

Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Title of File: 20051005techclass

Date: October 5, 2005

Room: After School Online

BJB2: Welcome to today's Tech Class discussion

BJB2: before we begin, a reminder that if you are new to Tapped In....

BJB2: go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of your screen

BJB2: and click on DETACH

BJB2: that will make your chat window larger and easier to read

TracyAC joined the room.

BJB2: once you've done that, can you please introduce yourself and let us know where you are located and what brings you to this discussion.

BJB2: Hi, Tracy

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

RandyZ: Technology Specialist in PA.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I help teachers, especially math and science teachers, learn more about educational technology. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City, and I've been using Tapped In since 1997

KevinK: I'm a grad student in Minnesota

DavidWe waves to Randy

KellyVO: I'm an Education Grad Student at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT

EmilyW: I am a recent college graduate and on helpdesk on Tapped In

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Jeff...just doing intros

TracyAC: Hi, I am an 8th grade science teacher in California

BrendaE joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Brenda. We're just doing introductions

BrendaE: Hi

JeffC: I'm Jeff Cooper, an Education Technology Consultant and Tapped In Helpdesk volunteer. I'm in Forest Grove Oregon.

DavidWe wonders about our friend Donna from Connecticut

DavidWe: Want me to drive over to her house, BJ?

BJB2: Donna Hendry is our discussion leader but she has not logged in at this time...so, we're going to choose COLLABORATION as our topic for tonight's discussion

BrendaE: I'm from NJ. This is my third year working in the computer lab. The big push in my school this year is to help the teachers become comfortable integrating technology into their classrooms.

JuliaM joined the room.

BJB2: excellent, Brenda. I'm sure you'll have a lot of input for us

BJB2: Hi, Julia. Welcome

DavidWe: Where do you teach, Brenda?

DavidWe waves to Julia

JuliaM waves to everyone

BrendaE: Elementary school K-6.

BJB2: Julia, can you introduce yourself? We're going to be discussing collaboration

BJB2: and what kinds of collaboration make the use of tech in a classroom successful

JuliaM: I am a library media specialist student.

BJB2: great, Julia...you also should have lots of input for us.

BJB2: as a library media specialist or as a tech coordinator, you ideally work closely with classroom teachers?

BJB2 . o O (and vice versa? Should classroom teachers work closely with tech coordinators and media specialists?)

JuliaM: Yes, Ohio has Technology Standards and Library Guidelines so we would ideally collaborate with classroom teachers to achieve those goals

SandraS joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Sandy.

SandraS waves to everyone

BJB2: my opening question was - as a library media specialist or as a tech coordinator, you ideally work closely with classroom teachers?

BrendaE: Yes, part of my job involves working individually with classroom teachers to increase their confidence levels with technology and to help coordinate appropriate technology into classroom activities.

BJB2: Sandy is going to be leading a discussion for WriteTalk on an article about online resistance of teachers

BJB2 . o O (October 13)

SandraS . o O (BJ read my mind)

SusanR joined the room.

JeffC wonders if he gets to attend and thwack them with a virtual mallet

JeffC: or... if that doesn't work... offer them virtual pizza.

BJB2: Hi, Sue. Welcome

JuliaM chuckles at Jeff

SusanR: Hi Bj

BJB2: anyone want to take this topic and give some input? How do you educate your educators?

SandraS: One thing I don't think teachers hear enough about is the perspective of library/tech coordinator

SandraS: I know there are a lot of things that teachers do that drive librarians/tech coordinators nuts...

JuliaM: Who? US??

SandraS assumes Julia is of the teaching persuasion

SusanR: pick a curriculum objective and try to meet it with a simple software application or web resource

JuliaM: Collaboration has been a big topic in a lot of my classes

TracyAC: Being a teacher myself, I was wondering what I do that drives you nutz!

JuliaM: No Sandra, I am actually a library media specialist student

BJB2 chuckles. I don't think most teachers have a clue as to what librarian media specialists can do

SandraS: ah! thanks Julia

JeffC: I've been meaning to talk to you about those overdue library books, Tracy.

