

Title of Session: Classroom Assessment

Moderator: Maryann Durland

Title of File: 20071213assessment

Date: December 13, 2007

Room: Classroom Assessment Group

RyanCL joined the room.

BJB2: good job, Ryan :-)

RyanCL: Thanks BJ. This is definitely a bit overwhelming but enjoyable.

BJB2 smiles. Tapped In is a pretty cool place

RyanCL: I see we have the two of us and we're waiting on 15!

BJB2: well, one more would be nice. If Maryann doesn't log in we'll do some stuff on our own, Ryan

BJB2: while we wait....

BJB2: take a look at the stuff above this chat window

RyanCL: Sounds good. Maybe we can just wait a few minutes to see how it plays out.

BJB2: Maryann has some featured files and links

RyanCL: How can I get there???

BJB2: do you see the screen above this chat?

RyanCL: Never mind...I See the screen above. Thanks

BJB2: there is a welcome note.

BJB2: below the welcome note is featured items

BJB2: those are all live links....when you click on them a new window will open for you

RyanCL: So I've tried to open a few and I keep getting a response that they will not open...any suggestions on a program to use for access?

BJB2: what won't open? I just clicked on the assessment plan and it opened

BJB2: and Test items opened....those are pdf files

RyanCL: When I clicked on the plan it asked me to choose a program to open the file with...

BJB2: adobe acrobat

RyanCL: K

BJB2: Tell me a little about what you teach, Ryan...sounds very challenging

BJB2: I recently read where a school in Harrisburg is starting an alternative school for K-2 for acting out kids

BJB2: . o O (the plan is that by the time they're in middle school they will no longer be a problem)

RyanCL: Well I definitely have a new story for my book every day! I cover 9-12 with another teacher. I started the program. With the amount of kids we have they needed a new teacher. Our rosters are up to about 22 give or take depending on who leaves or not. The best way to describe it is there is a new problem everyday.

BJB2 nods solemnly. Is your classroom self contained?

RyanCL: Well officially we're all inclusion. My kids have a lot of issues. If they're having a good day I may not see them. Some I only touch base with a few times a month. Others are in the room constantly. We have a great support staff and my admin is so supportive. I'm a grad of Norwin and my dad is a retired principal. The guys I work for are great.

RyanCL: It's sort of a hit or miss on a daily basis.

BJB2 nods. How do the kids get referred to your classroom?

RyanCL: All the evaluations are done on a school psychologist evaluation as well as doctor evals. We work their primary disability as an emotional problem as opposed to a learning disability.

BJB2: I've had a little experience with these kinds of kids, Ryan...

RyanCL: I love my job...it's hard for content teachers to realize what we do...I actually don't have any formal classes or even have a gradebook. We monitor and work as the kids need us. It's great to see a profile.

BJB2: I'm sure the kids appreciate all you do for them!

BJB2: by the time we get our kids, most of them are so institutionalized or have perfected their games

BJB2: that it's difficult to get past the emotional and social issues so the students can learn

RyanCL: I have to apologize since this is my first time on the sight I can't give you a profile...I graduated in 1998 and graduated from Saint Francis in 2003. Extended plan! Outside of school I just got engaged a few weeks ago to my wonderful better half of over 2 years! It's exciting! It must be tough for you to try and work them in to a normal routine. My kids are bright for the most part but like you said...it's social and emotional

BJB2: congratulations on your engagement! How exciting :-)

BJB2: I'm going to show you how to edit your profile, Ryan...

BJB2: click on the ME tab at the top of your screen

BJB2: then click on Settings on the right of the yellow menu bar

RyanCL: It's great. We've lived together for a year and have a dog! Sounds great!

BJB2: from ME/Settings you can edit your profile, description, change your email and change your password

BJB2: make sure your email is correct and up to date...

RyanCL: I'm in...thanks!!!!

BJB2: when you log out you will be emailed a transcript of our text chat

RyanCL: Excellent!!!

RyanCL: I am really excited about the site and will have to spend some time over break to create a profile.

RyanCL: Are you around the capital??

BJB2: about 25 miles nw

BJB2: in Perry County

BJB2: you know how to view the calendar, Ryan?

