

Title of Session: Math and Technology

Moderator: David Weksler

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DavidWe: We usually start TI discussions with brief introductions - let us know what you teach, where you teach and also some topics you might be interested in exploring

DavidWe wonders who wants to go first

EricaDB: I student teach math and science in a third grade class

RachelRo: I am a student teacher in Houston, TX in the 3rd grade teaching lang arts and social studies

EmilyW: I am Emily and I am helpdesk volunteer and I like math and technology, and I am a web designer, I am from Texas

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and I like David

PatriciaCh: I teach four levels of math..from on grade level - 7th to Algebra

PatriciaCh: oh..I teach in Florida

DavidWe blushes after BJ's comment

DavidWe: Anywhere near Naples, Florida, Patricia?

PatriciaCh: no...I am on the east coast...north of West Palm Beach

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. For the past 13 years I have basically helped teachers learn more about educational technology - first as part of the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org - and more recently as a consultant

DavidWe . o O (my folks were just visiting family in Naples - warmer than New Jersey currently)

PatriciaCh: yes..Naples is on the west coast...on the gulf...it is nice down here

DavidWe: If I can get you all to contribute something else, I would appreciate it

DavidWe: What technology (software, computers, calculators, etc.) do you currently use? What are you interested in learning more about?

DavidWe: This presentation is pretty free-form. I'm happy to explore things that you are interested in

EricaDB: I'm interested in learning how I can integrate Technology and Math in an interesting way.

DavidWe: So, Erica, you don't want any "boring" ways of doing it, right?

DavidWe smiles

EmilyW: what technologies are you interested in?

EricaDB: We really don't use any sort of technology in the classroom where I student teach. No calculators nothing but their fingers

DavidWe: Have you learned much about technology for math education in your classes or from your cooperating teachers, Erica?

EricaDB: I'm not sure what I'm interested in because I have no idea what is out there

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Okay, that's fair

EricaDB: No

DavidWe: Anyone else teach elementary level students?

DavidWe guesses Patricia is teaching older students

BJB2 . o O (middle school)

DavidWe nods

RachelRo: I want to learn more about interactive computer programs for elem. students to use. either I can create them by going to a site with templates or you may have a place with neat software for them to use for small group, centers or anything.

PatriciaCh: The 6th graders do not use calculators...mainly because of state mandated testing

DavidWe: I'm mostly paying attention

DavidWe nods to Patricia

DavidWe: Do the 6th graders you work with use any other software, Patricia?

PatriciaCh: Do you want programs or websites?

EmilyW: Is anyone interested in looking at websites?

PatriciaCh: It is up to the teacher...the intensive classes uses remedial software

DavidWe thinks of Internet-based resources as a use of technology

DavidWe: So, let me start first with something I know pretty well

EricaDB: I would like to know about some interesting websites

DavidWe: Have you all been to the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org - web site?

RachelRo: no

EricaDB: no

PatriciaCh: yes

DavidWe: Although more and more of the Math Forum is becoming subscription-based - it's not expensive, but annoying

DavidWe: A lot of it is available for free, still

RachelRo: what is it?

DavidWe: There's a big project, Ask Dr. Math - volunteers answer questions

EmilyW: there are a bunch of links to websites too on there

DavidWe: It's been online, starting as the Geometry Forum, since 1993

DavidWe: There are many, many, many links to resources

DavidWe: The Forum, along with some other big websites, tried to do some organization of the online math world

DavidWe: There are sections for Students, Teachers, Parents, for example

EricaDB: is Math Forum directed toward any certain age group?

DavidWe: We could do nothing this evening but talk about the Math Fourm, but I'm not sure I want to do that

DavidWe: K-20, Erica

EricaDB: Great

DavidWe: . o O (kindergarten through graduate school.)

DavidWe: So, if you take ANYTHING away with you this evening, from this discussion, you'll know that as a starting resource - I would start there, of course, but I'm biased

DavidWe winks at BJ

DavidWe: Emily, did you want to mention a favorite web site you know?