TracyAC: yeah, I'm working on that Jeff

SusanR: we abandoned our library specialists due to cost cutting...we have library technicians

JuliaM: We have a lot of knowledge about the collection and resources

JeffC: technicians are cheaper than specialists?

SandraS: for instance, when a teacher relies on specialist to teach the technology and the teacher refuses to learn her/himself

TracyAC: we have a librarian at our school, but the tech coordinator is a full time teacher

BJB2 hopes to also hear from the tech coordinators...what is your role in educating the educators?

SusanR: when I was tech integrator I was teaching the classes

TracyAC: Our tech coordinator is stuck spending most of his time with issues such as computers not working or technical problems

JuliaM: We can also assist with online resources for lesson plans, activities, etc.

SusanR: one moment..brb..

RandyZ: Is that what the expectation was in the school? From the administrators?

SusanR left the room.

BrendaE: I work with the teachers individually and in small groups.

SusanR joined the room.

BJB2: cool, Brenda. What do you do?

BJB2 . o O (can you tell us a little more?)

BrendaE: With the teachers or my job in general?

BJB2: with the teachers

SusanR: and with students?

JuliaM: Library media specialists can also teach website evaluation and good use of online resources

TracyAC: I wish we had a media specialist at our school

JuliaM: Are you hiring???...just kidding.

JuliaM: sort of....

TracyAC: I wouldn't know, sorry

RandyZ: Do the teachers reinforce that? Or is it assumed to be the sole responsibility of the library media specialist?

TracyAC: probably no money, you know how that is

JuliaM: Hi Randy. I don't think the teachers are even aware that we can do such a thing

JeffC: Today I volunteered in my daughter's second grade class... helping the kids transpose their "name acrostics" from paper to the computer. Taught them how to change font sizes, etc... then save to the server. Of course... the district had created folders for the teachers to save on the "V" drive, but the teacher hadn't set it up right... which meant that the kids were locked out. I fixed it... only 299 teachers to go. Trouble with tech and support is that one day workshops or emails don't cut it... they need hands on support.

BrendaE: Over the summer I developed 3 basic topics (classroom web pages, using the Internet in the classroom, personal computing skills to enhance teaching) and the teachers selected what areas they wanted to concentrate on.

SusanR: are there library media specialists at the elementary level or is it restricted to middle school and beyond

JuliaM: In Ohio we have them at all levels, but they are only required (by law) to have ONE certified person per district

JuliaM: We are certified K-12

SusanR nods

SandraS: those sound like great areas, Brenda...what do teachers seem to gravitate towards?

JuliaM: Hi Brenda, how were those topics introduced?

BrendaE: Most show initial interest in updating their classroom web sites.

TracyAC: I would bet the teachers don't have any idea how much you are willing to do for them. Is there a way to inform the teachers of all the things you can do directly with the students?

BrendaE: We are trying to make them more student-work oriented

JuliaM: We try, but a lot of the teachers feel threatened

TracyAC: that is unfortunate

SandraS: make the website more student-work oriented, Brenda?

EmilyW: I have a question, how are library media specialists and technology coordinators different?

TracyAC: good question, I wonder the same thing

BrendaE: Include more student work along with the state/school/class objectives met.

JuliaM: library media specialists are the former librarians

JuliaM: now that there are more online resources, a lot of schools place the tech coordinator job on the library media specialists head

BrendaE: Showcase student works and make the classroom websites resource sites for students

BJB2: Libraries have become the school community resource center, Em...same with public libraries

JuliaM: quite a few of my library media specialist friends also monitor the school website

JuliaM: right BJ

SandraS: Libraries rule!

BJB2 agrees with Sandy!

JuliaM . o O (Sandra is cool!)

EmilyW: Do the positions do the same thing?

BJB2: those of you who are tech coordinators....do you feel that you are in crisis management mode all the time? How can that issue be resolved?

