

**Title of Session:** Technology in the Classroom

**Moderator:** Donna Hendry

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**DonnaH:** I guess we should get started then. First let me start with, this is the Technology in the classroom Forum. Hopefully, this is where you want to be:)

**VeronicaO** joined the room.

**DonnaH:** My name is Donna Hendry, and I am an educational Consultant who lives in Connecticut. I've been leading sessions on TI for 3 years now.

**DonnaH:** (nice to see you made it, Veronica!)

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania.

**DonnaH:** (and TI guru extraordinaire, don't let BJ's humble statement fool you!)

**VeronicaO:** Hi Donna, I'm Veronica and I am a bilingual teacher, 8th grade in Milwaukee Public Schools

**KathyWe:** I am a tech coordinator for a private school in MD

**AntoniaL:** I'm an early childhood education major at the University of Houston

**StephenO:** I am an instructional tech specialist for a district in Southeast PA.

**VeronicaO:** well, you're all experts

**LynneW:** I teach ed tech in a College of Education in Portland, OR

**JoannaO:** I am also an early childhood preservice teacher at UH

**DamitaU:** I am a media specialist in Minnesota a.k.a. librarian

**BrianPM:** I'm a 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher from San Jose, California. I'm in my second year of teaching, and am already my school sites tech mentor, as well a mentor for the implementation of our districts EETT grant!

**DonnaH:** Wow! All over the place!

**CriseldaC** joined the room.

**BJ:** Hi, Criselda. We're just doing introductions

**CriseldaC:** hello

**CriseldaC:** I am a PUMA student from the University of Houston

**DonnaH:** \*nods then\*

**DonnaH:** We are a rather diverse group tonight:).

**VeronicaO:** I come from Mexico

**DonnaH:** First, I'll start with are there any burning questions or discussions anyone would like to get off their chest?

**AntoniaL:** Will we be discussing technology for early childhood grades?!

**StephenO:** I've been wondering if anyone has started integrating the Pocket PC's (such as the iPqqs) in classroom or for teacher use.

**KathyWe:** yes! What direction do you see web design going? Is this the next venue for education?

**BJ** smiles...looks like you have the next three months covered, Donna!

**DonnaH:** \*chuckles\*

**CriseldaC:** I am a PUMA student, I am not familiar with iPqqs what do you do

**BrianPM:** Wow, I wish, my district just received laptops which we are implementing this year, but haven't even thought about Pocket PC's

**DonnaH:** See, I see everyone going smaller, when I can think of many things, larger that would be better.

**AntoniaL:** We learned how to create our own webpages in our technology class, it seems they are becoming important to have in the classrooms

**KathyWe:** do you use the keyboard for the pocket PCs?

**KathyWe:** we use laptops in my school.

**DonnaH:** The classrooms I've seen with small applications tend to get broken, lost or misused more often.

**DonnaH:** Does anyone else find that to be a problem?

**StephenO:** Do you mean the smaller devices Donna? Such as the Palm pilots or the iPags?

**KathyWe:** Donna, we haven't gone that small yet and we use full sized notebooks.

**DonnaH:** Yes, Stephen.

**BrianPM:** I'd agree with that statement... smaller = dangerous, especially at the middle school level

**StephenO:** What about Notebook laptops with Microsoft Journal? Anyone moving in that direction in the classroom...they're a little bigger.

**DonnaH:** Microsoft Journal? could you explain this one for me? I haven't heard of it yet.

**BrianPM:** . o O ( Microsoft Journal? )

**KathyWe:** Stephen, we have been using laptops for 3 years and the destroy rate is fairly low. A few parts that break with excessive use...we use Office Professional

**StephenO:** MS Journal is an app within Windows XP designed for the Notebook PC that various manufactures make. It basically allows you to write on the screen of the laptop and have your handwriting turn into digital form

**StephenO:** It's like writing on a legal pad but on the notebook laptop with a digital pen

**DonnaH:** How good is it at "reading" the writing?

**KathyWe:** We have just installed 3 notepads with Journal yesterday and will start to use them with the students next Monday. (Faculty training)

**DonnaH:** and how young could you see this used?

**BrianPM:** notebook pc is the touch screen laptops correct?

**StephenO:** Well, it follows your handwriting so it reads rather well. How are you using it Kathy? Yes, Brian, it's the touch screen

**AntoniaL:** So what are you going to show us tonight, Donna?

**DonnaH:** Tonight is going to be mostly discussion, Antonia:)

**DonnaH:** print or cursive?

**DonnaH:** (wonder if this would be easier to use for younger children who get frustrated with the typing.)

**StephenO:** However you write. It follows your writing

**KathyWe:** Stephen, we are using it with the students who have special needs such as trouble with fine motor skills, or note taking and OCR..

