

Title of Session: K-20 Math Resources

Moderator: David Weksler

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Room: After School Online Room

JennyB: I have an assignment to join and participate in on online staff development

DavidWe: Well, welcome again. I hope that this version of "online staff development" is useful to you

DavidWe: How long have you been teaching?

JennyB: It is my first time in anything like this

JennyB: this is my 4th year

DavidWe: Well, BJ and I are kind of old pros at this...we've been using Tapped In since the, well, 90's.

JennyB: That is good. You can teach me the ways

DavidWe: Happy to help with the TI basics. Since you seem to be the one participant in this discussion (which happens monthly on the first Tuesday of the month, but we hope will happen more frequently) why don't you let us know what you might be interested in learning

JennyB: I have never heard of any of these online opportunities until this class, Computers for Education

BJ: I see that Jenny has already joined the K-20 math group

DavidWe: Well, we are happy that you now have heard about Tapped In. BJ and I tend to feel pretty strongly about Tapped In and how it can truly enhance teacher professional development and reduce teacher isolation

JennyB: I hope to gain from the experience

BJ: and she's a math teacher. Do you use technology in your math classes, Jenny?

DavidWe listens

JennyB: No, I don't

DavidWe: What math classes do you teach?

JennyB: I am not really aware of what is out there. The schools I have taught are very low income and I assume you have to buy all the products

DavidWe nods

JennyB: Right now I am teaching a general math and pre-algebra

DavidWe: Do you typically have computers in the classrooms you teach in?

JennyB: not until this year

JennyB: I have 4 right now

DavidWe: Great. 4 is better than none

JennyB: just one for the teacher. last year I used accelerated math, but the students aren't on the computer it just prints problems and then gives them a report after they scan it

DavidWe: What can we discuss and share with you in the next 45 minutes that will be helpful to you as you anticipate teaching in February?

JennyB: I have small classes now cause I work at an alternative high school so 4 is ok to accommodate students

DavidWe: That's great, then, with four computers for a smaller number of students

DavidWe: What would make your life easier if we could snap our fingers and make it happen in an instant?

JennyB: I guess, if you know of sites that can offer assistance to students at home or ones we could utilize in class

BJ wonders if Jenny looked at Jeff's math bookmarks?

DavidWe: Okay, Jenny. I've got some ideas along those lines

JennyB: no I haven't

DavidWe thinks it might be helpful for BJ to share that URL...however....

DavidWe: Perhaps we should do a quick round of introductions as we typically do at the beginning of any ASO

JennyB: ok

DavidWe: So, just as a formality, let me start by saying...

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I've been helping teachers with technology and education (math and science, primarily) for the past 12 years

DavidWe: I live in New Jersey, although I'm in the suburbs of PHiladelphia at the moment.

DavidWe . o O (Jenny?)

DavidWe: Just a quick intro, okay?

BJ: I think that one of the greatest features of the discussions in Tapped In is that they help teachers integrate their discipline across the curriculum...

DavidWe agrees with BJ

BJ: I'm an art teacher and love to integrate the arts and math

DavidWe has a good art and math story to tell at some point

JennyB: I am a math teacher and still trying to figure out ways to change it up a bit

BJ: as a discussion starter, here is the link to Jeff's math and science bookmarks

DavidWe: Thanks, BJ, that's great.

BJ: <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience>

JennyB: great, thanks

DavidWe: Emily. This is a discussion about Math Resources K-20

DavidWe: Jenny, are you aware that the transcript of this discussion, including any URL that's typed into the chat window will be emailed to you after you logout of Tapped In

JennyB: looks like there is a lot to explore there

BJ: that url is located in the K-20 Math group room

DavidWe nods affirmatively to Jenny

BJ: sometimes a huge list like that is overwhelming

JennyB: no, I wasn't aware of that. I do need a copy so I don't have to worry about copying and pasting?

EmilyW : is this about web resources for math?

DavidWe: Yes, Emily

JeffC joined the room.

EmilyW : ok, I was confused with what resources meant

EmilyW : ok

BJ: the first resources on Jeff's list that I'd recommend you look at more carefully is ENC

BJ waves to Jeff

JeffC waves

DavidWe: Hi, Jeff

BJ let's David lead the discussion

JennyB: ENC?

JeffC: Eisenhower National Clearinghouse

JennyB: where is that?

DavidWe hopes Jeff might quickly introduce himself since we are using his math/science bookmarks

JeffC: <http://www.enc.org>

DavidWe: Thanks, Jeff

JennyB: Thanks, Jeff

DavidWe: I'd like to make one comment to Jenny, since this is her first time in Tapped In...