SusanR: here is what our tech team does
http://www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca/Teacher_Res/techres/eti_team.htm

JuliaM: tech coordinators have no working knowledge of literature and online databases for research

JuliaM: not that they are ignorant, but we take a lot of classes in those areas

SusanR: most of our tech trainers are teacher trained

JuliaM: We are also often the curriculum guru of the building and have a working knowledge of what everyone is supposed to be teaching

EmilyW: how are library specialists trained?

JuliaM: We have management classes on how to run the library, collection development, computers...computers...computers....., as well as all of the traditional education classes

JuliaM: I had a reference class as well

BJB2 hopes to hear from the tech coordinators present

JuliaM: does that help, Emily?

SusanR: I had to have a working knowledge of the K to 6 curriculum...all the strands and curriculum objectives

JuliaM nods in agreement with Susan

BrendaE: BJ, what is your question for the tech coordinators?

EmilyW: a little bit

SusanR: plus I did minor repairs and software installs

BJB2: those of you who are tech coordinators....do you feel that you are in crisis management mode all the time? How can that issue be resolved?

SusanR: . o O (lots of troubleshooting)

BrendaE: Crisis management? Yes! How to resolve? Hopefully as the teachers become more confident with their own abilities, they will become more independent.

TracyAC: I think that is true.

TracyAC: As I learn more about technology, I need to call the tech coordinator in a panic less and less

BJB2 wonders if everyone is familiar with the i d ten t problem?

BrendaE: Everything takes time.

RandyZ: Can I ask a question? What are the common responsibilities of a "tech coordinator"?

TracyAC: I am not familiar with i d ten.. what is this?

BJB2: tech coordinator rushes to answer a panic call from a teacher....

RandyZ: Is it to deal with technical issues of hardware and software or to deal with instructional issues related to technology?

BJB2: gets there and presses a button. Teacher asks what was wrong

BJB2: tech guy says it was an i d ten t problem

BJB2: if you write that out it's IDIOT

BrendaE: I deal basically with instructional issues related technology. Do do limited troubleshooting, but am trying to learn more because the person who does that only comes to my school once every two weeks.

SandraS: LOL, BJ

TracyAC: OHHhhhh!! nice!

BJB2 winks

JeffC is multitasking... did Bj just call me an idiot?

TracyAC: we have a lot of that at my school!!

BJB2: no, Jeff

JeffC looks for his virtual mallet in self-defense.

BJB2: are there any inservices for the teachers to help them learn to do some of the troubleshooting themselves?

SusanR: tech integrators no longer deal with technical problems...strictly instructional

TracyAC: My tech coordinator deals only with technical issues and not instruction. He spends a lot of his time with that i d ten t problem

BJB2: are there inservices to teach the teachers how to integrate the tech into their lessons?

RandyZ: Brenda...yes, I think that the majority, vast majority of our time, should be spent working with the instructional side. There should be technical people to handle other issues.

TracyAC: How do you get the teachers to attend your classes on technology?

BJB2 . o O (and once the inservice is over...how can you reinforce the lessons and allow the teachers to give feedback? Great question, Tracy)

TracyAC: I know we have a lot of great classes offered at the district office and hardly anyone will ever attend.

KevinK: Thank you

KevinK left the room (signed off).

BrendaE: In-service workshops to help teacher integrate only work if teachers are a) comfortable with the technology and b) are sold on the fact that tech can be used to enhance their teaching strategies.

BJB2: Tracy, what about offering the classes here in Tapped In...10 minutes before school or brown bag inservice over lunch?

RandyZ: and if there is follow-up!

SandraS: cool idea, BJ

TracyAC: I like the idea of the 10 min. session!

RandyZ: and if it goes beyond SKILLS and is grounded in good teaching practice.

SusanR: cool

SandraS agrees with Randy

BJB2: it would also be a good incentive to offer ceu's for participation...no one likes to do something for nothing

RandyZ: We don't do enough where good teaching practice is concerned and focus too much on skills.

TracyAC: Many of our teachers wouldn't think of going to the D.O. for an hour or two of their own time

RandyZ: we being technology in schools in general

JeffC: How about connecting to Tapped In throughout the day... collaborating with peers online? Gives the adults someone to talk to... get support from...

RandyZ: I think another issue is shared vision.