**StephenO:** then you can highlight it and transfer into text in MS Word

**AntoniaL:** I think that young children need to learn the keyboard because it is the most common

**KathyWe:** and take the notes for review by the teacher to reinforce the topic points

**KathyWe:** auditory processing skill building

**StephenO:** Do teachers send notes to the kids Kathy...in their handwriting?

**DonnaH:** I agree and disagree, Antonia. there has been a lot of discussion that the keyboard is just too big for young students to really learn how to type correctly.

**DonnaH:** so by starting early, we have to UN train them from the two finger hunt and peck method.

**BrianPM:** Our district doesn't implement keyboarding into the classroom until 4th grade

**DonnaH:** That makes sense, Brian.

**StephenO:** Kathy, can you expand on how it develops auditory processing. Do students listen and then write on the notebook?

**KathyWe:** ahhh...:) that is a good idea, we are introducing the notepads to them on Monday, I like that idea. We use the laptops for almost all of our classes

**AntoniaL:** I have started observing classes and noticed how computer literate young children are becoming

**DonnaH:** by that time, their hands are big enough to be able to reach the keys appropriately.

**AntoniaL:** even in first grade

**DonnaH:** I HAVE heard that there are a few companies out there that are making 3/4 size keyboards, for that exact reason.

**KathyWe:** the laptops are not the same as the notepads. the laptops have an image of programs on them and we have integrated tech into the curriculum by using these

**BrianPM** trying to remember the name of the keyboard systems they use

**KathyWe:** the notepads we will use for the special purpose students.

**StephenO:** Gotcha. Thanks.

**DonnaH:** Would never insinuate that they aren't computer proficient, even at that age. but they lack the fine motor to actually type correctly. and that the unlearning the wrong way to type to teach them the correct way creates problems later on.

**VeronicaO:** I agree

**KathyWe:** Stephen, yes, it is part of a program to develop the note taking process of important points during a lecture

**JoannaO:** So we should use technology only with the older kids?

**VeronicaO:** my students will be introduced to that shortly

**DonnaH:** Egad! Bite your tongue! \*giggle\*

**DonnaH:** Absolutely not! But I think we need to consider they're TYPING ability.

**JoannaO:** or should we just not enforce typing skills until fourth grade?

**StephenO:** We are using a device called the Mimio for note taking as well. It's a portable whiteboard device that captures handwriting from any whiteboard and it's a third of the cost of a SmartBoard.

**VeronicaO:** I think yes, I'm in 8th grade and today they went to a field trip to Marquette University and got scared of so much note-taking

**DonnaH:** technology does not necessarily have to equal typing skills.

**StephenO:** Actually, more than a third. It's about \$600

**VeronicaO:** no, but keyboarding is essential

**DonnaH:** ohohohoh! That sounds Awesome, Stephen!

**KathyWe:** Stephen, tried the mimio and had technical difficulties and went back to the smartboard!

**AntoniaL:** just getting children accustomed to the computer is important

**DonnaH:** (I'm a big proponent of the smart board, but we can't afford one..that sounds wonderful!)

**StephenO:** really! We have 8 of them in our district and haven't had a single problem

**DonnaH:** exactly, Antonia:)

**KathyWe:** there is a device called the infowriter that is about 150.00

**DonnaH:** and so much of what we do online now, really doesn't require a lot of TYPING perse.

**AntoniaL:** that it so true

**KathyWe:** ha ha ha

**BrianPM** wishes money was no object!

**StephenO:** Kathy, what problems did you run into with the mimio

**DonnaH:** (money? what's that?)

**KathyWe:** vector points off skelter

**DonnaH:** you'd think that is something that could be reset, Kathy.

**KathyWe:** it may well be that we just got a dud

**DonnaH:** (not saying it is, just you'd think)

**StephenO:** Oh, when you use it with the projector...yes, it does have its draw backs with that. As a note recorder though, I think it serves its purpose for that well.