EmilyW: my bookmarks are not working right now

DavidWe laughs

DavidWe: Okay...no problem

PatriciaCh: Math Forum is a great resource...a good place to start... David is correct.

DavidWe: Thanks, Patricia

PatriciaCh: It is one of the sites I visit to look things up.

DavidWe: There WAS another excellent starting point - the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse - that we were very fond of, but it has become wholly subscription based

DavidWe: It may very well be worth it, but I've not explored it since it closed down as a public site

DavidWe: The URL is www.enc.org

PatriciaCh: I have not use it myself either

DavidWe: It was funded by the Department of Education for 13 years and collected and organized all sorts of resources (electronic and paper) for math AND science

DavidWe: Let me jump to another level...what is something you are struggling with teaching - a concept, a skill, something like that?

EricaDB: Division

RachelRo: graphs and charts. instead of just using excel to make graphs and charts, does anybody have any other recommendations?

DavidWe: Okay, Erica. Say a bit more - what's the challenge you are facing with division

EricaDB: The students don't understand problems with remainder

DavidWe: How do you try to explain that concept to them, Erica?

DavidWe: Sorry to put you on the spot

EricaDB: we mainly use manipulatives with them so that they can actually see the extra remaining

EricaDB: we use things like blocks and m&ms and cut out cookies and stuff like that

DavidWe: Does that help the kids who have trouble with the "remainder" concept?

EmilyW: Here is a Math Dictionary for kids - <http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/>

DavidWe was going to suggest the M & M's, especially peanut M&Ms

DavidWe: Thanks, Emily. That's a good resource

EricaDB: no they just add it with the other groups they seem not to like extras

EricaDB: yes Emily thanks for the site

DavidWe: For URLs listed here - if you are using Windows, hold the Control key and click - pop-up blocker software sometimes gets in the way

EmilyW: check out division and remainder on there

DavidWe: You all know about the transcript of this discussion you will get after you logout - you shouldn't have to scribble down web addresses and other information - you'll get it all in email

DavidWe: My guess is that the students who get "the extras" might like GETTING the extras

DavidWe: Erica, if you don't mind me continuing to pick on you...

DavidWe: With whom do you discuss teaching strategies?

EricaDB: My supervising teacher and sometimes her peers

DavidWe: One of the POWERFUL (in my humble opinion) aspects of TappedIn...

DavidWe: Is that you can dialog with other teachers, possibly in different parts of the country, if not the world, with whom you can ALSO discuss some of these ideas

DavidWe: We have a K-3 Resources discussion twice a month in Tapped In led by Susan Roseman (SusanR)

DavidWe: It's a general discussion, not focused on math alone, but it is superb

DavidWe: Sue is a wonderful teacher and also has many resources at her fingertips

EricaDB: I have I missed them?

DavidWe: Another great web site with interactive applets and manipulatives is the following:

DavidWe: <http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>

DavidWe: That URL is for the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives

DavidWe: The starting page (listed above) gives you a grid for subjects (Y axis) and grade level (X-axis)

DavidWe: It's broken up to K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

DavidWe: Some folks at Utah State have done a great job collecting these resources

RachelRo: is the site easy to use for the classroom?

DavidWe: They have begun a new site to extend the use of their manipulatives

DavidWe: <http://enlvm.usu.edu/ma/nav/doc/intro.jsp>

DavidWe: I'm not sure I can give you a good answer for that, Rachel. I'm not a classroom teacher, so I imagine you would need to explore and think about some of the resources

DavidWe: But, I think, like most sites, there are places for questions and possibly even discussions

RachelRo: I just took a peek and it looks really neat!

DavidWe: If people were interested...we could devote a future session to just that web site and I would do some homework to think about that question

DavidWe: One of the challenges for me (and other presenters in Tapped In) is knowing what to discuss

DavidWe: At times, we get a wide span of teachers coming to these sessions and the questions are all over the place

DavidWe: I have tended NOT to have a pre-conceived discussion as it's not clear who my audience typically is

RachelRo: that sounds good. I'm really trying to find new sites that are interactive for the students and that are good for modeling for my next grade level that I will be student teaching in.

