

Title of Session: Math & Technology

Moderator: David Weksler

Title of File: 20061017mathedtech

Date: October 17, 2006

Room: Math Ed Tech Group

BJ: we've apparently just finished intros, Melody

BJ . o O (which I also missed)

DavidWe: Melody would you introduce yourself (what you do, where you are located)?

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I've been helping teachers (primarily math teachers) learn about educational technology over the past 14 years

MrsTatGHS(Melody): My name is Melody Thomas, I teach honors pre calculus and calculus in Germantown TN

DavidWe: I'm in New Jersey about 15 miles from New York City

DavidWe: Thanks, Melody. BJ?

BJ: I'm a remedial communications teacher and on Tapped In helpdesk

KeyanaJ: Houston, TX . Student Teaching in First Grade

JosephWi: Should we just all redo them? Glendale, AZ - 6th grade math and reading.

DavidWe appreciates Keyana and Joseph re-introducing themselves

DavidWe: I wanted to also ask you for a little feedback in terms of what attracted you to this discussion and what specific (be as specific as you would like) topics you would like to hear about, get help with, etc.

MichelleLM: I need suggestions for software for pre-algebra and algebra support classes-lab

JenW joined the room.

DavidWe: Thanks, Michelle

DavidWe waves to Jen

JenW waves back

DavidWe: Quick intro Jen - we're starting off with what people are interested in, want to learn about, etc.

JosephWi: I recently (yesterday, and we're on fall break right now) got a laptop cart in my classroom. 8 laptops, and I'm looking for ideas on how to use them effectively in my math classes.

MrsTatGHS(Melody): I use technology a lot - am a tech facilitator for the county and also dept chair so any insight would be great

KeyanaJ: I would like to information about what kinds of technology can be used for math besides software, like some helpful websites

DavidWe: Thanks Joseph, Michelle, Melody, Keyana

MichelleVT: I was interested in the topic, because you always hear how difficult it is to integrate technology into math lessons

DavidWe hopes Jen will plug her own web page

JenW: Ahhh -- Well, I am Jennifer Wagner -- I host online projects for K - 6 grade teachers. I work out of my home and am interesting in math and technology!! One of my sites is <http://www.technospud.com> --

DavidWe: Thanks, Melody

JenW: and I live in Socal -- and sorry if I went out of order

DavidWe: I think almost everyone but Melody is a K-8 teacher, Jen, so they may be interested in some of your projects

MrsTatGHS(Melody): <http://www.ilovemath.org/> is the site

DavidWe: Thanks, Melody

DavidWe: Do most of you know about that web site that Melody is sharing?

MichelleLM: yes

JenW: the logo is nice

DavidWe: That's always a good start

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Do all of you know about the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org - big, website for math education - K-20?

DavidWe: That's how I started working with teachers and technology

DavidWe: I was part of the group of people who began (then) the Geometry Forum which became the Math Forum in 1992

MrsTatGHS(Melody): some of the textbooks have web sites - we use Glencoe and their site is pretty cool

JosephWi: I have some of the links I use on a classroom blog.
<http://mrwilliams.edublogs.org/links/>

DavidWe: Melody, can you say a bit more about what you do on www.ilovemath.org - how you use it, what level it is appropriate for?

JosephWi: most of them link to <http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/>

DavidWe: That's great, Joseph. I appreciate you sharing that

DavidWe: Shodor has a TON of stuff - actually they have worked with the Math Forum in the past

JosephWi: Yes, there are a ton of "games" on Shodor that my students like to play.

DavidWe: Do you find those games "educational", Joseph? Do they, in your opinion, help the students learn concepts?

SusanR joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Susan

SusanR: Hi David

JosephWi: I wouldn't even call them games. I've used the fraction pointers quite a bit and the students like to get in front of the class to make the fractions (I have a smartboard in my classroom).

MrsTatGHS(Melody): I love math has a lot of resources that are wonderful - the power points for teaching unit circle trig are wonderful

DavidWe: Just getting started, Susan

DavidWe: Want to add a quick intro, please?

DavidWe: So, Melody, you can find teacher-ready materials that can be used right away in class?