**KathyWe:** We tried, and tried, got new batteries, reloaded it, remounted it, took it to a new location, promised vacation time to it.

**KathyWe:** I still think it could work somewhere else than our school

**StephenO:** Donna, it uses sound from a special pen casing to send a signal to a wand-like device that attaches to the whiteboard. When you try to use a projector, the sound is not 100% perfect and doesn't match up exactly with the projector image so it's a little off center. We've run into that as well.

**DonnaH:** and see, that is so frustrating. we get such small budgets, that you can't waste money on things that don't work. It's too bad there wasn't a way to use it on trial first.

**StephenO:** Our middle school math teachers love it because they can record all of their math problems and post them on their web sites that afternoon for kids to review or to help them with their homework

**DonnaH:** I used to do that backwards.

**StephenO:** Record the math problems written on the whiteboard I mean

**DonnaH:** write up their notes the night before, and post them...then show it up on the television hooked up to the computer.

**DonnaH:** that way they could copy their notes, and know if they missed school, they could still get what they missed.

**KathyWe:** Well, it came from someone else's budget and they had it sitting around for a little while before they wanted to try it out. I love whiteboards for so many reasons. Math and programming are a terrific use

**DonnaH:** it makes more sense for math, and subjects where words aren't the main thrust of the discussion.

**KathyWe:** agree

**KathyWe:** venn diagrams

**StephenO:** some elementary teachers are thinking of using it with paragraph grammar corrections

**DonnaH:** I could see that.

**KathyWe:** great idea!

**BrianPM:** Programs called Inspiration (6th grade +) and Kidspiration (K-5) are really good for webbing and diagramming

**DonnaH:** having your daily message on the computer.

**AntoniaL:** Inspiration is a great program

**AntoniaL:** and very easy to use

**BrianPM:** The Kidspiration version is for younger ages

**KathyWe:** I like Inspiration, but in middle school, they think it is baby-ish

**DonnaH:** you know though, I have to admit, I just really don't like kidspiration that much.

**DonnaH:** I don't find it any easier to use.

**BrianPM:** well, I teach 7th grade, and my kids are really into Inspiration..

**BrianPM:** of course it's still new to them

**StephenO:** Can Kidspiration be helpful for ELL (or ESL) students? Anyone tried that?

**AntoniaL:** what other programs are effective for younger students?

**BrianPM:** I would say YES!

**DonnaH:** What's other's opinions of Kid Pix?

**KathyWe:** I like it too Brian because of the organization it provides for middle schoolers

**KathyWe:** I love KidPix!

**DonnaH:** (I've heard mixed reviews on that, and they never did well on the computers in our district.)

**StephenO:** Brian, do they need a lot of guidance?

**AntoniaL:** what exactly is kidpix?

**KathyWe:** I used to use it for elementary kids

**JoannaO:** It helps me organize my lessons to a certain degree

**BrianPM:** [www.kidpix.com](http://www.kidpix.com)

**DonnaH:** I was told that the techs set the RAM too low, and it would crash the computer)

**BrianPM** looking @ it myself

**SusanR:** It has a myriad of uses for K to 3 students.

**StephenO:** Donna, are you referring to Kidpix or Kidspiration?

**DonnaH:** its software that helps students write and illustrate their work.

**DonnaH:** at the moment, Kidpix)

**StephenO:** thanks

**DonnaH:** (I have to admit, I really have little use for kidspiration...perhaps the newer versions are better than the first...I didn't like it)

**BrianPM:** [www.inspiration.com](http://www.inspiration.com) Here's Inspiration for anyone that has never used it before

**DonnaH:** (found it harder to use, the kids were easily frustrated....)

**BrianPM:** I really like the latest (7.5 I think) version of Inspiration

**DonnaH:** I've had 3rd graders use inspiration.

**StephenO:** To be honest, most of our staff don't use either. I'm not sure why. I think it has to do with time. They haven't learned it or gravitated to Kid or Inspiration.

