

**Title of Session:** K-12 Math Group

**Moderator:** Jeff Cooper

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Room: After School Online

**BJ:** Welcome to the K-12 Math discussion.

**BJ:** Our discussion leader is Jeff Cooper, who has some great resources to share

**BJ:** before we begin...

**BJ:** a reminder to click on the actions drop down menu in the top right of your chat window and scroll down to DETACH

**BJ:** that will make your chat window larger and easier to read

**BJ:** we usually start all the discussions here in Tapped In with introductions

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

**BJ** waits for everyone else to introduce themselves

**GriseldaB:** I am a preservice teacher

**WendyCu** I am a preservice teacher at the University of Houston

**AnaRe:** hello again, I am preservice teacher from the university of Houston and I am currently doing part of my student teaching in a bilingual kindergarten classroom

**JeffC:** For the past three years I was Education Technology Specialist at the College of Education Pacific University. My job there was to support Masters students and professors with technology and curriculum integration.

**AngelaKM:** Hello everyone. I just started teaching last year for a high school in Georgia. I am working on my master's degree in special education but I am working with special needs students, those that are at risk for dropping out.

**JeffC:** OK... is that everybody?

**BJ** hands the virtual floor over to Jeff

**HaroldJ:** I am a pre service teacher at U of H

**JeffC:** Hi Marbelia and Erika... we're about to get started... could you give us a brief intro of yourselves?

**ErikaP:** Hi I am preservice teacher at Buffalo Creek Elementary and this is my last year

**MarbeliaS:** Hi, I am also a preservice teacher, I am at Valley Oaks Elem

**JeffC:** In looking at your profiles... I'm guessing that most of you are in elementary education... which obviously has different needs (tech and otherwise) for Math and computers.

**AllenBe** joined the room.

**JeffC** waves to Allen.

**JeffC:** We're just finishing up introducing ourselves Allen... would you be so kind as to introduce yourself?

**AllenBe:** sure, retired teacher active curriculum creator

**JeffC:** What I am going to do today is give everybody a few things to think about regarding collaboration.

**JeffC:** ... and Math

**ErikaP:** We are very big on collaboration in my school

**JeffC:** If you think about it... we all have resources... but at the moment, we really haven't done anything to share that information with each other.

**JeffC:** I can post a link here... you can go to it... etc.... but what about tomorrow?

**GriseldaB:** yes we all have different resources to share

**JeffC:** What I would like to do is introduce you to a system I have been using for years to manage bookmarks online. There are many systems out there... but I'm just going to show you one, and mention another.

**JeffC:** The site I'd like you to look at now is my public bookmarks folder at a place called mybookmarks.com

**JeffC:** I have over 1600 K-12 links at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops>

**JeffC:** Go ahead and take a look see.

**JeffC:** If you click on the Mr.C's Educational Bookmarks link... you will see a number of folders. Obviously, today, we will focus on the Math folder. However... tomorrow during lunch... I hope that you will share this site with your colleagues.

**ErikaP:** This is great you can type anything and it sends you to different websites that have to do with your topic.

**JeffC** nods

**GriseldaB:** well organized

**JeffC:** Well... organization is what I'm trying to get going here.

**JeffC:** Imagine if you took the teachers in your school... district... state... and started organizing links, lessons, etc. together.

**GriseldaB:** like that it is easier to find a certain website

**ErikaP:** That would be great to do, but many complain that they don't have the time. But if they made time it would make teaching much easier.

**JeffC:** Right... and of course... having your bookmarks online make them accessible from any computer... not just your home computer.

**JeffC:** Too many teachers constantly complain that "they don't have time." I've heard it for years... and my answer is: poppycock!

**JeffC:** Sorry I have to use such strong language.

**BJ** smirks at Jeff

**AngelaKM:** That is so true! I don't know how many times I have looked for a bookmark at school only to realize it is on my home computer.

**ErikaP:** That's ok.

**AnaRe:** I really liked the kids corner. that is great!

**JeffC:** However... teachers don't have time... because they don't manage it well. They for the most part remain isolated... creating lessons themselves from scratch.