KeyanaJ: Wow that must be great with a smart board, more whole group interaction

MrsTatGHS(Melody): it is kind of an open forum for sharing of content resources for all levels of math teachers

SusanR: K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ontario Canada and facilitator of the K to 3+ Great Resources twice monthly sessions here at TI

JenW waves to Susan -- see you next week

SusanR: . o O (Jen is our special guest this month)

SusanR: Hi Jen

SusanR: nice to see you online

JenW followed the breadcrumbs to find my way back to Tapped In -- Glad that I did

SusanR: super..glad to have you on board

SusanR: super

JenW: May I ask a question as a Tech Coord to a room of teachers??

SusanR: go ahead

JenW: Honestly -- do you wish the Technology Teacher to teach the math concept -- using a computer program -- or do you like to do that in the room and then the Tech only reinforce the learning??

MrsTatGHS(Melody): Yes David, you can find all kinds of stuff and post all kinds of stuff

DavidWe: That's great, Melody. I've run across the web site before, but not anyone who uses it consistently

MichelleLM: I like to mix it up to keep middle schooler guessing! They are pretty well interchanged in my classroom

SusanR: . o O (lost all our techs)

DavidWe: Michelle, you asked about some pre-algebra/algebra software, resources, right?

JosephWi: We don't have a technology teacher. We have a lab, but just an aide in there to monitor it.

JenW: thank you

MichelleLM: yes please

MrsTatGHS(Melody): one of my friends was part of the dynamic duo that created the site, it has been re-worked and is much easier to use - very organized now

MichelleVT: I think that as long as the concept can be understood by the students, it doesn't matter how the concept is introduced or reinforced

DavidWe: Well, it's definitely not sexy, but do you ever use Excel (or another spreadsheet program) for getting at some algebraic ideas?

MichelleLM: My lab is in my classroom with computers that my father-in-law rebuilt for me

DavidWe: Always good to know the creators, Melody

JenW: I use excel with students all the time -- but for simplistic math formulas

MrsTatGHS(Melody): Jen - my school uses laptop carts and the cart goes to the teacher room rather than students to a lab; we do have a PC based lab that we use with students too but it is booked most of the time

DavidWe: That's a good deal, TOO, Michelle

MichelleVT: honestly, I think we as teachers need to learn from our students, and if they learn better from an introduction in their regular class or from the tech class, so be it

DavidWe: So, Joseph can talk to Melody a bit about using a set of 8 laptops on a cart, I guess

JenW: wow -- good thoughts -- thank you

DavidWe: Can you say a bit more about "learning from our students", Michelle. I like that idea, very much but many teachers may feel uncomfortable with that at the get-go

MrsTatGHS(Melody): we use Geometer's sketchpad; TI interactive; TI connect and the Glencoe site

MrsTatGHS(Melody): we also use PLATO learning network for remediation

DavidWe knows the author of Geometer's Sketchpad - the software was actually built at Swarthmore College - after that the Geometry/Math Forum began

MichelleVT: it's only natural but the goal is to show them that teaching math through technology can work

DavidWe: So, you seem to be pretty technology-RICH, Melody

MichelleLM: I love using geometer's sketchpad as a demo tool.

MichelleVT: they're eventually going to have to put their egos in their back pockets

JenW: MrsT ??? where is your school???

DavidWe: Yes, it can be a GREAT electronic blackboard

MrsTatGHS(Melody): I am in Germantown TN

JenW: thanks

DavidWe: You know that you can do quite a bit of algebra with version 4 of Sketchpad, Michelle

JosephWi: So if you had 8 laptops in your math classroom, how would you use them?

DavidWe: Are you aware of some of the resources from the Key Curriculum Press web site?

JosephWi: I'm thinking of learning centers.

JosephWi: but I'm not sure yet.

DavidWe: What are the topics that you are getting at, Joseph?

DavidWe . o O (7/8th grade, right?)

MrsTatGHS(Melody): I'm back

DavidWe: We're glad, Melody

JosephWi: 6th - Algebra and Probability is what's next.

MichelleLM: I have a few of the extras: Algebra 1, Exploring Algebra and Pythagoras. I haven't been able to get the students to be independent with the system though...