**BrianPM:** We instituted it for the first time this year, mostly by force

**DonnaH:** don't have a problem with inspiration.

**BrianPM:** Just received a HUGE EETT grant for our Middle School Language Arts programs

**KathyWe:** We demoed Inspiration and the teachers liked it, but then didn't really use it

**BrianPM:** Inspiration was written into the Grant

**KathyWe:** you will like it

**StephenO:** The templates are good to get them started. I think teachers could use Inspiration to help give an overview of a unit for some kids who need to see the big picture

**AntoniaL:** I wish I would have know about inspiration when I was in grade school

**DonnaH:** I'm finding THAT is a huge problem. does no good if the teachers don't actually use the technology.

**LynneW:** For those of you who are interested, a new version of Kidspiration was just released. Free 30-day downloads are available from the web site for Inspiration or Kidspiration.

**JoannaO:** I really think inspiration is a fun way to get organized

**JoannaO:** it is very user friendly

**KathyWe:** history is a good subject for it and so is science, but they push the language uses of it

**BrianPM:** The ability to transfer from Outline to Web has been the most valuable tool for my students

**JoannaO:** and the templates are very good as well

**KathyWe:** it's just me, but I like the pictures

**DonnaH:** \*chuckles\*

**BrianPM:** So do the kids Kathy

**BrianPM:** I don't allow them to change any background images unless they finish early

**KathyWe** smiles

**JoannaO:** I like the pictures too

**LynneW:** I have heard some anecdotal information about dyslexic learners at Willamette Law School using Inspiration to help them organize their thinking and better understand the "logic" of legal thinking. Evidently, grades have improved dramatically.

**JoannaO:** That sounds very helpful

**KathyWe:** I believe it

**DonnaH:** that is cool:)

LakeethaC: good evening room

**BrianPM:** Has anyone here used Think.com to create student webpages?

**KathyWe:** no, how is it?

**DonnaH:** our district doesn't allow student webpages.

**DonnaH:** \*sighs\*

**JoannaO:** We usually use frontpage

**KathyWe:** we are trying to decide between dreamweaver and front page. front page is not as good for mac users

**DonnaH:** \*blech\* have you ever looked at the code frontpage creates?

**JoannaO:** that's true

LakeethaC: I haven't heard of either

**DonnaH:** Dreamweaver is much better.

**AntoniaL:** I don't feel too comfortable with frontpage

**KathyWe:** the extra code it sends?! AHHH

**BrianPM:** think.com is a host..... I use dreamweaver myself

**DonnaH:** I usually use netscape's composer, but it still needs cleaning up.

**JoannaO:** I am not familiar with dream weaver

**LakeethaC:** I haven't tried any of those

**LynneW:** To host/publisher web pages you must have a server that will support Front Page extensions.

**JoannaO:** How does it work

**KathyWe:** I love dreamweaver, but the cost is 2x as much and the budget people have heard my cries: when will we begin to look at things from a quality point of view?!

**DonnaH:** its a wysiwyg program that creates the html coding for webpages.

**DonnaH:** if that's what you're stuck on, I think I'd go with netscape's composer first.

**JoannaO:** so it's user friendly

**BrianPM:** For a classroom, nothing beats Netscape Composer

**KathyWe:** MD

**StephenO:** Our teachers use Publisher to make their personal pages because it comes on all of their laptops. Its code is worse than FrontPage, but it serves it's purpose for the technophobe

**DonnaH:** (you can get it free, so it's not like you have to worry about the fees)

**DonnaH:** there is such a thing as worse code than frontpage??

**JoannaO:** What can we get free

**DonnaH:** \*that's scary\*

**JoannaO:** Netscape composer?

**BrianPM:** Joanna, Netscape Composer

**DonnaH:** yeah.

**JoannaO:** How does that one work

**LynneW:** If you are looking for a program between a professional web development tool like Dreamweaver but more than Netscape Composer, you might want to investigate Macromedia Contribute.

