

Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom

Moderator: Donna Hendry

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Room: After School Online Room

DonnaH: Wow, looks like a packed house.

PamelaT: Hello what is your focus tonight?

DonnaH: *smiles*

DonnaH: Depends on what we're interested in.

DonnaH: (sometimes I plan, sometimes it's go with the flow...mainly because I don't have a set "class" and what I plan will invariably be the wrong concentration or age group:))

PamelaT: You have a full class tonight

DonnaH: I see that! It's lovely!

SusanR: o O (nice sized class)

PeggyLW: I know that several of us are in Advanced Educational Technology for Teaching in the Ed Tech master's program at SDSU

DonnaH: How many of you attended the TI Carnival?

JeffC: I did

DonnaH: (hey Jeff:))

DonnaH: Well, we should get started:)

DonnaH: I'd like to hear everyone introduce themselves...

SusanSi: I was there! 4th grade math/art NE Texas..teachers started back today! Hello U of H

DonnaH: My name is Donna Hendry, and I'm an educational consultant who lives in CT.

PhillipU: I am Phillip and I am a fifth grade teacher in CA.

LeannW: I'm Leann Wagerle, a first semester MS student at U of Houston. I'm also starting my Texas certification program. I want to teach Secondary Math

SharonMM: Sharon, from Goodlettsville Middle School in Metro Nashville Public Schools, teaching sixth grade science, math and reading.

DonnaH: (and in case you didn't know, I'll be leading tonight)

PeggyLW: I am Peggy Ward, Educational Technology Master's student at SDSU and High School Teacher in San Diego

PamelaT: I am Pamela and I am doing graduate work at U of Houston in Sec.Math and I see there are a few other math people here tonight

PhilipM: Philip Molebash, professor at San Diego State University.

KarieK: I'm Karie and I'm an elementary teacher in San Diego, CA

JosephH: Grad student and elem teacher in San Diego. I like video.

CarolinaC: Hi I'm Carolina, 2nd grade teacher in Chula Vista, CA and an ED TEC student at SDSU.

EvaSe: My name is Eva Serrano. I'm a kindergarten bilingual teacher working for San Diego School District

TeriB: Teri, master's student at University of San Diego, single subject-Home Ec

MerynaO: Meryna, I'm Substitute for 2 dist. in San Diego county.

PamAL: I am Pam and I teacher 8th grade science in VA.

AmandaY: Hi. I am 1st year Chemistry 10-11th and certificate student at Uof H.

RosanneI: I am a special education teacher in San Diego.

SusanR: I am Sue K to 8 Occasional Teacher in Ottawa, Ontario Canada.

BJ: Tahmina and Christy, please introduce yourselves to the group

ChristyWi: Hi! I am a 5th grade teacher in Temecula, Ca

TahminaQ: I am from Texas Univ of Houston.

DonnaH: *WOW* quite the diverse group!!!

TahminaQ: Wprking on my math teacher's certification

DonnaH: Okay, so we have quite a few student teachers tonight as well as regular teachers....

JeffC . o O (Tahmina might want to join the Math Resources group here.)

DonnaH: *nods in agreement*

DonnaH: Usually at the beginning of the year, we like to start out with the discussion on internet safety.

SusanR: and K to 3 teachers may want to join the "K to 3 Resource Room"

TahminaQ smiles

TahminaQ: sounds good!

DonnaH: What rules exist to help you protect/oversee your students?

SharonMM: In Nashville we use filters. The first item to go....chats.

SusanR: I will talk to you at the end of the session, Eva... about joining

JeffC: Too many rules Donna. Admin rules that ban chat of any type (like Tapped In), no email... lots of filters... many things that have chilling effects for teachers trying to use technology to best effect in the classroom.

PamAL: we use filters in my school as well

BJ: May I interrupt for a sec, please, Donna?

DonnaH: Absolutely, Bj:)

LeannW: There are Acceptable Use policies

PhillipU: We have a computer lab at our school and we project each student's monitor onto the large screen in front of the room to make sure they are not visiting unwanted sites on the Internet.

DonnaH: (I know, I forgot the large window bit...*sigh* its been a while:))

PamelaT: My email is bounced if it has an attachment

BJ: If this is your first Tapped In discussion, please click on NOTES on the blue menu above the chat window....