BJB2 listens to Randy

RandyZ: Great things can happen when you have a leader who sets the tone and can effectively set an expectation.

RandyZ: If there is no leadership, forget it.

JuliaM: Would that be administration?

RandyZ: Teachers tend to follow.

RandyZ: Yes...BUT it is SHARED>

TracyAC: good point!

RandyZ: everyone buys into it.

BrendaE: I agree with Randy. In fact, I think several studies have proven that to be true.

TracyAC: that is not happening at my school

RandyZ: It's not only the librarian that should be teaching and reinforcing how to evaluate a source...or use a database.

RandyZ: That certainly is not shared.

RandyZ: If I'm a social studies teacher I have no right expecting my kids to use a database if I'm clueless.

KellyVO: Thanks

TracyAC: many of the teachers at my school think their website is all the technology they need and they never change it throughout the year

RandyZ: why do you think that?

JuliaM shrieks

BJB2 covers her ears

SandraS echoes Julia's shriek

JuliaM: Ohio has technology standards and so they MUST learn to integrate

BrendaE: We call that a brochure site. Pretty to look at, but not particularly relevant to learning.

TracyAC: So does California, but it doesn't mean that the 30yr. veteran teacher who is counting down the years to retirement is going to do anything about it.

RandyZ: another question - what is "technology integration"? I think that there are many opinions.

RandyZ: too many

BJB2 smiles...NOW we're starting to get to the meat of the collaboration discussion

RandyZ: why should we integrate?

RandyZ: yes!

BrendaE: I have to stand up for the 30 yr. vets. I'm one of them and I made the change to using technology. You gotta' give us old dogs a chance.:~)

RandyZ: EDUCATORS need to collaborate --- model being LIFE-LONG LEARNERS and wrestle with these questions....and yes...not just teachers.

SandraS applauds Brenda

BJB2 woofs her old dog woof

TracyAC: I agree Brenda, congrats to you!

JuliaM applauds Randy!

RandyZ: We can't learn new ways of teaching in a vacuum. Teachers need to share and speak with each other.

BrendaE: Technolgy adds an exciting dimension to teaching.

RandyZ: absolutely

RandyZ: and if they don't COLLABORATE, how can we expect them to see that?

BJB2: so...we've shared and spoken with each other here....how can we maintain that momentum that you've created?

JuliaM: Some of the non-veteran teachers are not learning to collaborate in college

TracyAC: that is a shame, that would be the easiest time to learn

RandyZ: then their principals need to model it and expect it.

JuliaM nods vigorously

BrendaE: Administrative leadership is key to success.

BJB2: There is a principals group here in Tapped In...and an admin group

RandyZ: leadership is SO important where technology...many educational issues for that matter are involved.

BrendaE: And a few strong teachers who are willing to model new methods and ideas.

BJB2: for homework, see if you can get your admin to join TI

SandraS: cool idea, BJ

JuliaM groans. more homework??

RandyZ: So how do we gain momentum?

TracyAC: interesting! I wonder if my admin would groan too!

RandyZ: seriously...

BJB2: lots of ideas have been generated today by this group....

BrendaE: Thanks for sharing, everyone.

TracyAC: thanks guys!

BrendaE: Bye

TracyAC: Bye

JuliaM: Bye and thanks for listening!

SandraS: Thanks!

BJB2 waves goodnight.

BJB2 . o O (word for the day is COLLABORATION)

RandyZ: bye

BJB2: bye, Randy. Thanks for joining the discussion

SusanR: tech adds a new dimension to teaching and learning..

RandyZ: I agree

BJB2 nods to Sue. But there are still a lot of teachers who haven't bought into that idea

BJB2: so we have to find the few who have and recruit them

SusanR: when will we see a computer on every student's desk?

SusanR: or even one computer per two students

BJB2: when we have \$100 computers?

RandyZ: And you can't force them to. I think teachers need to come to terms with this on their own. But we can establish the culture that encourages them to see that. And that has to be done collectively...not be just one person.

BJB2 has to run...take care. Thanks everyone for your support!