**JoannaO:** does it require a special language

**DonnaH:** least...I got it 2 years ago. if you download, its free, or they'll send you a disk for a few bucks.

**KathyWe:** I used to teach with composer and it was about 3 years ago. still good? anyone else?

**DonnaH:** I used to have netscape 6.1...it had decent code...the newer one, it's not as good.

**KathyWe:** is Contribute part of the cs package?

**DonnaH:** Joanna, not at all.

**BrianPM:** you need to be really good with cells and tables to use composer. at least IMO

**DonnaH:** works more or less the same as frontpage.

**DonnaH:** really? you think so Brian? I never had any problems.

**KathyWe:** I start with tables once we get to the design part...

**LynneW:** I haven't checked recently about Contribute. When I purchased it was stand alone. They may be bundling it now.

**DonnaH:** (I like invisible tables...)

**DonnaH:** Don't know Contribute.

**KathyWe:** I like the macromedia products, I'll look into it, thank you!

**StephenO:** Donna, it's hard to put your drink down on those invisible ones!

**DonnaH:** Has anyone tried teaching students something beyond basic html?

**DonnaH:** like CSS?

**BrianPM** laughs at Stephen

**DonnaH:** \*chuckles at Stephen\*

**BrianPM:** that was a good one!

**KathyWe:** not yet

**KathyWe:** we teach it in 5th grade

**DonnaH:** Is it something anyone would consider?

**KathyWe:** I would to the 6th graders

**DonnaH:** I don't think our 8th graders could handle it...so I'm impressed.

**StephenO:** I don't think our middle school gets that far

**StephenO:** High school gets pretty deep into coding, but not the middle school

**KathyWe:** oh, they could! give them something interesting to write, like questions from trivial pursuit...

**KathyWe:** and show them how fast they can write a site. no java script

**DonnaH:** one of my total computer geek friends \*said with much love and affection\* suggested an application called Notetab lite.

**KathyWe:** ?

**DonnaH:** it's an excellent editor for anything from css, html, doc, or txt (or rtf, etc)

**KathyWe:** sounds like a nerdy beer

**DonnaH:** (and yay, its free)

**JoannaO:** I teach the lower grades, so I'll be happy if they are able to use Word

**StephenO:** I'd like to see the SuperBowl commercial for it though!

**DonnaH:** \*snicker\*

**KathyWe** smiles

**DonnaH:** I use it now to do my own site.

**BrianPM:** best stuff I've seen from the lower grade levels regarding tech projects has been PowerPoint presentations!

**DonnaH:** but it isn't a wysiwyg. you need to hand code.

**AntoniaL:** I love PowerPoint!

**KathyWe:** really! is it good for teaching?

**BrianPM:** And you can easily turn those PP slides into webpages!

**DonnaH:** I like PowerPoint. I DO. really. but I think that it is either overused, or misused.

**StephenO:** Agree, Brian

**KathyWe:** agree

**JoannaO:** Yes, they get so involved, once they learn how to use it

**StephenO:** Agree with that too Donna

**DonnaH:** it becomes more what can I do to dress it up, rather than the information.

**JoannaO:** that's true

**BrianPM:** You have to really put the wraps on what kids can and can't do

**AntoniaL:** but sometimes dressing it up gains the child's attention and helps them learn



**StephenO:** I've told our teachers not to let the kids mess with the extras until they have all their content edited and put into place

**LynneW:** Teaching storyboarding before putting information in PowerPoint helps keep the focus on content, message, and audience.

**DonnaH:** that's the whole deal with that fine line and balance:)

**StephenO:** good idea Lynne

**KathyWe:** maybe we have seen too many and it would be still nice to see them if we didn't see them all of the time

**JoannaO:** But these additions make it more personal for them

**StephenO:** I think adults overuse and misuse PowerPoint too much leading our kids to do the same

**DonnaH:** I actually think using PowerPoint is excellent for printing books.

**KathyWe:** good outlining and organization in ppt

**DonnaH:** (graphics and text can be easily manipulated, and it's just the right size)

**StephenO:** Donna, do you have kids add illustration image files? Is that what you mean?

**StephenO:** whoops, you answered while I was typing

**JoannaO:** I feel that we use power point really often because it is easy to use

**LynneW:** Did you know there are many sites on the web that offer lower, middle and upper grade themed PowerPoint design templates? Sometimes it is nice to see something other than the in program offerings.