BJ: and read the 10 STEPS TO HAVING A SUCCESSFUL CHAT IN TAPPED IN

BJ . o O (the 10 steps will also tell you how to detach your chat window)

BJ: thanks, Donna. Sorry for the interruption

JeffC: <http://snurl.com/tiledwindows> (is how I have mine set up)

DonnaH: That's okay. I shouldn't've forgotten !

DonnaH: is there any rhyme or reason to it Phillip? or is it totally random, like a screen saver?

DonnaH: (has to admit, she kind of likes that idea)

DonnaH: attachments I can sort of understand. It takes one techno-clueless wonder to crash the entire system.

PhillipU: No, we have a large projection screen that allows up to 25 monitors displaying what the students are doing. This way I can work with one student and at the same time view what the other students are doing.

PamAL: that sounds great

PamelaT: unfortunately that is also how most assignments are easily sent

DonnaH: Wow. that's excellent. Is it a program?

TahminaQ: pretty cool!

JeffC: NetOp School?

DonnaH: and is it a special sort of screen?

DonnaH: Pamela, have you considered posting the work online, like a website?

TeriB: Are some students uncomfortable having their work displayed for all of their classmates to see?

DonnaH: with wysiwygs, it's not that difficult any more.

AmandaY: Is it a technology classroom or regular classroom with the large monitor

PamelaT: Your school sounds very modern what classes use this technology

PhillipU: I am not sure, the technicians at our school set it up in the Spring of last year. The projection screen is controlled by the teacher's computer. That computer has the option of showing the monitors on the screen or displaying the teachers monitor on the screen for direct instruction

JeffC: It sounds like NetOp School... it's a great program, but not cheap.

EvaSe: In the school where I work, the comp. lab has the same system. Maybe because it's an elementary school, students feel proud when their work is displayed on the big screen

PhillipU: The computer lab fits 35 computers all facing the screen. The screen is about 6 feet by six feet. The students don't have a problem with this because they should be focusing on their work.

PamelaT: Who gets to use it?

ChristyWi: Do you get to choose which 25 computers are displayed or are they just certain computers?

DonnaH: (I need to work in a better funded school system)

DonnaH: or are they random?

LeannW: (doesn't everyone?)

PhillipU: We are a Title One School which means we have a low socio-economic student base. Our funds were state generated along with donations from HP. It took two years to complete.

DonnaH: (mine's a title one school too...)

PamelaT: With scarce resources how are class usage chosen?

SusanSi: funding is there from what I've seen in the system--must have a grant writer

SharonMM: We used our Title 1 funding to purchase a mobile lab.

PhillipU: We use the room on a rotation and sign-up basis. I averaged about 3 hours per week with my class last year

SusanSi: and the vision of the future is a must

ChristyWi: Title 1 funds just need to be used carefully. my principal was good at this

DonnaH: do you see regular ed teachers supporting/assisting/using technology? or is it ignored/left to a "specials" teacher?

DonnaH: (yes, I know, I'm off track)

EvaSe: We use grant to establish all our lab computer, and every year we add more stuff
SharonMM: School specific...many of our teachers are "afraid" they will break the computer and don't use them regularly.

PamAL: a lot of the teachers that I work with do not want to use technology, they think that it is for the specials teachers

CarolinaC: We are expected to integrate it as regular ed teachers

ChristyWi: I know my special ed teacher introduced me and I didn't see anyone else using tech except my student

ChristyWi: Of course I don't efficiently use our computer lab-looking for ideas

DonnaH: ah...but expectations are often separate from realities *laugh* at least in my experience.

SusanR: I see little support for classroom teachers unless they are committed to integrating technology. Most of it is left to the Computer Lab teacher

PamAL: does anyone do anything with digital pics or videos

CarolinaC: Often we team up with teachers who have more "tech" experience, but most just have game time.

SharonMM: Susan makes the same point I would make.

ChristyWi: My comp teacher uses them on our morning show

EvaSe: In my level K teachers only use technology for games in the classroom and for our ELD program

PhillipU: We set up a support system where teachers with decent technological experience work with teachers that are not comfortable using technology

ChristyWi: Our old comp teacher. he lost the position due to lack of district funding

DonnaH: Do you feel the reason the computers are under used is because the teacher hasn't had the appropriate training? that the computers in the classrooms are too antiquated? or just the upkeep of the systems creates the problems?

