

Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom

Moderator: Donna Hendry

Title of File: 20050706techclass

Date: July 6, 2005

Room: After School Online

BJB2 is glad you are starting the party without me

SheilaS: yes very lucky but I have little experience

BJB2: Emily tells me you haven't done introductions yet...

KarenSt: Thanks, Susan

BJB2: so, can we do that before we continue the discussion?

SusanR: an informal chat, Bj

BJB2: please tell us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

BJB2 . o O (informal is good, Sue...we can continue being informal)

EmilyW: it helps us know who everyone is

KaitlynL: I'm from Ohio and next spring I will graduate with a degree in middle level ed math and language arts

GailH: I am Gail Hoskins, outreach coordinator with Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (K-12 math and science online resource). Before that I was high school math teacher. I am in Columbus, OH.

DonnaH joined the room.

SusanR: Welcome Donna

BJB2 faints

DonnaH: Sorry bout that! Only just got home:)

BJB2: Hi, Donna!

KarenSt: Hampton Roads, Virginia -- I am the Instructional Technology Supervisor in a 16,000 student school division

SusanR: Our fearless leader is here.

DonnaH: (hey, I emailed you! I didn't forget!)

RhondaRH: located in Oklahoma ... teach computers, Spanish, & reading (along with the library) ... finishing my M.Ed. with reading specialist certification

BridgetM joined the room.

EmilyW: I am Emily from Texas, recent college grad, web designer, hopes to be a tech coordinator in the future

SheilaS: Houston, TX working on Tech integrating for elem school pursuing Inst tech masters

DonnaH: Donna Hendry, educational consultant in Connecticut

BridgetM: Riverhead, NY. special ed teacher, elementary

DonnaH: (and session leader *giggle*)

SusanR: Sue from Ottawa, Ontario, former Educational Technology Integrator, Professional Development Provider and currently teaching on an occasional basis

DonnaH: What did I miss?

DonnaH: (heard you were all chatting:))

SusanR: Integration of Computers ..and its challenges Donna

SheilaS: just chatting about what we do and introductions

GailH: I am interested in what everyone has heard about the recent news out about more computer science in schools. Have the rest of you been getting sent all of those headlines?

GailH: I can post a web page if helpful.

DonnaH: I've actually been seeing a movement away from it locally.

KarenSt: web page would be nice

RhondaRH: is it upper or lower level?

SusanR: Do you have the headlines, Gail

SheilaS: why do you think this is happening?

DonnaH: seeing the digital divide in full force.

BridgetM: I'm behind in news

DonnaH: the poorer districts move away, and the richer are moving closer to complete integration.

GailH: See <http://abcnews.go.com/US/print?id=907512> for example.

GailH: It has been getting lots of press.

DonnaH: comp is just an elective in upper grades.

KarenSt: I can speak for the poor districts

SheilaS: The federal gov't has been promoting tech

EmilyW: that's the one I read

DonnaH: Perhaps, Sheila...but lets face it, how often do we agree/listen to the feds, unless we are forced to?

KarenSt: I find it hard to believe that schools could actually require more since they are having a tough time meeting state standards (No Child Left Behind) in the core subjects

DonnaH: (and even then, we'll gripe about it...look at NCLB)

KarenSt: The feds promote the tech but don't fund it properly

DonnaH: NCLB is creating soooo many problems.

EmilyW: thinking back about 7 or 8 years ago, I was in high school

EmilyW: it was a requirement to take a computer course

RhondaRH: (now I am sad....)

KarenSt Karen faints from feeling old

EmilyW: most people took basic computer class

SheilaS: yes the feds can be a problem but they are putting out a lot of money for grants especially for the poor areas

EmilyW: I took computer programming and the next year webmastering

DonnaH: our district actually has a huge number of special needs (which we all know require much more money) and a number of them are still required to fulfill NCLB...puts huge amounts of stress on the district

EmilyW: and ended up majoring in computers

DonnaH: (I can remember when we first got comps in school...I was in third grade, and it was a commodore 64...need I say more?)

EmilyW: (well information technology)

SusanR: . o O (wonders if Emily knows what BASIC or LOGO is)

DonnaH: I do!!!

