Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom
Moderator: Donna Hendry
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DonnaH: "Well, I'll start with introductions, since we seem to be stabilizing:)

DonnaH: "First, if you are in here, I'm assuming you are here for the "Tech class" forum.

DonnaH: "My name is Donna Hendry, and I'm an educational consultant in Connecticut:)

ShereeR: I am an artist / art educator. I teach SED (severely emotionally disturbed) students K-12 in St. Petersburg, Florida

ArtieO: Science Teacher in the poor state of MA

RicharriaG: I am a pre-service teacher in the HumbleISD area where I am currently working w/ pre-K

KarenCG: I am a second grade teacher in the Milwaukee Public School District. I teach at Hi-Mount where technology is a big part of our instruction

DemetriaB: I am a first grade pre-service teacher in humble

SusanNH: My name is Susan Hoang. I attend the University of Houston. I am a pre-service teacher in the Alief school district.

DemetriaB: TX

RicharriaG: How are your second graders involved w/ tech

KarenCG: They use the Internet, word processing, Accelerated Reader, and various software programs (reading, writing, typing, math). They also have access to graphic programs and use many CD-roms for research projects.

ArtieO: Do we have a clear - at least foggy - definition of technology?

RicharriaG: Wow sounds like your class is a great example

DonnaH: (we're just finishing up intro's Rosemary:))

KarenCG: Keep in mind that we are introducing a lot at this age and exposing kids to technology in second grade...

RicharriaG: Tech. to me is DVDs Cds Radiotape recorders, internet, overheads etc.

DonnaH: Good point, Artie. Usually, in this forum, technology means anything dealing with computers...online, pda's, smartboards, etc...

ArtieO: Great thanks!

RicharriaG: ok

DonnaH: see, to me, that is multimedia.

RicharriaG: so is tech, in the classroom a good idea

DonnaH: How many people here have been online in a few years? say, 3 or so?

ArtieO: If it adds to a students learning experience it is.

ArtieO: 10 years

KarenCG: Technology has opened up my ideas of teaching to different fun and involved ways of instruction for students.

RicharriaG: 5 years or so

RicharriaG: How so

JeffC joined the room.

DonnaH: The reason I ask is this, have you noticed a huge change online? 5 years is perfect, but there is still plenty to discuss in the last 3 or so.

RicharriaG: Its seems do you integrate Tech, everyday

KarenCG: I feel it gives more variety - not just books or words in print

RicharriaG: I think so too

KarenCG: I try. Online for me? 5 years.

RicharriaG: As a pre-service teacher we are learning how to integrate Tech into the classroom

KarenCG: When I came to my current school, I was exposed to A LOT of different technological ideas. It was a little scary at first, but I love it now.

DonnaH: I find when I integrate it, it's for 3 main reasons.

JeffC has been online since a chipmunk ran round and round on a wheel to power his 386...

DonnaH: primary

DonnaH: (not too far behind, Jeff...mine was a 486)

RicharriaG: LOL Jeff

ArtieO: MAC Quadra

DonnaH: and do run simulations that were either too costly, or not possible in the real world.

RicharriaG: Does tech integration require a sufficient time to plan into your day and lessons

ArtieO: at first

RicharriaG: what changes

DonnaH: Making sure the equipment and information are available.

ArtieO: experience increases speed and use

KarenCG: Sometimes. I use technology in centers....

RicharriaG: which centers

DonnaH: I've found quite often things I've wanted to use online would invariably be down or some such when it was actually time to use it.

RicharriaG: all of them?

JeffC: http://www.bluesquirrel.com/products/whee/ is the actual product. It downloads the page, and as many levels of links you want (don't go more than one... I advise... otherwise it will be too large).

RicharriaG: nice thanks

ShereeR: Well, you can whack at different "levels". You can do the first level in which the links on the first page will not work. However, if you do 2-3-4-etc levels the links will actually work. HOWEVER, the more levels you save the more hardrive space and memory you need.

RicharriaG: So do u all use tech in all of your centers

ShereeR: If you have a really good computer with a good size harddrive and lots of RAM, you can do 2 or 3 levels no problem. Also, it depends on the amount of links on the site too.