DavidWe . o O (www.keypress.com/sketchpad)

DavidWe: Quite a few links there that may be helpful to you, Michelle

MichelleLM: Thank you

DavidWe: Sure

DavidWe: Do any of you find the NCTM web site helpful?

DavidWe: They have done a lot of work to make things available to teachers, good methods and resources for addressing the standards, etc.

MichelleLM: I like browsing it. I really likes the Now and Then articles that were once published. Where have those gone?

DavidWe: Do folks know about Illuminations - a big chunk of the NCTM web site?

MrsTatGHS(Melody): I like the TI website too, especially the calculator activities

MichelleLM: Are the activities compatible with 82's?

MrsTatGHS(Melody): do any of you use the NUMBERS curriculum with your students

DavidWe: Here's the LESSONS page from the Illuminations web site - it breaks things down: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12

MichelleLM: Have for all three seasons. I was doing my own before...

DavidWe: <http://illuminations.nctm.org/Lessons.aspx>

MrsTatGHS(Melody): Yes, most of the calculator activities can be completed on the 82s with some modifications, really geared for the 83/84+

KeyanaJ: yes I visit the site often for standards

DavidWe: Great, Keyana

DavidWe: Do you all know, also, about the Ask Dr. Math section of the Math Forum?

MrsTatGHS(Melody): Yes - my students love that site

DavidWe: Real world questions from K-20 students over the past 12 years (or so) with highlighted answers

MichelleLM: yes, I have even used Dr. Math for questions.

DavidWe: <http://www.mathforum.org/dr.math>

DavidWe: Some of the early elementary questions are often some of the best

DavidWe: Very good explanations for giving good responses to 1st graders' question: "What's a number bigger than infinity?"

KeyanaJ: wow, that's great

DavidWe: Here's the Infinity page:

DavidWe: http://www.mathforum.org/library/drmath/sets/elem_infinity.html

MichelleVT: thanks

SusanR: o O (nice set of individualized lessons on fractions here <http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?id=U113>)

SusanR: fractions always a bit of a challenge to teach

DavidWe: Always

IhorC joined the room.

MrsTatGHS(Melody): I have to run ... it has been great chatting with you all - a lot of great sites to bookmark

DavidWe waves to Ihor

IhorC: hi David

MrsTatGHS(Melody): have a wonderful evening

DavidWe: Well, Joseph, you are in luck

DavidWe: Hi, Ihor

MrsTatGHS(Melody) waves goodbye

DavidWe: Thanks, Melody - appreciate your contributions

DavidWe waves bye

MrsTatGHS(Melody) left the room (signed off).

DavidWe: Ihor, Joseph just was given access to a cart of 8 laptops and is looking for interesting ideas for Algebra, some probability stuff....

DavidWe: . o O (please fill in where I'm leaving holes, Joseph)

JosephWi: That pretty much sums it up.

DavidWe: smiles

DavidWe: Ihor works with the CIESE group at Steven's Institute of Technology

DavidWe: www.ciese.org

MichelleVT: if you don't mind, what does CIESE stand for

DavidWe: DON't know if any of you have run across this web site?

DavidWe: It keeps changing, Michelle

KeyanaJ: no I haven't

IhorC: Center for Innovation in Science & Engineering Education

KeyanaJ: oh ok

DavidWe: I think...it is the Center for Innovation in Science and Engineering Education, currently

MichelleVT: I see the site, thanks

IhorC: Now you know why we just call it CIESE

DavidWe: It used to stand for something else but the same acronym

JosephWi: laughs

DavidWe: smiles

DavidWe: Well, it did, right, Ihor?

IhorC: Don't get me started...

DavidWe: is just glad that it is spelled with the "i" before "e" rule

KeyanaJ: do you know of any other resources for primary-elementary math

DavidWe: Middle school algebra stuff - Joseph wants to know

DavidWe: Maybe, Susan has some other good resources, Keyana

DavidWe: She's my reference point for K-3 stuff

KeyanaJ: ok

MichelleLM: Michelle is still desperate for lab software suggestions to independently reinforce basic skills

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: basic math skills, Michelle, like....?

DavidWe . o O (remedial?)