RhondaRH: The focus shifts from educating the students to fulfilling "numbers"

DonnaH: *laugh*

KarenSt: Yes and no -- the funding does come with many strings and is being cut by 28% this coming year

EmilyW: I have heard of them

GailH: The part I find of interest is -- what do "we" think should be taught or used with students --

KarenSt: My world was COBOL

SusanR: WOW, Karen

SusanR: what about punch cards

GailH: I did punch cards that ran on mainframes in 69.

EmilyW: I learned Pascal, I think that was what it was

SusanR: Cool, Gail

KarenSt: Oh, man - ever not have your cards numbered properly and drop them? kinda like losing everything when you have no backup

BridgetM: students using tech to fulfill requirements - not just word processing reports

SusanR: I fell in love with Steve Job's Apple II

GailH: But, the idea I am getting at -- should we be hoping to have students who are users of technology, or should they be "learning" or creating it in some way.

SusanR: learning and creating

BridgetM: pre comodore when I started

SheilaS: yes learning and creating and problem solving

RhondaRH: I think the it can be integrated to include all of those elements

GailH: say more, please Shelia likewhat.

SheilaS: even just basic subject searches on the web are great problem solving skills that create critical thinking

SheilaS: it goes way beyond just using word to type a paper

RhondaRH: students can "publish" their works to websites ... even design their own classroom site

KarenSt: technology is native to the kids -- they should use it as a means/tool to solve a problem within a content area -- or, better yet in a cross-curricular problem

RhondaRH: a unit could be created and as a final project, the class could create a virtual fieldtrip with required elements from the study ...

GailH: Should they be "users" of OR "creators" of technology -- and when and how do those merge?

SusanR: a combination of both

RhondaRH: I would hope the merger would happen early

SheilaS: last year some students used power points in their science fair presentations that included movies of them conducting experiments

KarenSt: maybe we need to define what we mean by creators

EmilyW: they should do both

GailH . o O (I value greatly students creating a powerpoint presentation, but to me that it using tech.)

KarenSt: are you talking programming or creating solutions with existing software applications

DonnaH: One tech coordinator I know really likes using storybookweaver with elem kids.

DonnaH: (as far as the creating section)

GailH: . o O (isn't sure what she is thinking, but that has been gist of some of the articles out there in past two days.)

DonnaH: (she was actually looking for something new akin to it, as I hear they aren't updating it?)

DonnaH: (forgot the actual details)

SusanGst3 joined the room.

DonnaH: Are secondary using Dreamweaver at all?

GailH: Is BASIC like the two column proofs in high school geometry? Is it not considered something that is valuable for most students to do much with -- like for the thinking skills it teaches?

SusanGst3: Hi I'm new to this. May I listen in on it?

KarenSt: I've been working on a series of lessons that offer students alternatives to traditional book reports -- business cards to represent a character, a letter of inquiry and resume for a particular job a character would apply for -- who would they invite to a dinner party, what would they serve things like that...the kids love it

DonnaH: You're more than welcome, Susan!

RhondaRH: Great ideas, Karen!

KaitlynL: That sounds really neat Karen

BridgetM: super, Karen. what grade

SheilaS: Karen do you have a web site with your lessons?

KarenSt: we've gone all the way down to third

BridgetM: I really like those ideas

SusanR: Karen, are you preparing templates for these tasks

EmilyW: not sure, I used netscape composer in high school

DonnaH: I've had students do ad campaigns...

KarenSt: with the business cards for example, kids need to think what title they would give the character, what font would represent them, what address would they have and what graphics would be appropriate

DonnaH: (works with persuasive writing)

KarenSt: Yes, I will have templates completed this fall

RhondaRH: True ... it requires the student is able to connect to the text and/or character

SheilaS: I will be teaching all the students in my school does anyone have ideas for Pre K-3rd?

SusanR: I have used the readymade templates that come with Appleworks..

SusanR: with students

JeffC joined the room.

KarenSt: Sheila, is there a content area you are interested in?

SheilaS: Our school has learning .com is anyone familiar with that?

DonnaH: my favorite pre-k/k site is storyplace.org

DonnaH: really good prereading and skills for that age.

