

Title of Session: K-12 Math Discussion Group

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

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Room: After School Online Room

JeffC: Well... let's get started.

ClaireG: Thank you. Glad to be here.

LauraHa: Laura waves back

BJ: can we start with introductions, please, Jeff?

JeffC: Absolutely

BJ: o O (and a reminder to click on the Actions menu in the top right of your chat window and go to DETACH)

JeffC: I'm Jeff Cooper, and facilitate discussion forums for Math and Science here at Tapped In. I've been involved with Tapped In since it started (with another interface) about six years ago. For the past three years I was Education Technology Specialist at the College of Education at Pacific University.

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

LauraHa: Hi, my name is Laura Harding. I have taught high school math, but this year I transferred to middle school. Please be patient with me- first time chatting in tapped in. I was introduced to it in my graduate school class at Johns Hopkins.

JeffC: You're doing great Laura.

LauraHa: Thanks!

ClaireG: I am a mathematics specialist at Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland.

JeffC: Excellent Claire, I'm really glad you could make it.

JeffC: If you'd like to see a little more about any user, you can single click their name in the "Here" (or "Online") tab on the left, then click the little "i" in the green circle.

JeffC: Since both Laura and Claire are new here, I'll work a little "tips and tricks" tour into today's session as we progress, and help get you both acclimated.

ClaireG: thanks

LauraHa: That would be great

JeffC: What I am trying to do with this monthly meeting is get educators to build Math (and also Science) resources, discussion threads, shared files, etc. using Tapped In and several other Internet related tools.

JeffC: To that end, I have created a Math K-20+ Resource room here at Tapped In (which we will visit later).

JeffC: I have also created a public bookmark account at Mybookmarks, which I will show you in a minute. The idea of creating collaborative bookmarks is to allow educators to share their favorite sites, and use resources found by others...

JeffC: What I would like to do now is show you a neat little feature of Tapped In, namely URL Projection. I will open a window to the mathscience site at mybookmarks for you to look at, by opening a *second window* on your computer. I want Laura and Claire to be aware of this (don't freak out!)... tell me when you're ready, and we'll go from there.

LauraHa: all set

ClaireG: ok

JeffC: OK... here goes... what I'd like is for you to click on the Mr.'C's Math Science Links and just browse for a minute, then come back to this window.

JeffC projects <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience>

ClaireG: looks good. I tried a couple of links that did not work, though.

JeffC: OK... hopefully that window successfully opened on both of your computers (it did mine). If you open the main Mr.C link, then click on the Math folder, you will see about 20 sites. I have one more to add, but want to wait till I hear back from both of you (with any comments, questions, request to slow down, etc.).

LauraHa: anything in particular we should look at right now?

JeffC: That is indeed possible Claire... I haven't checked all the links in the past month or so.

LauraHa: I also found one that didn't open

JeffC: Actually, the one site that I would like to really explore today isn't even at that site.

BJ . o O (btw, Claire, all the urls will be in the transcript you receive when you log out)

JeffC: However, I would like both of you to be aware, that you can have editing privileges to this site... and will give them to you to make any additions, url corrections, etc.

ClaireG: Just a clarification. We can add to your site at any time?

LauraHa: I recognize a few of the websites

JeffC: You can go to that page any time, *and* edit it if you login. Login: mathscience
Password: tappedin

ClaireG: great

LauraHa: thanks

JeffC: My goal here is not to be the math or science expert, because I'm not. I am experienced in getting people together and facilitating collaboration, so that we can truly help each other and not constantly spin our wheels acting in isolation.

JeffC: So, if you see a dead link, or want to upload new ones, you may do so to that site. I leave it completely up to the user how to add to the site. You can create your own folder, or do it by areas of math, etc.

LauraHa: you just want us to add any good math/science sites we've found?

JeffC: I also want to give you a little tip on URL projection. It is now possible to create student accounts here at Tapped In. Although most districts will block this site (because of the chat feature), if it can be unfiltered, you can project URLs to students, thereby keeping them all on the same page (when you want or need it).

JeffC: Yes Laura, any good math/science link that you deem worthy.

JeffC: In order to open a url on a remote computer, the command is to type /project <url> ... that will open a new window on remote machines of users in the same Tapped In room as you.

JeffC: Questions so far? Because there is definitely a site I want you to see now.

ClaireG: ready

LauraHa: I think I'm ok so far...thanks

JeffC projects <http://www.onlymath.com/>

JeffC: OK... I've opened up onlymath.com ...are either or both of you familiar with this site?