SusanR: I do..please head up to the K to 3+ Resource room..there is a math folder full of resources there

JosephWi: I think what I really need to do is talk to IT about installing the smartboard software on all the laptops. I use the Hands on Equations system, and it would be nice to be able to use some templates I have for Hands On on each of the laptops.

KeyanaJ: ok, thank you

MichelleVT: thanks a lot Susan

SusanR: at the end of the session please

DavidWe: You can do that with Susan if she has time

MichelleLM: 2 days a week all students work independently where their needs are. Such as- whole number, decimal, integer, fraction operations

DavidWe: Susan's next session, by the way (K-3+ Resources) is next Tuesday at 8pm EDT

KeyanaJ: ok, good to know

DavidWe nods to Michelle

DavidWe: I would have to go and search for that, Michelle.

DavidWe: Have you ever used the internal search engine at the Math Forum?

DavidWe: That would yield you a lot of hits, I'm guessing

MichelleLM: No worry, I don't want you to go and add more work to your day.

DavidWe: Of the top of my head I'm not too sure what to tell you about specific materials to address those topics

DavidWe: Hey, it's my work to do

DavidWe: Just thinking that you can do the search (and do it better since you know what you are looking for)

MichelleLM: Lots of hits yes but I am having a difficult time separating the duds.

DavidWe: Yes, that's always the challenge

SusanR: Math Forum filters out the duds for you, Michelle

DavidWe: We HOPE it does - that's part of the purpose of the web site

MichelleLM: Okay, thanx. I'll work on that this evening. No pressure from the principal to get this done by Friday. Tee-hee.

JosephWi: I'm not sure if this link will work right. If it doesn't, click on "Asset Home" on the top left. <http://asset2.asu.iassessment.org/ia/render.userLayoutRootNode.uP> broken into grade levels then suBJects.

DavidWe: Do all of you know about the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives?

MichelleLM: no

MichelleVT: never heard of it

DavidWe: Another great set of online resources (applets) that has been carefully constructed and organized

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

DavidWe: It's based at Utah State

DavidWe: Here's the web site....thanks, Ihor

DavidWe hands over ANOTHER quarter

KeyanaJ: we used them in our math methods class last semester

JosephWi: the link I put up in my last post.. go to the Math Active part for your grade level. It has short flash animations that describe something, then the students manipulate things to reinforce the skill. They are in English, Spanish, and some in Navajo

DavidWe: Again, 4 strands of content, K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and it is searchable

DavidWe: Is any of this addressing things you are thinking about, Keyana. Don't mean to ignore you

KeyanaJ: no you referred me to Susan, that's great, and the websites are awesome

KeyanaJ: thanks

DavidWe: Ihor and I will be at a regional NCTM meeting at the end of this week and we hope to corral the NCTM President (Skip Fennel) and talk to him about technology and math education

DavidWe: Ihor has been a leading figure in pushing NCTM to focus more on the continually growing array of technology/software/hardware that augments traditional math education

DavidWe: He has maintained an affiliate group for NCTM for the past 20 years. It is called CLIME and initially focused on using LOGO in math education

DavidWe: To learn more you can look at <http://www.clime.org>

DavidWe: One of my concerns is that it is easier to chat with you about web sites and software - there are many, many website and too much software

MichelleLM: Part of the site issue is keeping the hardware updated and usable, along with getting teachers to use it efficiently

DavidWe: The challenge is to find the time to explore things and to have good examples TO explore

DavidWe: One role for THIS discussion is to be a place where people can also ASK QUESTIONS, LOOK FOR FURTHER USE OF SPECIFIC WEB SITES/SOFTWARE

DavidWe: Associated with this "live" discussion is a message board which allows people to post questions when the conversation IS NOT happening

KeyanaJ: it's great

MichelleLM: We are also looking at all the wonderful websites now along with "discussing". Multitasking.

DavidWe: I'm also happy to focus on specific topics in upcoming sessions - for example it would be fine to have a conversation specifically on Algebra software - I would just let people know ahead of time that if that doesn't interest them, then they may not want to login for that specific topic

JosephWi: Is there a transcript of the chats or a collection of links? I've put all the ones that were in this discussion on my del.icio.us account, but I'm wondering if there are transcripts from other sessions.