ShereeR: I save multiple levels on my iBook and it works like a dream.

KarenCG: I usually try to have the kids use computers every day in each center. They rotate for each curricular area. There are twelve computers the students can use in the classroom.

RicharriaG: Wow 12 in one classroom

RicharriaG: that is great

RicharriaG: In the school that I am in now they may have 2

KarenCG: Definitely a blessing in a classroom. I have twenty four students.

DonnaH: 2 seems to be the usual in our schools here...

DonnaH: and one is usually a fossil.

ArtieO: 2 and better if one works

RicharriaG: Karen what state are u in

ShereeR: Oh wow. I would LOVE twelve computers in my classroom!

KarenCG: I teach in Wisconsin

RicharriaG: That would be the dream classroom

ArtieO: Is 12 the norm?

JeffC has to run and pick up the kids... will try to return before the session ends.

RicharriaG: Wow I think I'll move there after graduation! LOL

JeffC left the room (signed off).

ArtieO: school - district - state?

KarenCG: I believe so...we have written many grants. Hi-Mount Community School - Milwaukee Wisconsin. Check out our web page if you like...

RicharriaG: Okay thanks this should be very helpful

ArtieO: Does the work on the computers hinder their interaction with other students?

RicharriaG: good question

ArtieO: How do you ensure that they are learning while working on station?

DonnaH: How do you ensure that they are learning when they are in a center?

KarenCG: no because it is not the only thing they do all day. Different ways - with some of the programs there are assessment pieces that can be printed out.

DonnaH: Part of the problem with integrating technology is that people seem to think assessment is somehow different.

KarenCG: students are held accountable for work at centers by submitting in-class assignments

ShereeR: Same way you can tell if they are working at their desk. You have criteria and assessments to use

RicharriaG: Is there a problem with the students staying on task

ArtieO: sure, but copying answers to get to the next level isn't new

KarenCG: good point.

ShereeR: I have found kids on the computer stay on task MORE

KarenCG: I have found that students who are involved with technology stay on task because they are interested in it....it is new for them.

DonnaH: Especially with ADD/ADHD/SED students, Sheree:)

RicharriaG: Do the computers help in the assessment of the students

ArtieO: -- I am not trying to be accusatory - I am only asking questions and tend to be direct - please don't read anything into it --

ShereeR: Well, that is how I know. That is all I teach

RicharriaG: I guess as long as the students are interested they will be productive

ShereeR: I teach special ed exclusively

KarenCG: example - reading centers - accelerated reader - students read a book and then take a quiz on the book. the assessment piece is taken very seriously. just offering ideas.

DonnaH remembers, Sheree *grin* but was clarifying for others...its been my perception too:)

RicharriaG: Are the teachers in your district required to use tech in the classroom

DonnaH: In my district, Tech is almost a 4 letter word.

RicharriaG: meaning what?

KarenCG: no. however, there are courses in college about integrating technology in instruction that are offered

SusanNH joined the room.

RicharriaG: yes I am enrolled in the 3rd part of a 3 part series

SusanNH left the room (signed off).

KarenCG: what is your teacher preparation program like?

ShereeR: YES in fact, it is going to be a state mandate in Florida. It is now part of our Individual Professional Development Plan which is a document teachers in Florida must submit.

DonnaH: We have far too many teachers who emphatically believe that computers are toys and or expensive paperweights.

RicharriaG: Its awesome

DonnaH: it's getting better, but its not perfect.

ArtieO: yes and no. We are not really held accountable for not using it, though there is no real incentive to use it either.

ArtieO: It is encouraged.

RicharriaG: We are currently taking classes in an Elem. school

DonnaH: Even when I went through the edu program less than 10 years ago, we were only required (and really could only TAKE) a one credit tech course.

ArtieO: How about a guy who handwrites and photocopies his notes

RicharriaG: We are in methods classes half the time and in an actual classroom the rest of the time

KarenCG: me too

KarenCG: ok - what grade are you currently working in?

RicharriaG: It's my last year and this hand on experience is wonderful

RicharriaG: Pre-K

KarenCG: sounds fun :)

RicharriaG: next 6 weeks I'll be with 2nd

ArtieO: Are we trying to get the kids to use computers? Use it as a tool for teaching?