CarolinaC: I use digital video (imovie) for class presentations

PamAL: that is a great idea

TahminaQ: I agree w/ you Donna

AmandaY: Does anyone use computers on a daily basis that isn't a computer lab teacher?

ChristyWi: I think all of the above

PamelaT: At the high school level it seems it's a battle to get a regular time slot in the lab and I only have mine in the class

PamAL: I just learned imovie and I want ways to use it in the classroom

SharonMM: They are underused because of a lack of training. However, newer teachers are proficient at basics and I look for technology integration into classroom instruction to surge with a new generation of teachers. They have No fear:)

TahminaQ: We are working on that

ChristyWi: What if you used it to create an end of the year video for each student?

DougP: Here are some examples of iMovie from a few projects that we undertook.

<http://www.gecdsb.on.ca/cait/winger/>

DonnaH: when I'm in a class with the appropriate hardware, I've found I used it about twice a week.

CarolinaC: I used imovie the last few years to make a movie to show at Open House... the parents loved it!

SharonMM: I don't use them every day, but my students have projects where they are using computers at some point in time each day.

DonnaH: (because it's not just a matter of using it to use it, but to use it effectively.)

PamAL: I teach 100 kids I can't afford to make all of the DVD's

PhillipM: Why don't we also ask these questions about teachers who are and aren't prone to take a problem-based approach in the classroom? Isn't the process of learning, which will translate into more efficient uses of technology what our focus should be?

DonnaH: I know a few teachers who've set up their check in's on the computer.

PamAL: I want the kids to do something with it

ChristyWi: My old school had 4 comp in class. I used for word processing daily

DonnaH: 4th graders, who sign in for the morning, and their lunch choice...and they print THAT out rather than a regular lunch count.

PhillipU: I use PowerPoint on a weekly basis to instruct kids in my class to instruct vocabulary and grammar. The kids really like the animation

SusanR: Here are some imovie projects done in our district

http://www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca/Teacher_Res/techres/software/imovie.htm

PamAL: cool thanks

CarolinaC: I use computers on a daily basis mainly powerpoint and the internet on the big screen TV's

PamAL: I use power point a lot too

ChristyWi: I don't have technology to use powerpoint in class. :(

AmandaY: Thanks Phillip for the vocabulary idea. What other ways is power point used? Do you update the slides each year with new info?

PamAL: I use video clips in my power points

DonnaH: I find that quite often software is missing on the classroom computers,

PamAL: the district that I work for has a membership to unitedstreaming.com

JosephH: I did an end of the year video yearbook with imovie

DonnaH: (our district, teachers' are blocked from loading any programs to their classroom computer...ridiculous)

PhillipM: Does anybody use inspiration effectively?

CarolinaC: I also use it for vocabulary words and games. High frequency words and Math facts are easy slides to make too

TahminaQ: I did

PhillipU: I update the slides when needed. I usually change slides if the kids have a tough time with a concept.

DonnaH: (is it safe to say that everyone uses Mac's at school?)

PamAL: the classroom computers are PC and the lab is MAC at my school

PamelaT: no we have pc

JeffC: Let me throw out a few ideas... beyond Powerpoint (although kids really love it): how about doing some sort of "epal" project with email. Go to <http://www.epals.com> and register... you can then create up to 35 email accounts for your students. Then... hook up with other schools around the world... do project based learning... join a project at Newsday, Jason Project, Mayaquest, etc. Work on webquest(s) together. Build a website together using www.freewebs.com or www.myschoolonline.com

ChristyWi: My school is the only mac school. Result: no tech support : no working computers- usually

EvaSe: I used inspiration on my 470 class at SDSU and I loved it! I planned some cool lessons.

DonnaH: fyi, a lot of filters block epals

SusanR: o O (switching from Macs to PCs..much to the reluctance of many teachers)

PhillipU: I wish! I like Mac's better then the PC's we have

JeffC: Oh yeah... a lot of districts don't want the students having email... if you face that... what are you going to do as a teacher... give up?

DonnaH: (we have 2 tech's for a district with 9 schools and something like 3500 students?)