DonnaH: and it's in both English and Spanish

KarenSt: true

SheilaS: I will be covering basic computer literacy but I have freedom to go into any content area

BridgetM: I had students use power point to make there own spelling exercises. 3rd & 4th grade

RhondaRH: for literacy www.readwritethink.org has outstanding ideas

SheilaS: thanks Donna I will try storyplace.org

SheilaS: yes Rhonda I do like that website

SheilaS: has anyone used learning.com

RhondaRH: no

KaitlynL: no

KarenSt: Rhonda, you're right on with readwritethink -- actually the whole marcopolo site would be great to search for tech infused lessons in all content areas/grade levels

RhondaRH: right ... it is an incredible site too

DonnaH: Another thing I've used with say, 4th grade and up is to send them to puzzlemaker at discoveryschool and use the crossword tool with their vocabulary words.

RhondaRH: incredible

RhondaRH: that is a good site too

SheilaS: it is a paid subscription our district is paying for it this coming year. it focuses on tech integration for all grade levels if you have the \$\$ for it is has many benefits and it tracks students and their progress

KaitlynL: In my technology class currently we have been researching tech websites and if anyone needs a complete list of good websites you can check out <http://lessonplans.org>

SheilaS: www.learning.com

RhondaRH: ahhh ... we've used techworks but it's a curriculum and I ended up adding to and taking away

SusanR . o O (let the young ones key in their spelling words ..and play with fonts, sizes and WORDART in Microsoft Word)

SheilaS: yes Susan that is a great idea

DonnaH: another place to check, Kaitlyn is <http://www.pitt.edu/~poole/edmenu.html>

DonnaH: huge database.

KaitlynL: thanks Donna

RhondaRH: thanks

KarenSt: another great (fairly inexpensive) software program for little ones is Kidspiration

SheilaS: yes kidspiration is great

RhondaRH: yes .. and Inspiration for the older ones

KaitlynL: I really like Kidspiration

SheilaS: another one is Jumpstart

SusanR: or ideas for tech integration for the little whippersnappers is <http://4teachers.org/testimony/gathers/index.shtml>

DonnaH: you know...perhaps it's just because I used one of the first versions, but I really didn't like kidspiration.

BridgetM: I just found this site. I was thinking kids could make their own tests for practice

BridgetM: <http://www.thatquiz.com/>

DonnaH: I thought it was actually harder to use than the original version.

SheilaS: thanks Susan

SheilaS: Bridget thanks

SusanR: I like the original Inspiration, Donna

RhondaRH: that would be a great study skill, Bridget

BridgetM: I was also thinking kids and I could create rubrics for iep objectives at rubistar

RhondaRH: gives them ownership .. good idea

SheilaS: Rubi star is good to

KarenSt: Quia and hot potatoes let you create online quizzes and games for your students

RhondaRH: can't complain about the grade if they helped create the rubric!

DonnaH: I've used the online quizzes from Quia before they went to the pay model.

BridgetM: that's my hope - plus see progression - task analysis

SusanR: I suggested to our spec ed teacher that students create theirs at <http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/>

DonnaH: it was nice...they could submit the test by email, and it could come back corrected.

JeffC: Quia costs... Quizstar <http://quizstar.4teachers.org/> is free.

RhondaRH: thanks, Jeff

SheilaS: hm thanks Jeff

BridgetM: quia also has copyright on all activities built there

DonnaH: oooohhhh...that's a big bad with me, Bridget.

KarenSt: One of the best things you can do for lesson plans is to search the education departments within the universities in your state -- the lessons created are generally already keyed specifically to your state's standards

DonnaH: I don't work for anyone else but me.

RhondaRH: that's true, Karen

RhondaRH: I've found some great lessons on our state educ. dept. site

GailH: There are wonderful interactive math activities at <http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>

GailH: They have lesson/instruction off to the side.

BridgetM: Jeff - pbl site looks great. thanks

SheilaS: <http://www.4teachers.org/4teachers/intech/techassess.shtml> this is a good resource for tech integration

JeffC: Which pbl site Bridget?

BridgetM: checklist creator.

SheilaS: <http://hprtec.org/> this one is great it has great links including rubistar and 4teachers.org

SusanR: This one <http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/checklist.shtml>

SusanR: let the students design their own rubric sheet at the beginning of the year

SusanR: have them work in teams of two

SusanR: collaborate

BridgetM: I like the money exercise at nlvm.

RhondaRH: great idea, Susan

BridgetM: Sorry Susan. I thought Jeff posted that link

GailH: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/games/index.shtml> also has great things, particularly PK-K.

SusanR: You could use direct instruction..and coerce them into choosing the appropriate rubric for the task

<http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/testing.php?idunique=3&max=6&checklist=3>

RhondaRH: great word choice, Susan!