KarenCG: enjoy! they are fun!

ArtieO: Learn ourselves to be better?

RicharriaG: We are being taught to do both

ArtieO: How do you use it to teach better?

KarenCG: I feel it offers more variety in instruction

ArtieO: How?

DonnaH: that's my take. I can offer more on the computer than I can in a classic classroom environment.

ArtieO: Aside for lack of a better term, the classroom babysitter.

RicharriaG: We can share ideas and find new ones

RicharriaG: I hope not

KarenCG: interactive media. hands on learning - feeling a part of a technological

society. kids view technology as Playstation, Xbox, etc.

DonnaH: yes, you CAN do some of the things you do on the computer without it...but then the kids don't pay as much attention.

ArtieO: I agree

DonnaH: but with tightening budgets, it's also a way to broaden the students' horizons.

ShereeR: Artie, you are welcome in my classroom any day. You will find it is the most difficult "babysitting" job you will ever encounter. It is like juggling plates trying to keep all the kids doing their work on the computer. I know I sure don't "babysit".

ArtieO: I do lots of Powerpoint presentation, use a Smartboard and websites to present material

DonnaH: How likely is it that you'll ever get to the Louvre?

DonnaH: or Plymouth Plantation?

KarenCG: virtual field trips?

RosemaryEH left the room.

DonnaH: Exactly. I still find that VFT's are one of the greatest resources that online can offer.

JeffC joined the room.

RicharriaG: have you all taken virtual field trips

ArtieO: I am asking how do you use this rich material in the form of a lesson?

DonnaH: I've given them loads of times...even to 3 year olds.

DonnaH: Give me a topic, Artie.

KarenCG: not with my students but I would like to in the future.

JeffC offers to race Donna to the best Trackstar or Webquest that he can find on any topic picked by Artie.

DonnaH: *chuckles*

RicharriaG: I am thinking of using them in a lesson soon

ArtieO: Sculpture comparison of Baroque and Miro?

DonnaH: Fine, take them to the Louvre...have sculptures that you've chosen for their comparison.

RosemaryEH: For Powerpoint do you know about the free game templates that you can make your own Jeopardy, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Hollywood Squares and Weakest Link? http://www.teachnet.com/lesson/misc/winnergame022500.html

DonnaH: Many museums now offer 360 views of such items.

KarenCG: thanks for the tip, Rosemary.

ArtieO: Thanks

DonnaH: So they can use that to compare.

RicharriaG: Sound great thanks

DonnaH: They can still write out the comparison.

RicharriaG: Any resources will help

DonnaH: I've done it with Indian cultures...had them view Chichen Itza and Macchu Picchu...and they had to compare and contrast the cultures from what they noticed in the architecture and pictographs.

JeffC: Well.. don't know if I can help much on the *specifics* of sculpture... but can get other more general stuff going...

RicharriaG: Jeff what grade do u teach

ArtieO: Donna, That's awesome stuff!