LeannW: I've been in industry for 8 years and the Mac users that I've encountered were ALL academia.

CarolinaC: We have all Mac's

LeannW: (oil and gas industry)

SusanSi: Macs here

JeffC: Educators need to fight to change the system if they aren't using tech properly (i.e. at all)... and not using epals is a mistake. My local district banned it until I convinced them that it was safe and secure... now they support it.

ChristyWi: In conversation with businessman he told me the business world is PC based. Should the schools be?

DonnaH: nah...I created a cgi-bin page for the students to use (you can do this with geocities) to email me...then I could check for content, and forward them to the appropriate epal.

CarolinaC: I just asked today about student e-mail's because I plan to do ePals this year and was told students can't have e-mail accounts.

DonnaH: BUT. it does create a vacuum, because it does take more work.

AmandaY: I hope it's PC where I'm starting!

JeffC: What are you going to do now Carolina?

DonnaH: That, Christy, is a HUGE part of why I'm not fond of Mac's in the school (and most people at home have PC's)

DonnaH: so what kids learn at home is usually pc based.

DonnaH: Though...I find that the choice changes slightly depending on geography.

JeffC: You have options: 1) Do nothing (what the admin would prefer) 2) Work around. Have the students write letters, then use your email account to forward to epal accounts. You're not breaking any rules that way. 3) Encourage parents to see how epals works, and get them to fight with you against the admin.

ChristyWi: I know I have problems with our macs at school- therefore don't use them much

DonnaH: (the northwest is more likely to have mac's then say the northeast.)

JosephH: One of the benefits of macs though is that very few people write viruses for them

CarolinaC: I guess I'll just have them sent to me... and I can distribute them or all students can access one classroom account

LeannW: YES!

JeffC: You also don't need to rely on outdated or broken school tech. Kids have computers at home or can access them from libraries.

DonnaH: I actually like the point of having them sent to me.

LeannW: Joseph is right.

PhillipU: The best part about Mac is that they don't crash as often as PC's

TeriB: My ed tech class I'm taking now uses Mac and I use PC at home. It's been difficult to transfer things back and forth and just hard to get used to.

JeffC: I would opt for option 3 Carolina... although choice 2 works.

DonnaH: I've had too many instances of having students send regular letters to sister schools that were VASTLY inappropriate.

LeannW: I don't agree with Phillip. I've run my old G4 to the limits...

JeffC: They won't do that with epals though... if inappropriate, and you have the filter set... it stops with you.

DonnaH: You know what works great for that Teri, is a jump drive.

DonnaH: (our macs at school used to crash all the time...I was the one who had to resuscitate the blighters)

PhillipU: I have had 1/10 the problems with my Mac at home when compared to my PC at school

PamAL: I was told that I am not allowed to use jump drives at my school

DonnaH: YOU ARE JOKING!!!

PamAL: no they could bring in viruses

DonnaH: *rolls her eyes*

JeffC: Admins often run things so that they are most convenient for central admin... it is *not* what is best for the students.

PamAL: was the reason I was given

DonnaH: only if you save the stuff from your jumpdrive to the hard drive.

JosephH: the latest use for jump drives now is to INCREASE security

JeffC: You need to fight the power... fight the powers that be!

JosephH: like a key

DonnaH: which, in our district is blocked anyway. how flaming stupid.

SharonMM: I think it depends on what the teacher is comfortable using. I use Mac's at home and love them, but at school we use Windows and I have had to learn to live in both worlds.

PamelaT: I can't imagine not using my jump. That's how most of my class functions at the U

JosephH: I think all students should be issued a jump drive in middle school and not be allowed to save anything anywhere else

SusanR: Notice a lot of kids have these disk on keys..they wear them around their neck

PamAL: I tried to fight and got into a lot of trouble with the district

JeffC: Again... not being able to use something... because something bad might happen... has a chilling effect. The admins for the most part *don't care that it stifles learning*.

JosephH: a mandatory scanning of the drive upon insertion would be easy

JeffC: You need to ally parents Pam, and other teachers.

DonnaH: The kids who are carrying them Sue are usually for mp3 files.

LeannW: Right Joseph...Norton can do that...

ChristyWi: are jump drives the same as thumb drives?