JeffC: I'm the facilitator of the Math Resources group, but not a subject matter expert (like David). I've created a Math Resources Group room here with resources, threaded discussion, etc. for Math educators. You are all free to join the group.

DavidWe: Jenny, there will be WAY too much information that we can suggest to you. It takes a bit of time to digest it all. Let us know how we can help you, tonight, during this discussion

DavidWe . o O (and to you also, Emily)

EmilyW : Quick intro about me- I am a web designer interested in designing math/educational websites

DavidWe: Thanks, Emily. I appreciate you contributing that

DavidWe: Gail Hoskins (great person, math teacher for 20 years, and the professional development leader at ENC) wanted me to let people know...

JennyB: So there isn't a particular topic you had scheduled for this time?

DavidWe: That next month...on 1 March, I believe. Gail will be doing a 2 hour presentation (7-9pm) all about ENC online resources for math and science

DavidWe tries to answer Jenny's question

JeffC: David is the guest facilitator, next month it will be Gail Hoskins from ENC... what in particular would you like to see covered Jenny?

JennyB: I am sure there is a lot of information and those websites will be helpful as resources.

DavidWe: Jenny, I do have some specific things I would like to share, but we are also aware that you are still learning the system, getting familiar with things that we know, so we are happy to ADJUST the presentation to suit some of your needs

JennyB: I don't even know

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Well, here's another one, Jenny.

DavidWe: Math Forum - <http://mathforum.org>

DavidWe: Know that one and ENC and you are 500% better already

JennyB: I was thinking I could participate in a discussion, next time I will think of a topic I need help in. Right now these webs sites will be great and I can use them for my class too

DavidWe: This is the Math Resources K-20 discussion, Jessica, just so you know

JeffC: BTW... to join the Math Resources Group: 1) Click the "Search" tab in the top frame 2) Click the "Groups" subtab 3) type: math resources ...and click the Find It! link 4) Click the link to the Math Resources K-20+ group 5) Join the group.

DavidWe: That's fine, Jenny

DavidWe: Emily, did you have any questions in particular?

EmilyW : no

EmilyW : I am just exploring the links

JennyB: perfect...being %500 better

DavidWe: There is one thing that I would like to share with you all. This happened a couple of weeks ago when we had a pretty big snowfall in the northeast

DavidWe . o O (about 12 inches in New Jersey/New York)

DavidWe: So, my sister got tickets to see a juggler named Michael Moschen

DavidWe: He was performing in a theatre for families and we took my niece and nephew (Justine/8th grade, Alex/6th grade)

DavidWe: We've seen him before. He's been on public television. He won a MacArthur "Genius" award and he is very, very talented

DavidWe: Take a look at the following web page:

DavidWe: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/BluenoseJugglers/moschen.html>

DavidWe: Let me know when you've had a chance to read the first couple of paragraphs

DavidWe waits

JennyB: ok

DavidWe: Although juggling may seem a bit distant from math education, he brought in ideas from math and science all throughout his presentation.

DavidWe: He was also quite interactive, talking to the audience about what jugglers do. What they are interested in. Why they juggle

JennyB: sounds like it would be a great presentation

DavidWe: Did you see the quote on that web page - his decision to drop out of high school?

DavidWe: It was FANTASTIC - especially thinking of the young students in the audience

DavidWe: Did you read his quote about learning things as opposed to "teaching himself"?

DavidWe: I was particularly struck by that - I certainly wasn't that self-aware in high school

DavidWe acknowledges that he did figure out how to juggle 3 balls in high school

JennyB: I wasn't that self aware either

JennyB: and never learned how to juggle. I was too worried about my social life

JennyB: not teaching myself new experiences

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: I did some school work, played a lot of sports and did most of the assignments I was given by teachers

JennyB: I did all my work cause I wanted to go to college, but I didn't do more than I needed

DavidWe: Let me share one more web page about him:

DavidWe: http://powerofdesign.aiga.org/content.cfm/moschen_cat

DavidWe: Yes, Jenny. That's pretty much what I did as well

TomTab: hello all

DavidWe: He spoke a lot about the idea of parallel lines and things moving in parallel (the balls or objects he was juggling)

DavidWe: Hi, Tom. Welcome

TomTab: sorry I'm late...I was caught up with my son. He's 20 months old...a great age

DavidWe: So, I was interested...don't worry, Tom. That's fine. I can imagine a 20 month old needs a certain amount of fatherly attention

TomTab: I was interested in knowing what Jenny felt about Accelerated Math?

JennyB: It is great he combines the arts and math....this is where I could use help too. I have had one group of students do tessellations but other projects to help understand math

DavidWe: Do you know that there is inexpensive (or free) software to do tessellations, Jenny

JennyB: It was alright, I liked the immediate feedback, but kids would guess a lot and finally get the right answer

DavidWe: Well, what if they are creating their OWN tessellations?

