

Title of Session: FIRST Robotics

Moderator: Patricia Chen

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Room: Robotics Group (K-12)

BjB cheers. Let the party begin!

PatriciaCh: Let's introduce ourselves

LizetteG: OK, let's begin

BrittanyRM: Thanks Bj

PatriciaCh: I teach math in a middle school, in Florida

BrittanyRM: what grade?

PatriciaCh: I am a mentor on the middle and high school robotics

LizetteG: who am I talking to?

PatriciaCh: I teach 7th

PatriciaCh: My name is Pat

BrittanyRM: how do you like it? How long have you been teaching?

PatriciaCh: I have taught 6 and 7....for 7 years...before that elementary level in NY

BrittanyRM: That sounds like fun, do you enjoy 7th grade rather than 6?

PatriciaCh: Please introduce yourselves

BrittanyRM: sorry I am Brittany and I am a student at Texas A&M Kingsville

LizetteG: My name is Lizette Gonzalez, and I attend UTPA in Edinburg, TX.

PatriciaCh: I like 6th betterthe hormones are not raging yet....but 7th grade and up...students are allowed to use a calculator

BrittanyRM: I will like to teach early childhood-K

PatriciaCh: They are a nice group..... I taught Kindergarten before...I like nap time and story time

BjB: I still like nap time and storytime

PatriciaCh: What do you want to know about robotics?

BrittanyRM: do you use robotics in your class discussion?

PatriciaCh: well, junior Lego is a great way....kids learn to work together and solve problems as they play

BjB: that will make it much easier to read the chat

PatriciaCh: when I teach measurement ...I use the concept as examples

BjB: Pat, since we have someone interested in the kinders...

PatriciaCh: yes..

BjB: can you suggest math and science ideas that would plant seeds for future robotics participants?

PatriciaCh: with younger children....the students have to work together to achieve a mission

PatriciaCh: the mission can be a simple activity...build a robot to retrieve an item

PatriciaCh: there are no right or wrong answers.....the students learn to listen and try to build one

PatriciaCh: if you go to www.usfirst.org click on the LEGO League tab...you will have additional information

PatriciaCh: you do not have to participate in the tournaments to use LEGOs in your class room....

BrittanyRM: looks like technology will play a major role in the world

PatriciaCh: if you teach perimeter and area...LEGOs are useful

PatriciaCh: technology is here to stay....how we use it to teach the kids is the question

PatriciaCh: someday....we may be able to teach from our homes versus a school....

PatriciaCh: LEGOs allow the kids to do more hands - on

PatriciaCh: and it is useful friendly...

BrittanyRM: That is crazy to think about

PatriciaCh: our lives are changing everyday

PatriciaCh: do you have a cell phone?

BrittanyRM: yes

PatriciaCh: can you imagine not having a cell phone now?

BjB: the problem teachers are having isn't so much the changes as keeping up with the learning curve

BrittanyRM: yes it do change everyday

BrittanyRM: no way

PatriciaCh: yes....it is hard to keep up with the changes

BjB: kids do it much better than adults

BrittanyRM: I agree with that because once school get enough to afford one thing something else comes out

PatriciaCh: I am teaching in a new school building....every room has a projector and document camera which takes the place of the old style projector

BrittanyRM: wow

PatriciaCh: it took me a while to get used to using the document camera and making PowerPoint presentations as instructional material

PatriciaCh: the only thing that I do not have is a Smart Board....

BrittanyRM: I think they will have robots teaching my kids later in life

PatriciaCh: maybe ...maybe not

BrittanyRM: those are great for teaching

PatriciaCh: I watched I ROBOT last night

PatriciaCh: yes....but it was too expensive so my district opted not

BrittanyRM: I did to and that was crazy how they were trained by voice

PatriciaCh: we also have a speaker system...so the kids cannot say they could hear you...

PatriciaCh: also you can play music all day

BrittanyRM: that was my first time watching that and it was pretty good, and exciting up until they turned on humans

PatriciaCh: yes....I guess that it can happen

BjB thinks that it's more important to teach children to think and how to learn

BjB : then they will be better prepared to adapt to changes

PatriciaCh: humans are more effective than robots

PatriciaCh: and learn to be responsible

BjB : and kind

PatriciaCh: kind and polite....key traits that kids have to have

BjB : Brittany, when do you graduate?

BrittanyRM: May 2009

BjB : halfway there! I missed what you hope to teach?

BrittanyRM: early childhood

BjB nods

PatriciaCh: Are you only considering K - 3?

BrittanyRM: yes

BrittanyRM: maybe 4th, but I would like K

PatriciaCh: not K - 6?

PatriciaCh: in Florida...you can certify K - 3 or K -6

BjB thinks Texas may do that differently

PatriciaCh: mostly likely

PatriciaCh: most people opt to K - 6 ...be flexible

BrittanyRM: no they are too big, and I don't think I will be able to handle them

PatriciaCh: but I have a few friends that only went for K - 3

PatriciaCh: what do you mean by too big?

BjB: classroom management isn't done by physical strength, Brittany.

BrittanyRM: age wise, I do better with younger kids

PatriciaCh: young kids can be very demanding...

BrittanyRM: why do you say that?

BrittanyRM: older kids seems to come off as demanding to me

BjB: we're just showing our doddering old age, Brittany

PatriciaCh: I taught kindergarten and first grade before

BjB winks at Pat

PatriciaCh: You have to help them with the shoelaces...zippers

PatriciaCh: I can go on and on

BjB chuckles. Velcro now

PatriciaCh: they are cute and love to hug

PatriciaCh: feelings get hurt real easy...

BrittanyRM: oh yea that's not a problem with me, I know it will be a lot to handle but I kind of like the hard work

PatriciaCh: Thank the Lord for velcro and pull up pants

BjB: our hour is about up. Brittany, what you will find, no matter what grade you teach, is that you will miss having the opportunity to talk with colleagues

BjB: when that happens I hope you'll log in to Tapped In...

PatriciaCh: I hope you will stop by again

BrittanyRM: I will try to it was nice talking to you both

BjB: join the K-3 discussions, and just stop by to chat. We enjoy talking to new teachers.

BjB: Thanks, Pat, for being here. Not a lot of discussion about robotics, but interesting

PatriciaCh: yes....it is always great to talk to others....robotics is not everything

PatriciaCh: even though I would love to have a Rosie

BjB smiles. Is that one of the robotic vacuum cleaners?

BrittanyRM: what's a Rosie?

PatriciaCh: as BJ will say ...we are showing our age..Rosie is the robotic maid on the Jetsons

PatriciaCh: BJ -- that is a Roomba

BjB grins. You are right...sorry!

BjB wants a Roomba

PatriciaCh: Pat wants a Rosie

BjB: I've got to head for the K-3 discussion. Any last words of wisdom, Pat?

PatriciaCh: none..

PatriciaCh: Have a good night

BrittanyRM: night

BrittanyRM left the room.

PatriciaCh: Thanks