SusanR: Not the sweet one I know, Donna

JosephH: yes, or flash drives

JeffC: We're stuck now in the malaise of NCLB... the standards based nonsense... emphasizing testing and assessment rather than student-centered project based learning... engaged learning... has to be fought against.

SusanR: they have ipods, Donna

DonnaH: You know what I think a lot of the problems are? is that they block those of us who actually KNOW what we're doing because of the people who haven't a blinking clue.

CarolinaC: Jeff you sound like you like to fight with the powers that be...?

PamAL: I was told that, my boyfriend is a tech in another district and said the same thing about Norton

JosephH: Norton is pretty bad actually, MacAfee is better from what I've been told

SusanR: . o O (Jeff's a rebel with a cause)

DonnaH: Maybe administration needs to assess that, and test teachers on their tech knowledge, and grant them levels of access according to their abilities?

SharonMM: It also has to do with teachers that do things they know they are illegal and do it anyway. We do sometimes become our own worst enemy.

ChristyWi: Jeff, you were successful once right? Any tips?

PamAL: but I am teacher not a tech as it was pointed out to me

DonnaH: (well, I've fought that one before. the teacher vs. tech thing.)

LeannW: Yeah, I do think McAfee is better...I just had a subscription to Norton and stuck with it. It's done well so far.

JosephH: but still, key drives represent a real turning point as far as the ability to save files easily

PamelaT: I save all my work on a jump whether at home or at the U or at school that way everything I need is always with me

DonnaH: the only thing the techs in my system had over me was a knowledge of networking. which has nothing to do with anything I might have a question with.

PamAL: exactly

JosephH: schools could use the old terminal system where no one has a hard drive, just a monitor and keyboard with port for key drive

LeannW: Jeff is Captain Collaboration...I think he has a blue suit with a red cape

PamAL: and the techs in my district don't understand that either

JeffC: Sorry... just had a phone call... yes Christy... I was successful in convincing the district to change.

JeffC: My tip to you... let me talk to them.

ChristyWi: *smiles*

JeffC: Number one: I know the arguments that they would make and could counter them.

JeffC: Number two: they can't fire me.

JeffC: Number three: I can support them.

DonnaH: I've fought with my system for 4 years (and 2 different tech directors)to allow access to TI...

TahminaQ: Good tips Jeff

JosephH: what is TI?

JeffC: Exactly Donna... because you're on the inside... it's very difficult to fight.

JeffC: TI= Tapped In

DonnaH: (ummm where you are)

EvaSe: Very powerful tips Jeff!

JeffC: Banned on 90%+ of K-12 computers nationwide

AmandaY: How do you get to number 2 status - can't fire me?

LeannW: Are we the underground?!

JeffC: Even though they have it set up now so that it is *extremely safe and secure here*.

JeffC: #2 is if I argue with them... they can't fire *me*

DonnaH: Not anymore, Jeff...I sorta went ballistic last February when an asst. principal decided to tell a student that I wasn't staying in a position because I was "just a sub".

(livid didn't begin to describe it)

JeffC: Because I don't work for your district.

JeffC: Yeah... I remember that Donna.

PamelaT: If you have a HS math class TI also means your calculator which now can be connected to the computer for updates and downloads

DonnaH: (point taken, Pamela:) !)

SharonMM: Downloads that are actually more dangerous than guided chats, Pamela?

PamelaT: I can't let my kids connect and update for better operating systems because of rules

JeffC: In other words... I can go to bat for any of you here... and while I'm on the subject... let me tout my new group. Actually... two new groups starting on Saturday: 1) Collaboration Community starts at 10a.m. Pacific. It's a follow up to my presentation from the Festival. And 2) Advanced TI Tips and Tricks at 11.

ChristyWi: OK I'll come get you when the battle cry sounds- thanks

AmandaY: In addition to power point and imovies, what other tech techniques are used?

JeffC: All of you should look at Tapped In as more than a class assignment. This is a professional educators' collaborative with over 17,000 members and 600+ groups. We can support you regardless of your needs. There are other pros here whom you can and should talk with (outside of your classroom experience).

SharonMM: Does tech support do these updates for you. I know our system updates OS remotely almost every month.

JeffC: Please do Christy.