JeffC: Here's one link for you Artie: http://tinyurl.com/oaou
RicharriaG: Donna what grade level did that work with
ArtieO: Thanks Jeff
RicharriaG: what online sources did u use
JeffC doesn't teach K-12 any more... is now Ed Tech Specialist for the College of Education at Pacific.... helps students and professors with tech and curriculum.
RicharriaG: Great
DonnaH: Another thing I've done with a VFT is have students look at Durham Cathedral. Students were told that it was being used in the Harry Potter movie...and they needed to chose where different scenes should be shot.
DonnaH: then had to elaborate by saying, well, this needs to be shot here because it has A, doesn't have B, etc.
KarenCG: very fun idea, Donna
DonnaH: The Indian cultures was for 8-10th grade when I did it.
JeffC: I went to Trackstar at http://trackstar.hprtec.org/ and searched for "sculpture" ... there are about 15 tracks (made by teachers). The link was very long, so I created a redirect at http://tinyurl.com
DonnaH: The kids love it.
ArtieO: Donna do you do this as a class or by individual students?
DonnaH: (that one I actually wrote into a webquest)
KarenCG: I'll bet they enjoyed it.
DonnaH: I did it small group...4 students to a computer.
DonnaH: They loved it.
RicharriaG: Wow you all sound like wonderful teachers
DonnaH: And since I've put it up as a webquest, I've gotten a lot of student response...not teach response, but STUDENT response...
KarenCG: thanks.
DonnaH: (and I've done that with as low as 4th grade.)
RicharriaG: Do you all ever let the student browse the net
RicharriaG: Or do you set up a particular site for them to browse
JeffWi: sometimes, but that tends to get out of hand occasionally
DonnaH: never.
ArtieO: Freely, rarely - with webquest yes.
JeffWi: what is webquest?
JeffC: Ah... we must show Jeff about Webquests!
JeffWi: please do!
KarenCG: in my district there is a filtering system on the internet...I usually let kids explore a site. my students sometimes struggle getting on the internet (logging in, password, etc)
RicharriaG: a total lesson online that involves the whole class
JeffC . o O (not to mention the link to Bernie Dodge's office here at Tapped In.)
DonnaH: I had students who liked to think they could hide cartoon network (which is NOT blocked) beneath another window.
DonnaH: (lots of games on cartoon networks site...it was a bane)
JeffWi: I don't filter my lab...I like to believe students can self regulate
JeffC: For starters Jeff... take a look at: http://www.webquest.org/

ArtieO: Kids know how to use computers

KarenCG: yikes...my students haven't quite figured that out yet.

DonnaH: depends on the age, JeffW

ShereeR: Donna, kind of like the comic book stuck in the middle of the math book trick.

DonnaH: Good FYI, then Karen.

DonnaH: yep. there ya go, Sheree.

KarenCG: thanks - I'll keep an eye on it..

DonnaH: *laughs* my daughter got in trouble last year for reading a book in math class...she had it open inside her desk.

KarenCG: ah...I remember those days.

RicharriaG: good one

JeffC: Here's a "Best Webquests" site: http://www.bestwebquests.com/

DonnaH: yeah, considering she was reading a chapter book, and was in first grade.

ShereeR: Gee, at my school they would give the kid a prize for reading during math or any other time of the day!!

ArtieO: Is anyone using a writing tablet? Can you recommend a good - low cost model?

ShereeR: I use a Wacom Tablet in my classes for drawing. They are not inexpensive though

RicharriaG: Jeff have u looked @ the webquest

ArtieO: What size? I am using a small one and it gets messy fast

ShereeR: I can't remember the dimensions. I have one little one and one big one.

ShereeR: My kids hate tablets. They like the mouse better.

JeffC: And here's a Webquest about Webquests: http://tinyurl.com/oaq7

ArtieO: Can they write with the mouse?

RicharriaG: I have found out so much during this chat I have enjoyed all of you comments

ShereeR: I said we use our tablets for drawing, not writing.

RicharriaG: So is there any one important thing I should know about using technology in the classroom

ShereeR: Richarria, my best advice is learn to troubleshoot because if you can't keep the computers going, your tech program will fizzle.

KarenCG: try to stay open and don't get intimidated by using it

DonnaH: *nods*

DonnaH: tech doesn't do you any good if its not working.

KarenCG: good point

DonnaH: and most districts I've ever seen have a backlog of getting stuff fixed.

ArtieO: Donna thank you for hosting tonight, I would like to see your webquest, is it online?

DonnaH: and always have a backup plan.

DonnaH: *nods*

RicharriaG: Donna, great job. Well I have to go now it has been great

ShereeR: and relying on a tech coordinator or another teachers takes too long so it is best just to know how to fix stuff yourself!

DonnaH: nothing is worse than scrambling when something decides not to work.

KarenCG: thanks Donna - I've had fun!

DonnaH: http://www.geocities.com/dhendry26/hpwq.html

DonnaH: (that's the webquest)
ArtieO: Thanks
RicharriaG: Bye all
BJ: The next Tech in the Classroom discussion will be on Wednesday, October 1
ArtieO: Good Night.
KarenCG: bye everyone. take care and have fun!
ShereeR: Thank you Donna! It was a great discussion tonight!
DonnaH: Thanks everyone for coming:)