BJB2 . o O (Tapped In tab then Calendar in the blue menu bar)

MaryannDu joined the room.

BJB2: all the events on the calendar are real time text chats

MaryannDu: hi

BJB2 faints

MaryannDu: so sorry

MaryannDu: lol

BJB2: Hi, Maryann!

MaryannDu: Hi

BJB2: I was worried

MaryannDu: thanks for the email

RyanCL: I viewed the calendar. There's a lot to see! Hi Maryann

MaryannDu: I just got back from Troy NY and totally forgot everything

MaryannDu: lol

BJB2: Ryan is a new TI member....

MaryannDu: hi Ryan

MaryannDu: how are you?

RyanCL: It's crazy around...Hi...great to be a part of the site

RyanCL: Life's great

BJB2 . o O (community, Ryan ;-)

MaryannDu: lol

MaryannDu: so what have you been doing?

BJB2 . o O (Ryan recently got engaged :-) No wonder he thinks life's great!)

MaryannDu: ok

MaryannDu: sounds very nice

RyanCL: I was just telling BJ I got engaged...summer of 2009...my fiancé is a teacher in the district...that's how we met

MaryannDu: nice

BJB2: we've been discussing emotionally challenged students

RyanCL: you two are fast

MaryannDu: what do you teach?

RyanCL: High School ES

MaryannDu: ok

BJB2: Maryann is much better at assessment lingo than I am, Ryan.

MaryannDu: do you work with teachers or is it self contained

MaryannDu: pull out of self contained

RyanCL: Both...mostly I go out and have the other ES teacher work with the kids and we have an instructional aide too.

MaryannDu: ok

MaryannDu: what are some of the issues you are coming across?

RyanCL: My kids have a tough time getting organized...we work hard and have seen improvement...their emotional concerns with their peers and home lives are a daily battle

MaryannDu: right

MaryannDu: do your kids get other kinds of help?

RyanCL: I love them and have a great relationship with them...most of them have outside help...I have kids that get in home and some that are on probation which helps

MaryannDu: I would imagine that each of them comes with a variety of problems

RyanCL: Every kid is so different in their own way...it' funny but after you get to know them you almost know what to expect

MaryannDu: right. they have a pattern of behavior and thought processes

RyanCL: It's funny because most of the issues they face start at home!

MaryannDu: yes, I agree.

MaryannDu: and school has to be the place that they learn that there is something different, I think

MaryannDu: that they can succeed no matter what is on the outside

RyanCL: I never know what I'm going to get when I walk through the door...school at times is put on the back burner

MaryannDu: yes. it has to be

MaryannDu: but you can also work both in together.

MaryannDu: I once worked with a group of 7-8 graders, about 9 of them

RyanCL: We always do...I'm in constant contact with parents...it makes it easy...they are very supportive

MaryannDu: who all had really serious emotional issues and were not succeeding in school, but had been, or could have been doing much better.

MaryannDu: that is great about the parents

MaryannDu: we created a reading program that addressed their emotional needs and their need to do much better in reading

RyanCL: it's funny how kids with ES issues bring so much to the table

MaryannDu: yes

MaryannDu: they see and understand a lot and need to filter it out and figure out they are not alone

RyanCL: I have a girl who is literally a genius beyond her age but has such an issue at home we'll never know where she'll end up

MaryannDu: yes. but she can take control and learn how to figure that out.

MaryannDu: what grade??

MaryannDu: hs

MaryannDu: so she has a bit more autonomy and ability to find out how to move forward

MaryannDu: do counselors help find colleges, get the kids tested, or do you have mentors who help the kids find out that there is more out there?

BJB2: I would think that learning how to take control would be very enabling to that child

MaryannDu: yes.

RyanCL: Right...the problem is she's 15 and really acts like she's 25...so mature and yet so young and ignorant...she is so caught up in everything around her

MaryannDu: right

MaryannDu: with a mentor she could learn to focus on what she wants and use those skills to create a path

RyanCL: We work well with the guidance dept. Most go on to pursue a degree

BJB2: do you have medication issues?