SusanR: . o O (I am thinking of the last spec ed class I was working in)

SheilaS:

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/k5algebra/document.shtm?input=FOC-003529-index> this website has ideas for teaching algebra to elem students

SusanR: I think kids are being rubriced to death

BridgetM: I agree!

SusanR: let them do the "rubricing"

RhondaRH: moderation is the key ... as in all things

GailH loves Sheila's choice.

SheilaS: thanks Gail

BridgetM: My students do not understand the rubrics used in general ed

BridgetM: I thought if they made their own, keyed into iep objectives, they could move off the 1 column

SheilaS: Bridget how often do you use rubrics and what age of students do you have?

BridgetM: grades 2-5

SheilaS: We use rubric's with all of our students Pre k -5

BridgetM: rubrics are on report cards and for reading & writing in general ed

DonnaH: wow. that seems young.

SheilaS: The younger students we use pictures for the younger students

GailH: I think rubrics have become much more commonly used in many places. There is an element of fairness that has appeal about them.

SusanR: I know one teacher who puts the rubric on the back of all of his students' worksheets..every task is accompanied by a set of rubrics

RhondaRH: We don't use them ... though our accreditation team recommended it (last year)

SusanR: that was grade 2

BridgetM: Susan, that seems like an awful amt of work

RhondaRH: There may be a move to start it this year but very few of the teachers are familiar with them

SheilaS: I think it gives the students some great guidelines of what is expected of them

SusanR: don't use too many worksheets and it can work for you

SheilaS: we usually use them for projects

SheilaS: we really push project based learning

BridgetM: parents had a lot of trouble with report card rubric. it was started this year

SheilaS: it seems to be working

DonnaH: 'very few are familiar with them'....really? I'm rather surprised to see that...but I agree, it sounds like a terribly large amount of work.

KarenSt: Sheila, do you use pbl at all levels?

SheilaS: report card rubrics seems like it would be too broad

SheilaS: yes Pr K -5

BridgetM: less work sheets is good. we work in folders. 1 folder / project or unit

BridgetM: one rubric for each folder would not be overwhelming

KarenSt: have you done pbl training with the faculty - was it a school or divisionwide initiative?

DonnaH: that makes more sense, Bridget

GailH: Are you familiar with KathyS's rubric resources
<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/assess.html>

SheilaS: We try to use examples of exemplary work and not so great work from past years when presenting a rubric for a project or

RhondaRH: Thanks, Gail (I need that)

SheilaS: Karen yes our staff is required to complete at least two project and participate in a project fair where rubrics are used

SheilaS: We even have grade level oral presentation rubrics

RhondaRH: Was it difficult for the staff?

RhondaRH: I am fearing there will be resistance where I am at

SheilaS: Yes the teacher buy in is hard but I see how much the students love to do projects

KarenSt: rubrics aside, how did you train the staff on pbl? it's really a shift from the norm

SheilaS: Yes the principal needs to be supportive

DonnaH: resistance seems to be a big problem in a number of things here.

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall.

SheilaS: We had an outside service provider named Co-nect www.co-nect.net

BridgetM: is making a rubric or checklist just using tech or is it creating?

BJB2: Donna leads the tech in the classroom discussions on the first Wednesday of each month

RhondaRH: using

BridgetM: that's what I thought

BridgetM: oh, well. buying into their learning is good

BridgetM: tick tock. thanks for all the links.

RhondaRH: Thanks, Donna

DonnaH: (that time already?)

DonnaH: crimony it goes fast:)

RhondaRH: I look forward to checking on the links in my transcript

GailH: . o O (we have to stop???)

KaitlynL: Bye everybody, thanks for all the links

RhondaRH: bye ...

KarenSt: thanks all for a great session

SheilaS: thanks

GailH: Bye -- everyone come to Festival on 7/20 all day.

RhondaRH: it was nice to meet everyone

SusanR: That's all folks!

SheilaS: I have to go I have to put my daughter to bed Karen if you want more infor on PBL you can email me

DonnaH: *giggles at Sue*

KarenSt: will do, thanks

BJB2: Sheila, there is a PBL discussion each month here also

BJB2: led by Linda Ullah

GailH: When is the PBL?

BJB2: usually the fourth Thursday

BJB2 . o O (July 28)

GailH: Thanks BJ.