**JeffC:** They constantly reinvent the wheel instead of looking around and seeing what has already been built.

**MarbeliaS:** I would love to share ideas and lessons with different teachers it would make things so easier

**GriseldaB:** I do not think that I could handle creating lessons from scratch.

**AnaRe:** that is true. it's so easy now to find so many great websites with great ideas on all areas

**ErikaP:** If teachers collaborated then we can make teaching easier and more fun for the students.

**GriseldaB:** There are so many math sites, impressive

**MarbeliaS:** exactly

**JeffC:** Right now... I have about 40 math links on that site... imagine if people spent a little time and organized their own Math site...

**JeffC:** With even more definition to categories... note that I only have one for "Math"... but it could easily be subdivided into grade levels, topics, programs, whatever.

**GriseldaB:** We would waste time in creating a lesson, we can just look for it.

**ErikaP:** In my school they spend a lot of time teaching math and language arts and if we organized our own Math site would be great.

**AngelaKM:** As a new teacher I don't have time to reinvent but I do need guidance. I got thrown into teaching an applied problem solving class which is the lowest of the low math classes in high school. I really need some guidance and these sites will be extremely helpful.

**AnaRe:** even though there are so many great websites for students and teachers on all areas, a lot of schools don't profit from them due to the limited number of computers. it is a shame!

**JeffC:** Which is why I've created a new site... where I copied most of my Math links into... and will be accessible, and editable, by all of you (and anyone else you would like to share this info with).

**GriseldaB:** that is great

**JeffC:** I'd like everybody to try something now.

**JeffC:** Go to <http://www.mybookmarks.com> and login: mathscience password: tappedin

**AngelaKM:** We are a new school so accessibility is not an issue. My biggest guilt is not being able to reach the students. They are still struggling with addition and multiplication.

**JeffC:** And what you need are some fun activities for them Angela... because they have already burnt out on the textbooks... right?

**AngelaKM:** Yes and I feel stuck in a hard place because they have to take a final exam that was created by the math department. I would love short activities to help accelerate them to the ninth grade level.

**JeffC:** A couple of words on mybookmarks.com If you are on a PC, you can download a plug-in program called "Remark." Remark facilitates the uploading and downloading of bookmarks.

**ErikaP:** My school is great b/c we do not use textbooks only for resource, and we rely on websites like this to create our instruction/

**JeffC:** If you're on a Mac... oh well.

**JeffC:** Sounds great Erika... and Angela... I'm hoping that some of these sites will hold something useful for you...

**GriseldaB:** wow, 400 pages of activities for math

**JeffC:** What I'd like to do now is talk a bit about how you would think about organizing these links... getting acclimated for mybookmarks, etc.

**JeffC:** I'd like everybody to let me know if they have a new window with [www.mybookmarks.com](http://www.mybookmarks.com) and have been able to login.

**GriseldaB:** yes

**MarbeliaS:** yes

**ErikaP:** How long did it take you to find all of these bookmarks?

**HaroldJ:** I did log in.

**ErikaP:** Yes

**AnaRe:** the links were great. I would have them organized according to grade levels

**AllenBe:** yes

**AngelaKM:** Yes I was able to login

**JeffC:** I've been working on them for about 5 years... updating and checking them periodically... not all the links might work...

**JeffC:** There is a program called FavOrg that I run periodically to check them... but haven't done so recently.

**JeffC:** OK... that's great... everybody is there.

**ErikaP:** I agree with Ana I would organize them according to grade level b/c that way you don't waste time looking at all of them.

**AngelaKM:** As for organization, I would really love to see a break from grade level. At this point I think students need to master topics.

**HaroldJ:** I am impressed with the volume of it all.

**GriseldaB:** They are still very helpful

**AnaRe:** Angela what do you mean by a break from grade level?

**JeffC:** You can see that it has a pretty simple interface... but since we are just getting started with this new site... I wanted to get input from all of you about what you think would be the best way to organize it. Note that I will be using the same site for the Science teachers (forum follows this one).

**ErikaP:** Each grade level has topics to master, right? So you have to know what that grade needs to know in order to know what topics they must master.

**JeffC:** And I can see disagreement regarding organization... some want grade level... others by topic.

**JeffC:** There are also programs (like Excel) to consider...

**AngelaKM:** Some of my students are able to grasp fractions but are not able to do simple multiplication. I know it might be hard to divide sites that way. Of course in an ideal world we could organize by web page.

