM: and that means respect from both students and parents

MikeA: At least so they learn a lesson. If the child is a repeat offender-the talking just ain't working!

MateenD: true....

TeresaJM: different things work for different students

MateenD: but what about teachers who show up for work late....don't input grades....don't do basic things>

MateenD: year after year?

SharonM: That's also a problem

MateenD: those r the teachers who want to punish kids for everything they do

TeresaJM: well they should be fired....aren't there some evaluation process for teachers

MikeA: they need to get out-because they are taking the spot of someone who wants to be there

SharonM: I think sometimes we feel that there's just not enough time in the day...

MateenD: yea....but u need to consult congress b4 getting rid of one

TeresaJM: or the teachers that don't care and just pass students along to be another teachers problem

MargoP: Is there merit based pay for performance at all?

MateenD: in Houston TX i think there is

BjB thinks the topic has changed from kgtn assessment to assessment of teachers

SharonM: Yes HISD

MikeA: not that I am aware of in VA

MateenD: sorry bj....

TeresaJM: I have heard of teachers that get passed from school to school because of how bad they are

BjB smiles...no problem...both are important

MateenD: yep...I try not to accept them

MateenD: actually, the best time to get rid of a poor teacher is in their first 2-3 years...

MikeA: I've seen one of those first hand, but she moved

MateenD: while on probation...

TeresaJM: of course

MikeA: up to you Teresa

MateenD: also....student teaching is a must in my book

MargoP: Ok, sorry, off the topic, our new State leader has indicated he will support merit based pay- sorry off the topic,

MateenD: alternative is)(*(*

MikeA: I don't know about that Mateen...I am almost 30-I think I am better prepared than a 21 y.o. grad student

MateenD: I agree Mike...it REALLY REALLY depends on the person....

MateenD: I say student teaching because it affords u the chance to make mistakes

MikeA: but with NCLB-I have to do it (which I am in the Fall)

TeresaJM: I don't know about that....I'm only 24 and I've worked with kids, either at the camp level or sub, or preschool, or art teacher for over 8 years

MateenD: just by u being here says a lot Mike...

TeresaJM: so I think I'm pretty prepared

MateenD: u also Teresa...

MikeA: I agree with that. I was lucky enough to do some long term subbing and three great practica

MateenD: ya'll have experience with kids.....

MikeA: Could you talk to some principals in VA for me?

MateenD: I'm talking about the bank teller who had a dream...

MargoP: hopefully teamed with a strong mentor teacher?

MateenD: thinking they could teach

MikeA: We have some of them in my classes....

TeresaJM: yes my practicums were great too...I do agree student teaching will be great for me too though...because it will give me a chance to see again either a great teacher or one that i may not want to be like

MateenD: right Teresa...and still decide if u want to do it...

BjB . o O (SELF ASSESSMENT!)

MateenD: I've seen student teachers quite b4 starting

SharonM: I am in student teaching now and I am REALLY glad that I chose to student teach!

CristinaG: that's true Teresa, it really does depend on the teacher you are with.

MikeA: My only problem is if I stop working for 4 months...I don't get paid

MateenD: u will be excellent Sharon...

TeresaJM: I know what you mean

SharonM: That's my biggest problem, Mike

MateenD: yep....that's the dilemma..

BjB nods to Mike. I went through that also

KristinaME: I am also in my student teaching

MateenD: where Kristina?

TeresaJM: some places hire you and let your first semester count as your student teaching

KristinaME: I have learned and grown so much these passed months

MikeA: That is what is taking me awhile. I will have my Masters before-hand and almost have a tech certificate before I student teach

CristinaG: I was luck enough to be placed with two amazing teachers. Amazing but each offered diff classroom experiences

MikeA: I have a friend doing that now Teresa

MikeA: but she is a math teacher-high need

SharonM: I feel the same way Cristina. What district are you in?

TeresaJM: I know some friends doing that too

CristinaG: gpisd

MateenD: honestly....there is no shortage of teachers....there is a severe shortage of GOOD teachers....

CristinaG: that's true Mateen

SharonM: I agree as the mother of 3 daughters...

KristinaME: I agree

MikeA: exactly-so lets get rid of the bad ones and give me a chance

MikeA: and if I am bad- get rid of me too!

MateenD: hahah Mike...

CristinaG: and that's my goal, to be the best teacher I can be to ALL of my students

MateenD: Mike...if ur good...u can really have your choice of schools...

TeresaJM: hahaha....but what about the poor kids you may affect on the way?

MateenD: u actually interview the principal....

MikeA: I know I'm good...I just need to get in;)

MateenD: u will....

BjB: I do apologize for Maryann not being here to lead the discussion...

MikeA: one day

DavidWe: But, we seemed to have done okay

CristinaG: the discussion was great anyway

BjB: but you've all done such a great job having a good discussion

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe cheers for the group

CristinaG smiles

KristinaME: yes it was

TeresaJM: it was fun

MateenD: yes....it was great

MikeA: a lot of fun

BjB: and sometimes we all need time to just brainstorm and vent

SharonM: yes, I had a good time

DavidWe: Thanks to you all - it's the nature of Tapped In - good collaboration

MateenD: good luck to those of u stud teaching...

MargoP: Interesting to hear from you all

KristinaME: VENT!!!

SharonM: Thanks!

TeresaJM: thanks....have a great nite!

BjB: Thank you all for your participation

MateenD: peace and blessing

BjB: have a safe holiday

SharonM: Good night!

MikeA: Good night all

BjB waves goodnight

MargoP: It's Good Friday here in Australia - holidays!

ElinaS: good night

CristinaG: bye