DavidWe: I also like to make this as interactive (getting you to ask AND answer questions) as well

DavidWe nods to Rachel

DavidWe: I'm sure student teaching keeps you quite busy

DavidWe: We've tried to even have a discussion for pre-service teachers as a way of giving them a place to commiserate

RachelRo: very

DavidWe smiles

PatriciaCh: Do you want remedial resources?

DavidWe looks from Patricia to Rachel

RachelRo: I would love anything you give me

RachelRo smiles

DavidWe . o O (chocolate?)

RachelRo: mmmm. that's good too!

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Patricia, did you have something in mind?

PatriciaCh: I have some remedial resources on my website: <http://mschen6b.tripod.com>
Look under student zone

DavidWe thanks Patricia for that URL

RachelRo thanks Patricia as well

PatriciaCh: Sorry...I was multi - tasking....I put the sites there so parents can work with their child

PatriciaCh: I was teaching 6th grade then was promoted to 7th this year

DavidWe cheers

DavidWe: Where are you from in New York, Patricia?

PatriciaCh: The City

DavidWe is reading the "Meet your teacher" page

DavidWe nods

PatriciaCh: okay

DavidWe: Did you teach in NYC?

PatriciaCh: actually in a private school on Long Island.....I have come 360 so to speak.....

DavidWe was doing a workshop with NYC teachers at Bank Street College of Education a couple of Saturdays ago

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: You heard about the record snowfall 2 Sundays ago?

DavidWe . o O (26.9 inches, I believe)

PatriciaCh: I wanted to be a teacher but got involved with law...gave it up and went into teaching

DavidWe: It was almost all melted by the end of last week - strange

PatriciaCh: yes....my mom told me about the storm

DavidWe: There's a lawyer in the Bank St. program who I met recently - interesting transition

DavidWe gets himself back on topic

RachelRo: Patricia, is anyone in your family a teacher besides you?

DavidWe: So, folks, next, other questions?

PatriciaCh: my brother in law and now my niece

DavidWe smiles

RachelRo: there always seems to be multiple teachers in families

DavidWe: How about your family, Rachel?

RachelRo: i followed in my father's footsteps

DavidWe is from a family of doctors

DavidWe: My sister and I strayed

PatriciaCh: ah

DavidWe: Patricia, do you use any software with your students?

DavidWe: The other question I have is whether any of you try to integrate math into another subject that you teach, especially to elementary students?

PatriciaCh: not really....unless it is Microsoft tools.... because of state testing....we don't have the time

PatriciaCh: nor resources

DavidWe nods

PatriciaCh: in middle school...we do

DavidWe: BJ is an art teacher and most of you probably know the artist we tend to think of when we add math + art

PatriciaCh: yes....

DavidWe wonders what Patricia does integrating math into other subjects in Middle School

RachelRo: I try to use tech. as much as I can. whether it is a simple powerpoint, photostory, or just bring up something on the internet

DavidWe: Do the students have access to the computers, Rachel, or do you mostly use the tech as a teaching aide - a better blackboard?

RachelRo: I've been incorporating math with social studies a lot lately by using graphs and charts as visuals. especially in lang arts for charts.

PatriciaCh: I team teach....the students saw Pirates of the Caribbean...we did map skills.....wrote logs as pirates....the science, reading social studies and language arts....got involved

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Have you all seen some of M. C. Escher's art work?

PatriciaCh: social studies has a lot of map skills, science and social studies has graphs, tables

RachelRo: I use it as a teaching aide. I would prefer to have students use the tech. interactively. that is where my problem is. I would like to find templates to create games for them to use on their classroom comps.

DavidWe: From the official web site you can download an interactive puzzle based on his work - Windows only, I think - it's FREE

PatriciaCh: yes....I use his work as examples when I teach tessellations

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: I understand that frustration, Rachel

JeffC joined the room.