LeannW: Not even Kryptonite can keep Captain Collaboration down...

DonnaH: they do...but they are soooooo slow about it.

JeffC: No... just losing my internet connection...

PamAL: i don't think the computers get updates in my school

PamAL: there are 13 schools in my district and like three techs that don't have degrees

JeffC: Many don't or won't Pam... unless you take the initiative yourself. There should be some sort of tech mentor system in your district... and if they don't... you could start one.

ChristyWi: sounds familiar- none of them accessible right?

LeannW: Pam are you Windows or Mac? Microsoft has security updates almost every day.

PamelaT: I was actually referring to my classroom set of graphing calculators which are updatable and new programs available regularly

SharonMM: It seems across the nation we all have the same problems. I would think in the right forum stated "Politically Correctly" we could be heard. I would rather see NEA do something besides send me credit card offers.

DonnaH: *cackles*

PamAL: we are PC but automatic updates is turned off

DonnaH: okay. that was funny.

LeannW: NO WAY! The Sys Admin charges my company if we don't get Microsoft's security updates.

JosephH: Updating is the single most important security solution for PCs, they should not be turned off.

PeggyLW: Our district let the techs go and kept the teachers at the site who were taking care of the technology thing. Sounds good until you realize that the techs knew way more of what we needed from them than the teacher.

DonnaH: especially when the whole internet line seems to consistently have trouble.

MerynaO: Do districts get price breaks on software?

JeffC: I just saw today from an email: , the House Appropriations Committee adopted a severe cut to

JeffC: the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program, reducing it by

JeffC: over \$91 million for FY05.

DonnaH: (*even more than my home acct*)

DonnaH: and just how is that going to help support the leave no child behind act?

DonnaH: (yes, don't get me started, we don't need to get political)

JeffC: The child will be at the computer... trying to fix it.

JeffC: So... they won't be left behind... get it?

TahminaQ: ha ha

PamelaT: The child who needs help has no home computer

SharonMM: We are calling it...No Child Gets Ahead.

JeffC: They can go to the library Pam

LeannW snickers hee hee hee

JeffC: they won't... but they could... of course... we should have a lot more computer labs available 24/7 for them.

PamAL: agreed

ChristyWi: talk about money issues. Good idea though

PamelaT: only if they know how to use it which they can't learn if we can't show them

TahminaQ: its not very good -the library

JeffC: but even if available... with all the chilling effects of filters, other issues... how do you plan to get ahead? what will *you* do?

MerynaO: Do dist. get price breaks on the software for each computer on campus

SharonMM: Meryna, our school system gets a price break because of bulk purchases.

ChristyWi: Is there a district that gives students in need their old computers when they update?

JeffC: Let me share something with you. I can support educators whenever they need it... through Tapped In and other resources. I have access to a VoiceOnline room and invite any of you to attend after this. Simply go to <http://JeffCooper.info> and type your name in the Voice box, and click enter. I'll meet you there and we can talk about things.

PeggyLW: Only about 10%, if that, of my students have a computer that works, an internet connection that works, and a printer that works AND has ink in it.

DonnaH: (our time is almost up)

SharonMM: Christy, no, we are using them in our classrooms:)

ChristyWi: True

DonnaH: heck, one of the kindergarten classes had an old commodore 64 in it.
DonnaH: which really belongs in a museum...not a classroom.
ChristyWi: a what?- I'm guessing really old
PamAL: that is sad
DonnaH: it was called "64" because it had 64 bits of memory (yes, bits)
DonnaH: came out around when guys....83 or so?
SharonMM: This is wonderful and Donna, I thank you for your time and expertise.
PeggyLW . o O (ah, the good old days...)
ChristyWi: Jeff, when I know what my district will not allow me to use I will come for your help. I want to try to get my students in TI
PhillipU: Thank you Donna
DonnaH: Not a problem. Not exactly the original topic...but now you see why I tend not to plan anymore *laugh*
EvaSe: Goodbye everyone
JeffC: OK Christy
AmandaY: Thank you Donna
PeggyLW: thank you
TahminaQ: Bye!
JosephH: thanks Donna
ChristyWi: Thanks Donna, and all
TeriB: thanks
PamAL: thanks, goodnight
CarolinaC: it's been fun ...thanks!