**MarbeliaS:** I agree with Erika. you should start at grade level

**ErikaP:** I like Excel and it is easy to use

**JeffC:** We could create a collaborative webpage as well... note that at mybookmarks there are just links.

**GriseldaB:** separating it by grade sounds good

**JeffC:** I'm just putting this up for suggestions now... we don't need to make a firm decision. One trouble with grade level is that some sites deal with all K-12... so it would be hard to make that differentiation.

**ErikaP:** I like how they are links b/c you can go right to the source of where you got the information

**AnaRe:** that is true.

**JeffC** nods

**GriseldaB:** I understand

**MarbeliaS:** yea that is true

**ErikaP:** Jeff so what do you think is the best way to organize

**HaroldJ:** I think grade level is vital. Kids need to know where they're at, you know.

**AnaRe:** you might have one topic for several grade levels

**JeffC:** Right now... we're not investigating the individual sites that I have already linked to... because we're just looking at some of the possibilities.

**GriseldaB:** Your way sure seems easier than searching on search engines for lessons

**JeffC:** But I want to mention one... that I don't think is even in the Math folder.

**AngelaKM:** In this particular high school course the topics are all built on each other. I guess my biggest problem is that I have students in ninth grade but have not reached that level. If you look at their folder they have been placed into the next grade for the last three years.

**JeffC:** When I taught English at Richmond High... I had 9th graders who read at third grade level... so I empathize with you Angela. One of the hardest things is getting kids motivated... who have fallen behind... and part of the reason that they have fallen behind in the first place is that the material didn't reach them in the first place.

**AnaRe:** motivation is the key and resources matter when motivating children

**GriseldaB:** I agree with you Ana

**ErikaP:** I completely agree . I even see that with my elementary students

**MarbeliaS:** I think that is true with all students

**JeffC:** I'd like to share another site with everybody... it's not just for Math... it's all K-12... and is called Schoolkit. If you would take a look at <http://www.schoolkit.com> and click on the Enactz link... I want to spend about 5-10 minutes on this. I also recommend people go ahead and take a look at some of my other links at mybookmarks... btw... the Lesson Plan and Teacher Utilities folders should be useful as well.

**AnaRe:** I taught one lesson once on Halloween and just used textbook, the next time I use the same lesson and used technology, what a difference!

**GriseldaB:** The concept might seem boring but it is up to the teacher to make it interesting with lessons

**JeffC:** There are a lot of ways to make things more interesting... I find Schoolkit to be one of those ways.

**ErikaP:** Griselda I strongly agree with you

**AnaRe:** pretty impressive

**JeffC:** In a nutshell... Schoolkit integrates constructivist K-12 lessons with MS Office applications. The lessons interface with Office, and students learn both Office and whatever module the teacher has downloaded for them. It is not free... I think it is \$55 a year... but the lessons are very good.

**GriseldaB:** I agree

**JeffC:** There is also staff development there... and consider... by using Schoolkit lessons, you will also bolster your own knowledge of MS Office...

**MarbeliaS:** looks good

**ErikaP:** They are good, but the schools need to get teachers more confident when using technology

**JeffC:** Exactly Erika.

**MarbeliaS:** that is so true, a lot of teachers are scared of technology

**GriseldaB:** That's true, many teachers don't feel comfortable

**AnaRe:** that is so truth! most teachers feel this will take too much time and don't have confidence

**JeffC:** Especially when they feel that they have unreliable equipment, and more importantly, no support.

**ErikaP:** Teachers have the resources but b/c they are afraid to use technology they rather stay away from it. It doesn't just hurt the teacher but the students as well

**MarbeliaS:** students could benefit so much from technology I wish more teachers used it with their lessons

**HaroldJ:** Kids love computers and teachers should exploit that.

**GriseldaB:** Technology can be used in many ways, and teachers seem to use only the simplest way.

**AngelaKM:** Even if you are comfortable with the technology, it is the simple hassle of getting it that sometimes keeps me from using it. Ex) If the computer room is constantly locked, I don't sign up for it as often as I should.