LauraHa: no, I've never seen it

ClaireG: I'm not

JeffC: OK... I think this is a pretty hot site... although right at this moment I'm having some trouble with it! That's always the way, isn't it?

JeffC: Basically, it's a free resource, online math tutoring, almost all grade levels and subject areas.

ClaireG: Of course..never fails.

LauraHa: it looks like it could be really useful

JeffC: Well... that is one site that I will definitely add to my public bookmarks. BTW... the links I have for math and science at the site I showed you are pulled from my 1600 K-12 links at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> (which you can take a look at if you like).

JeffC: The reason I bring up public bookmarks is that I believe that there is no reason why teachers in the same school, or district, or world, can't share their best information. And not just links, other resources, support ideas, etc.

LauraHa: I'm always nervous about giving websites out to students. Afraid something bad will pop up and I'll get in trouble. Do you recommend giving that last site out to students so they can go there for help, or just for teachers to use?

ClaireG: I think collaboration is the only way we are going to make gains in student learning .

JeffC: While you're mulling that over... see if you have any better luck than me at getting onlymath to work... I keep being blocked when I drill down to an equation, etc. I'm on the library's computer now (my own couldn't connect the chat today!).

JeffC: Good question Laura, and thanks for the supportive comment Claire.

JeffC: I believe onlymath is completely fine for students to have.

LauraHa: great!

LauraHa: Can you do me a favor and project the URL again?

JeffC: Indeed, I have a story about my 1600 links at mybookmarks. I had collected them over a period of 6 years, and was showing a group of phds during a summer institute the links. One professor pulled me over after she had gone to the "kidzone" site. It turns out to become a porn site (to be continued)

JeffC projects <http://www.onlymath.com>

LauraHa: thanks

LauraHa: that's what I'm talking about

LauraHa: For one graduate school project, I had to find useful links and evaluate them. They told us to check at least 3 links deep in all websites.

JeffC: Well... I was flabbergasted (this was over three years ago)... but I figured out what happened. Kidzone had lost its domain name as the company went under. Porn sites at the time would buy up any domain and redirect it to their own site. I was livid... but I couldn't do much at the time except sue the porn industry... or call my congressman. I had several ideas about how things should be (my most radical idea is to ban porn on .com and relegate them to .xxx or .sex domains. After months of discussion... and who knows what went on in Congress... they acted last year to *ban porn sites from doing just that*.

LauraHa: Even still, I get nervous because you never know when a website will change

JeffC: Laura, I have the tool for you to use... ever hear of Trackstar?

LauraHa: no, I haven't

LauraHa: that is good about the ban

SusanR joined the room.

BJ waves hi to Sue

JeffC: Let me show you another site. This one has 15 links, which is more than you will ever use in a single class. Trackstar allows you to create framed (or unframed) websites, with 15 links that you can annotate. Let me show you (get ready for another projection).

JeffC projects <http://tinyurl.com/amen>

ClaireG: my screen returned to tapped in

SusanR waves to all and apologizes for her late arrival!

JeffC: The top frame at the Trackstar site includes the annotations that I added, and you can scroll up or down to make the main frame larger or smaller. The left frame stays intact... actually Claire, that is just because Tapped In is the first site at that page!

JeffC: Click some of the links on the left side...

ClaireG: ok, now I see. Sorry

LauraHa: this will really help with grad school

JeffC: Trackstar is one of the many very useful tools created by HPRTEC (you may be familiar Claire, High Plains Regional). You may register (for free) at Trackstar, and *search for tracks created by other educators).

LauraHa: oh good, and I see the links we looked at before can also be accessed from here

ClaireG: yes, now I remember hearing about this and knowing teachers who used this.

JeffC: Notice I also used another tool (tinyurl.com) to get you there... although I don't use that redirector any more for long URLs, it is a very cool tool. I believe it was Susan who showed me <http://www.snipurl.com> which allows you to create your own redirect addresses, again very useful for getting students (or any one else) to a site.

SusanR: I am a great fan of Trackstar, Claire. Its use is only limited by one's imagination!!

JeffC: Let me show you the trackstar main page, where you can register, and also search for tracks (on algebra, geometry, etc.).

JeffC projects <http://trackstar.hprtec.org/>

JeffC: I did a keyword search for "geometry" and came up with 236 results. This could be invaluable for teachers or students in finding cool sites for suBJects.

LauraHa: ok, I registered. now it says "make a new track". What exactly does this mean? Can I just go back and search?

JeffC: Yes

JeffC: You can search, make your own track, etc.