DavidWe: It's probably tough to change things too much while you are student teaching

RachelRo: do you know of any?

DavidWe waves hello to Jeff

PatriciaCh: Rachel...how many pc do you have in the room?

RachelRo: i have 3

DavidWe: Any particular kinds of games that you are thinking of, Rachel?

PatriciaCh: How many students?

PatriciaCh: and are you Internet connected?

DavidWe: Jeff, know of any templates for creating math-based games for elementary students?

RachelRo: i teach two classes with 23 each

RachelRo: internet-yes

PatriciaCh: There is a powerpoint jeopardy game you can use to make up

DavidWe: Jeff Cooper, everyone, leads the K-20 Math Resources discussion in Tapped In - it's the first Tuesday of the month

PatriciaCh: I do not remember where I got the info from

RachelRo: ah, so close

JeffC: hmmm... math based games...

RachelRo: but that kind of thing is exactly what I am looking for

JeffC: I'd recommend <http://www.pbskids.org> and <http://www.starfall.com>

DavidWe: I'm trying to paraphrase what Rachel asked me just before you joined us

PatriciaCh: I think I can find a hard copy....yes I am very into hard copies

JeffC: both of those have good math games for first graders.

BJB2: http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson306.shtml

BJB2 . o O (who wants to be a millionaire and jeopardy templates)

DavidWe: Really?

DavidWe smiles

EricaDB: Thanks for the sites

DavidWe: Any other questions, Erica?

DavidWe: Has this been useful for you?

RachelRo: thanks for the help

DavidWe: Before you guys take off...

EricaDB: I'm feeling a little better but I would like to have some time to work with the sites first

DavidWe: One more question I would like to ask

DavidWe nods to Erica

DavidWe: What other things would be MOST helpful to you to have as part of this session?

DavidWe . o O (for example, focusing on specific grade level issues...particular math topics....teaching techniques?)

DavidWe . o O (welcome back, Patricia)

PatriciaCh: <http://www.gamequarium.com/math.htm> Rachel...they have good things on this site

DavidWe thanks Patricia for that URL

EricaDB: Well I don't think that you can focus on one particular grade since everyone seemed to be on different levels.

EricaDB: I like the fact that we are more free to ask you things than you having a pre-set topic. Things seemed to come together better

DavidWe: Right, but we could set this up to specifically discuss a more limited range of grades and let people know about that in advance

DavidWe: Thanks, Erica. I appreciate that - kind of what I hope for

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Any other suggestions for future discussions I always appreciate

DavidWe: We've got a few minutes left

RachelRo: modeling techniques using tech, thanks Patricia, sites, and what you said, topics to look forward to maybe

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: That sounds good to me

BJB2 . o O (more templates for games <http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm>)

PatriciaCh: if I find my hard copy.....I will contact you.

RachelRo: yeah!!

DavidWe: I think we've also been lucky to have a mix of pre-service teachers, teachers, people doing professional development - it's a nice mix that tends to get people talking shop

DavidWe: Thanks, BJ, for finding that

EricaDB: Yes I know as a student teacher I need all the help I can get

RachelRo: definitely, you guys have been very helpful

EricaDB: It's better to get information on useful sites from teachers who have actually used the sites

DavidWe: Good luck to you guys with your student teaching

RachelRo: I appreciate it so much, thanks

DavidWe smiles

EricaDB: Thanks

DavidWe will hang out to answer other questions if he can

DavidWe: You're welcome, Erica

PatriciaCh: Rachel...log into the url from BJ....it looks a lot what I was doing with my Jeopardy game

DavidWe: Thanks again to you for coming this evening

BJB2: thanks, David

PatriciaCh: Thanks David

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Have a good week, folks

EricaDB: Thanks for all of the helpful sites and information

EricaDB: You too. Bye!!

RachelRo: Bj, can I can the URL again please?

BJB2: <http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm>

DavidWe smiles

RachelRo: you have a good week too

RachelRo: thanks BJ

DavidWe: It WILL be in your transcript, too, Rachel

RachelRo: oh yeah