**ErikaP:** It seems that students learn more from using technology and I always see computers at the back of the room collecting dust

**AnaRe:** kids definitely enjoy technology. it keeps them so much on task when used and supervised correctly

**JeffC:** Good points

**GriseldaB:** We should all make the effort to offer technology to our students

**GriseldaB:** It is for their own good and their future

**AnaRe:** I am trying, but with only two computers for 25 students it gets hard sometimes

**JeffC:** What I'm trying to do here is provide a supportive environment that teachers can rely upon to find resources, not reinvent the wheel, and use technology to best advantage.

**GriseldaB:** As teachers, that is what we are suppose to do.

**ErikaP:** First, I think school districts need to take the time and money to teach teachers how to use software

**GriseldaB:** yes

**AnaRe:** science and math workshops are great, but I don't often hear about technology workshops for teachers.

**AngelaKM:** Jeff, have you used ENactz and if so can you tell us a little about your experience with it?

**WendyCu:** What is the best way to search for lesson resources on the web besides weeding through search engines?

**ErikaP:** Ya, I'd like to know an easier way

**JeffC:** OK... I have actually downloaded all 600 lessons from Schoolkit... and looked at a number of them.

**JeffC:** They are quite intuitive, easy to use, and like I said, give the added benefit of learning about MS Office as well as what lesson there is. Even in a low-ratio computer/student classroom... they can be used.

**AngelaKM:** Will one subscription cover an entire classroom?

**JeffC:** As for the Lesson Plan sites... take a look inside my Lesson Plan folder... there are quite a few links to good sites. My favorite, unfortunately for most here, is the New York Times Learning Network lessons... but they are only for grades 6-12. The subscription allows you to download all the lessons, but are supposed to be on a per computer basis. There are also site licenses available. I'd recommend getting just one... and going from there.

**ErikaP:** Can a group of teachers chip in to pay one fee and then access it from our own computers from school or our homes?

**JeffC:** Well... I believe that legally you should have individual licenses for the different computers.

**JeffC:** But... I know how difficult times are as well...

**WendyCu:** How long did it take you to download all the lesson?

**JeffC:** A few hours... but with a paid subscription you should be able to get all their current lessons on a CD... then be able to download new lessons as they become available.

**JeffC:** They have quite a few math lessons that integrate with Excel.

**ErikaP:** How often to they put new lessons

**WendyCu:** I like the idea of having a CD with the lessons on it.

**AnaRe:** are these math lessons with excel available for the early childhood classes?

**JeffC:** Yes... they have all grade levels... some of the Math lessons are actually in Word... story problems... etc...

**JeffC:** And speaking of story problems... I did want to highlight several sites that I got from BJ yesterday...

**JeffC:** This is in mybookmarks (my file), but I haven't added it yet to the other account:  
<http://www.enc.org/features/calendar/unit/0,1819,158,00.shtm>

**JeffC:** whoops... it didn't all hyperlink... one second...

**GriseldaB:** yeah, I really enjoyed looking at those websites from yesterday

**JeffC:** Try this: <http://tinyurl.com/tnuo>

**JeffC:** That will take you to the same address as above.

**JeffC:** tinyurl.com is a URL redirector... you can copy and paste a very long address and get a short one.

**ErikaP:** I really like these greast websites

**JeffC:** I'm going to break for a few minutes... since the Science Forum follows directly after this. What I'd like people to do is take a look at one or two sites... and Allen, please feel free to add yours... and then make a few comments on them in closing.

**JeffC:** The next Math Forum will be on December 2.

**JeffC:** And... I'm hoping that you will come back... and will have uploaded a few sites of interest to the new mybookmarks account (again: <http://www.mybookmarks.com> login: mathscience password: tappedin)

**JeffC** afk

**BJ:** Thanks, Jeff.

**AnaRe:** they have pretty good math lessons for several grades. great resources and great comments, thank you everybody!

**AngelaKM:** Thank you for taking the time to help!

**GriseldaB:** thanks for your time

**AllenBe:** ok. I'll try to add a geometry models site...

**MarbeliaS:** thanks

**ErikaP:** I really like them and they are very useful, thanks ya'll

**WendyCu:** Thank you. The information provided will be very useful.

**GriseldaB:** I like the ones on problem solving

**MarbeliaS:** me too, I think this has been very helpful

**HaroldJ:** This has been a very useful time spent.