JeffC: I'd start with a search

LauraHa: My only two options right now are logout or make a new track.

LauraHa: I'll try the back button

JeffC: I have one other site to show you today, and then I would like to finish this meeting in the Math Resource room. You might need to back up your browser, or just go to the main page

JeffC: You got it Laura.

JeffC: How are you doing Claire?

ClaireG: still here

JeffC: I know I have a tendency to go pretty fast in these sessions, but one thing that is very cool about Tapped In is that once you're logged off, you will get a transcript. I will also format this in Word and post back to the site for archiving purposes. So... even if you miss a month, you can read what went on other months.

LauraHa: when it is time, just tell me how to get back to the math resource room

JeffC: OK... let's go to the Math Resource Room then, and I'll show you the other site once we get there.

JeffC: I'll leave for the room, then: 1) Click the Online tab on the left 2) Single click:

JeffC: 3) Click the little door icon on the bottom to join me.

JeffC: Here I go

LauraHa: ok

JeffC left the room.

LauraHa left the room.

SusanR left the room.

BJ: Claire, did you join the math resource group?

ClaireG: I thought so, but looks like I am still here

BJ . o O (or did Jeff forget that tiny step ?)

JeffC joined the room.

BJ: Jeff, did you have Claire join the group first?

JeffC: Claire, I forgot to tell you... you will need to click the "join this group" link.

JeffC: My mistake

BJ . o O (you can't enter a group room unless you are a group member)

JeffC left the room.

BJ: Claire, once you join a group, the group is added to the favorite places menu

BJ: you can get there that way any time.

ClaireG left the room.

BJ left the room.

Room: Math Group Room

BJ joined the room.

JeffC: Here are a couple of more things. Yup... you're where you oughta be.

JeffC: Having fun yet/

JeffC: ?

LauraHa: this is pretty cool

ClaireG:ummmmmmm

ClaireG left the room.

JeffC: If you click the "Favorite Places" menu in the top browser, you will see this room as one of your favorites. You can come here any time.

LauraHa: It's good to find more resources that are good for teachers to have

ClaireG joined the room.

JeffC: Cool Claire, you're navigating well...

BJ: everything ok, Claire?

JeffC: You can get to this room any time by clicking the "Favorite Places" menu in the above frame.

ClaireG: it's great. learning a lot. Can't wait to tell Basha

JeffC: Right now, this room is sparse.

JeffC: But as members, you can upload files, start threaded discussions (which if you subscribe to, will be emailed to whatever email account you want), etc....

JeffC: Take a look at the top frame on the left. You'll need to scroll down, but look at the Welcome, About Us, Notes, Files, etc. links.

LauraHa: do I need to be back on the main tapped in page. I have it detached right now and can't see those things

JeffC: For example, I haven't really gotten the threaded discussion started, but there is an unanswered question. Yeah... I'd reattach.

LauraHa: thanks

JeffC: There are other ways to refresh the top browser though.

JeffC: Reattaching is the easiest.

LauraHa: to reattach, do I go to actions and hit detach again?

BJ . o O (DON'T click on the browser refresh button)

BJ nods to Laura

BJ . o O (although you should see attach this time)

LauraHa: this is weird, but I don't see attach

JeffC: I've got one more site that I'd like to show you before today's session ends. But before I do that, I'd like to thank you both for coming, and hope I've given you a few things to think about... and most important... hope that you'll come back next month. You are also both very welcome to stay for the Science workshop which follows.

ClaireG: Thanks, this has been fun. but I have to go now. See you next month.

BJ: Laura, go to FILE in the top left of the detached chat window

JeffC: OK... one more site... then:

JeffC projects <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/archive.html>

LauraHa: ok, got it. Thanks

JeffC: The New York Times Lesson Plan Archives are the most highly articulated grades 6-12 lessons on the Net.

ClaireG: that's good to know. I have not seen them before.

JeffC: One suggestion would be for AP students to search the math lessons and teach the class... although they wouldn't have to be AP students to do it.

ClaireG: thanks for all of your help. Bye

JeffC: You're welcome Claire.

JeffC: My time on this computer has ended... so I'll need to temporarily log off myself.

LauraHa: wow, the lessons sounds very interesting. (I went under math) As usual, the only problem is finding the time

LauraHa: with state testing and everything else. We follow pretty strict pacing guides

LauraHa: Maybe at the end of the year! I always want to do math projects that are meaningful to the students

JeffC: Yeah... the trick is finding ways to address standards while still doing cool lessons. The NY lessons have standards attached for each lesson.

LauraHa: That is great! Thanks so much!