MaryannDu: find out who to talk to, research areas she might like to study, etc

RyanCL: We work with outside Drs but sometimes it's never right

MaryannDu: that is good about pursuing a degree

MaryannDu: right

RyanCL: she will be amazing in a college setting if she can get away from home

MaryannDu: would she be able to if she got a scholarship etc?

RyanCL: yes...the family has no money and both parents are in a bad way...a shame

BJB2: what about community college courses to help her now?

MaryannDu: part of the process is finding out how to make it happen and where it could happen

MaryannDu: yes is that possible

MaryannDu: would do you feel that you see she needs right now?

RyanCL: She would excel at an ivy league school..ATTENDANCE AND THE LACK OF ability to separate from mom is the problem

MaryannDu: does mom hold on or does she?

MaryannDu: 15 year olds usually want to be away from mom!!

RyanCL: She needs to be with a family that will treat her like a 15 year old...not a friend

MaryannDu: ok

MaryannDu: but since that is not going to happen. and she is smart. and won't be getting a new mom, what could she do that would help her see a different future?

MaryannDu: does she want to go to college?

MaryannDu: is she in groups at school? clubs?

RyanCL: we're working with the PO to provide some help. hopefully we can use law enforcement to help

RyanCL: she is a different kind of kid

MaryannDu: to get the attendance up???

RyanCL: she started a gay straight alliance club which is wonderful but the kids around her struggle with her intelligence

MaryannDu: many many kids lead lives that we would be shocked by

RyanCL: Her attendance was terrible until we put her on probation

RyanCL: true

MaryannDu: so she is good at organizing

RyanCL: absolutely

RyanCL: be right back

MaryannDu: she needs a new organizing task. and to identify that she is highly intelligent and that she may not fit in for all the time, but that she has a role to play with her classmates

MaryannDu: ok

RyanCL: Ladies...I just got a call from my future wife...my dog is out of control..thank you so much for the insight...I hope to chat soon.

RyanCL: Enjoy the holiday

MaryannDu: ok

MaryannDu: enjoy!

BJB2: you too, Ryan. Nice meeting you

MaryannDu: see you maybe after the holiday!

RyanCL: Very nice meeting both of you!

RyanCL: I hope sooner than that

BJB2: Classroom Assessment will meet in January, Ryan

BJB2 . o O (second Thursday)

MaryannDu: lol

BJB2 . o O (if Maryann remembers ;-))

RyanCL: Thanks...nite!

MaryannDu: lol

MaryannDu: and it is on my calendar

MaryannDu: It is interesting what teachers questions are

BJB2: I always learn so much.

MaryannDu: and how they think about things

MaryannDu: I do too!

MaryannDu: do you get the same kinds of questions ?

MaryannDu: sort of core questions

BJB2: always...no matter what the topic

MaryannDu: right

MaryannDu: that's what I figured

BJB2: teachers are desperate to make connections and know that they're not alone

MaryannDu: it is really about the core and not so much about any topic!

MaryannDu: yes

BJB2 nods

MaryannDu: are more teachers getting involved in discussions

BJB2: sometimes yes...depends on what part of the semester it is

MaryannDu: right

BJB2: lots of preservice teachers

MaryannDu: right

BJB2: and right now we're getting a lot of grad students taking computer literacy classes

MaryannDu: do you think other teachers would like something?

MaryannDu: ok

MaryannDu: I think a good discussion group would be a book group

MaryannDu: read and discuss more frequently

MaryannDu: would teachers want that?

BJB2: have you joined the TI Presenter's Guide group?

MaryannDu: have you heard of Rensselaer poly tech?

MaryannDu: no, I don't think so.

BJB2 nods. Yes, I have

MaryannDu: that is where we were this week.

MaryannDu: so much going on

BJB2: join that group, Maryann...there is an interesting thread about what teaching teachers are looking for

MaryannDu: ok

MaryannDu: I will

BJB2: yes, that's a major science hub

MaryannDu: yes

MaryannDu: very interesting

MaryannDu: I am going to go look for that group

BJB2 nods.

MaryannDu: see you later

MaryannDu: thanks for your help

BJB2: And think about the book group too...that sounds good

MaryannDu: ok

BJB2 hugs...have a wonderful and safe holiday