JennyB: I had one class that did. Some turned out great

DavidWe: Cool

DavidWe: Do you know of the artist, M.C. Escher, Jenny?

JennyB: I didn't know about the software

DavidWe: That Math Forum web site AND the ENC web site will have ways to search for tessellation software

TomTab: I used it to run a class for my low performing students. They liked it. I would give them weekly tests that were not multiple choice. The students liked working at their own pace.

JennyB: I have seen a few of them

JennyB: the one on this site and the class I am in has one w/birds

DavidWe believes there is free tessellation software but he's not positive

JennyB: I will check on those two pages

DavidWe: Well, when I was in 3rd grade we lived in London and we traveled in Europe a lot - it's closer to Europe when you are in England

DavidWe: We were in Holland and my father called Escher on the phone and we went to his house and he showed us his studio

DavidWe: He sold my Dad a print for \$50...it's worth a bit more than that, today

DavidWe likes telling that story

JennyB: Wow! That must have been great, especially at that age

DavidWe: It was very cool. He was an older man (I think he died in 1970 and we met him in 1968) and he had all this cool stuff in his studio. Art stuff

DavidWe: It hailed great big hailstones when we left. I remember that part very clearly

JennyB: sounds like a place my son would love

JennyB: he loves drawing and painting all sorts of things

DavidWe: How old is your son, Jenny?

JennyB: he is eight

DavidWe: BJ is a graphic artist in addition to being an art teacher

DavidWe: BJ does arts education discussions in Tapped In

DavidWe: Do you know about the Calendar of Events, Jenny?

JennyB: I do, I know one thing!

DavidWe guesses that Jenny knows more than one thing

JennyB: my teacher explained that part to us hoping we would participate in a discussion

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: That's great

DavidWe: I believe both Jeff and I would like to hold the math discussion with greater frequency. Partly we notice who shows up (not that many folks) so we just don't know if it is worth it to schedule more sessions

DavidWe: What's your reaction to your first online discussion?

DavidWe: We've got about 10 minutes left in this session

JennyB: I am happy with it. Glad you both could offer some suggestions

JennyB: It goes by fast

DavidWe: Yes.

DavidWe: Some of it is the mechanics of getting comfortable in Tapped In

JennyB: And hearing about the juggler. very interesting

DavidWe: It is very helpful for the presenters also to get feedback from the participants

DavidWe: Well, the juggler really was FANTASTIC. There are all sorts of people making the connections between math and many other fields

JennyB: one question I have is if you come across something you think people would be interested in, do you have discussions based on one or few set topics?

DavidWe: There are two math teachers in California. They are also dancers. They have a presentation titled, "Two Guys Dancing About Math". Unbelievable when I first saw it

DavidWe: Well, we obviously can do both

DavidWe: What were you thinking about?

JennyB: I need to keep my eyes open for shows like those

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Well, that's one of the things we BELIEVE Tapped In can help with. Humans know much more and by sharing personal experiences - especially with other educators - little gems that we each know can be better known by all

JennyB: I agree

DavidWe: What's the toughest part about teaching math at your school at the present time?

DavidWe . o O (that might be a difficult question to answer)

JennyB: Someday I hope to have more interesting information to share with others to help them grow as a person and an educator. Today I learned a few

DavidWe: Always a good day when you can learn something new

JennyB: Well, today was my first day with my own class. I got hired in Dec. and had to wait for a new quarter.

DavidWe . o O (David's philosophy of life, tip #13)

DavidWe: Wow. That's exciting and challenging (and probably a little nerve-wracking)

JennyB: it was weird having my "first day" in January. I have been w/most of the kids since Dec. just helping out the other 2 teachers

DavidWe: Sounds good

JennyB: Being such a small group I don't anticipate too many struggles

DavidWe: So, you are done with your FIRST day - it gets better is my experience

JennyB: In the past I had rough classes. One reason I moved out of Sacramento. I hated teaching there

DavidWe: Jenny, the next discussion (science resources) takes place here starting at 8pm EST. You are welcome to stay, of course.

DavidWe: Do you have any last questions about math stuff?

JennyB: Thank you. I enjoyed the discussion.

JennyB: Not that I can think of

DavidWe: Oh, by the way, I'm more than happy to answer questions outside of Tapped In

DavidWe: Feel free to ask: wex@pobox.com

JennyB: Thank you

DavidWe: Thanks for attending this discussion. Look forward to seeing you in Tapped In again

DavidWe: Good luck with your teaching

JennyB: I am sure I will be back

JennyB: Have a good night