**BrianPM:** and easy to SHARE!

**DonnaH:** it's like the old fashioned slide shows.

**JoannaO:** and because it is a great way to throw things together at the last minute

**AntoniaL:** there are so many uses for PowerPoint

**StephenO:** I like the PowerPoint book idea.

**KathyWe:** we use it to visually document field trips, and drop movies in it too

**JoannaO:** and we can still make it look professional

**DonnaH:** Microsoft themselves offer a lot of templates for teachers too.

**AntoniaL:** you can make great interactive games with PowerPoint

**DonnaH:** (least they did last time I looked)

**KathyWe:** jeopardy? any others?

**BrianPM:** I like to have kids draw and color pictures of Book chapters, then scan the pictures into PowerPoint slides....

**JoannaO:** We created games on PowerPoint , and they were a success

**LynneW:** PowerPoint is fun to use in documenting young children's art. You can add sounds files of their own narration about their art or print narrative along side it.

**StephenO:** I've used PPT as an automated professional development tool to show our teachers a new computer program. I used the presentation format with sound and screen shots

**LakeethaC:** I like using PowerPoint

**LakeethaC:** I use it a lot in my grad class for presentations

**AntoniaL:** PowerPoint would be great for a class portfolio

**DonnaH:** I've had students use photo editors to mess with digital photos.

**DonnaH:** a lot of students get frustrated, because they aren't "artistic" and it makes it easier for them to feel successful.

LakeethaC: my students are going to do a book talk presentation using PowerPoint next nine weeks

**BrianPM:** At what age does that happen anyway? Ask any student in Kindergarten if they are good artists, and everyone raises their hands! lol

SusanR: Speaking of digital, photos ...anyone use Photoshop Elements?

**DonnaH:** well, I've had 4th graders say they weren't...and so or so was.

**JoannaO** Joanna smiles

**KathyWe:** only at home

**AntoniaL:** I've had some exposure to that program

**KathyWe:** ha ha ha

**BrianPM:** I draw a mean stick man myself!

**DonnaH:** I had MS office on my computer. it has MS Photo Draw on it.

**JoannaO:** We use Photoshop

**DonnaH:** (I've also used Photoshop)

**AntoniaL:** Photoshop is great for editing pictures and distorting them

**JoannaO:** It works wonders with photographs

**DonnaH:** Photoshop is more user friendly, and faster, but PhotoDraw has more you can do with it.

SusanR: Students in grade 7/8 are using Photoshop Elements to do Class Collage pics for their yearbooks.

**BrianPM:** IMO, way too much stuff that Photoshop can do to even begin teaching in to anything other than design students

**DonnaH:** (try using the filters...my kids loved taking pictures and making them looked chromed over, or like a comic book)

**JoannaO:** especially if you want to alter a picture, or just add a little decor

SusanR: I had students playing around with the filters..they were hooked

**DonnaH:** I didn't really "teach" it. I told them it was there.

**DonnaH:** most kids seem to already know it.

**DonnaH:** or figure it out easily enough.

**DonnaH:** but that was my 8th graders

**JoannaO:** it is nice to be able to explore it on your own

**JoannaO:** it adds a little more excitement to new found ideas

**DonnaH:** knowing you can teach yourself how to use something is a very important concept to learn.

**AntoniaL:** does anyone know of any websites that offer good technology lessons for young children?

**BrianPM:** also can be very frustrating to students who already lack computer skills

**LynneW:** What do you mean by technology lessons? Can you be more specific?

**KathyWe:** thinkport.com

**DonnaH:** I can tell you some that integrate technology...but I really haven't come across specific tech lessons for young ones.

**AntoniaL:** activities that young children can do that either integrates technology or teaches them about technology

**AntoniaL:** any type of technology

**StephenO:** Donna, if you can fire off some that integrate technology, I'd be interested to have them as a resource

**DonnaH:** <http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

**DonnaH:** not really young...but lots of information there.

**AntoniaL:** thanks

**StephenO:** Thanks Donna for the great discussion

**AntoniaL:** bye!

**BrianPM:** ty Donna!

**DonnaH:** please feel free to email me though, if you have any additional questions:)

**DonnaH:** (you're quite welcome:))

**KathyWe:** thank you Donna! see you soon