DavidWe: Similarly, Keyana. a focus on early elementary stuff would be fine with me

IhorC: I'm working on my activities for a session on Thursday at the NCTM meeting in Atlantic City. You can see some of them at <http://www.ciese.org/nctm/oct2006>

DavidWe: Yes, Joseph. As a member, you will get a transcript, automatically

DavidWe: It shows up about 15 minutes after you logout

KeyanaJ: Great

DavidWe: You don't need to write this stuff down. TI does the note-taking for you

DavidWe smiles

KeyanaJ: I'll get a eye on the calendar

JosephWi: Nice. Thanks. I guess I didn't need to tag them when they came up

DavidWe: My email is wex@pobox.com

IhorC: It's mostly appropriate for middle school. But its good stuff.

DavidWe: I welcome any comments, suggestions, topics for further exploration

DavidWe: In the past few months we have tended to have quite a wide range of teachers (K-college) so, I've tried to keep things general

DavidWe: But, now that the school year is in full swing, I'm really looking for community input in shaping these discussions

JosephWi: I'm going to share a link to a podcast I found interesting this week. It doesn't have to do with math, but is definitely about technology.
<http://www.speedofcreativity.org/2006/07/29/podcast73-a-web-of-connections-why-the-readwrite-web-changes-everything-by-will-richardson/>

DavidWe: So, please don't hesitate to request topics for future meetings

KeyanaJ: ok, no problem

DavidWe: Do you know about "Edutopia" - the free publication from the George Lucas Educational Foundation?

DavidWe: There's an article by Will Richardson in the October issue, Joseph. It's quite good

JosephWi: Yes, that's how I found his blog, which linked to the Speed of Creativity Blog that the podcast is from.

DavidWe: http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=art_1648&issue=oct_06

DavidWe: There's the article form Edutopia if anyone else is interested

MichelleVT: why thanks David

JosephWi: I did a lot of blog reading last week because we had district wide standardized testing.

MichelleLM: Thank you

DavidWe: <http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/index.php> - that's the web site for the magazine

DavidWe: It's a terrific resource and I look forward to what they highlight - very high quality, IMHO

DavidWe: Something to keep you busy during those high-stakes tests, huh, Joseph?

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: We've got about 5 minutes left

SusanR: "These technologies are user friendly in a way that technologies have not been in the past. You can be up and blogging in minutes, editing wikis in seconds, making podcasts in, well, less time than you'd think."

DavidWe: Has this been helpful to folks? Are you interested in coming back to other discussions in the future?

JosephWi: The links have been helpful.

DavidWe: You should all know that we have a K-20 math discussion on the first Tuesday of the month led by Jeff Cooper

MichelleVT: of course! I appreciate all of the wonderful websites you guys have introduced to me

KeyanaJ: yes, very helpful, I'm really into the online project website

MichelleLM: Yes, I have enjoyed this session. Will see you later.

DavidWe: I still think that people-to-people communication (even online chat) is more powerful than searching the web

DavidWe: Teachers know what works and I find, most of the time, are quite happy to share resources with each other

KeyanaJ: yes, because info on the web is soo vast

DavidWe . o O (too vast, sometimes)

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: The topic for the K to 3+ discussion next Tuesday is Online Collaborative Projects btw

DavidWe: So, again - feel free to use the Message Board, here in the MathEdTech Group room

KeyanaJ: I'm there Susan

MichelleLM: Thank you and good night all

BJ . o O (you must join the group to use the discussion board)

DavidWe: I promise to do a slightly better job of "decorating" my virtuall meeting space - it's rather spare at the moment

SusanR: with special guest Jen Wagner

KeyanaJ: I'm looking at the pumpkin project now

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe waves goodnight to Michelle

MichelleLM waves goodbye

BJ: thanks, David

JosephWi: They had us join the group in the Virtual Field trip of Tapped In this afternoon

DavidWe: You're welcome, **BJ**

KeyanaJ: good night

DavidWe: Any Tapped In questions - how to join a discussion group?

DavidWe waves to Keyana

DavidWe: Thanks for joining us, Keyana

MichelleVT: Thanks for all the resources, have a good night

SusanR: <http://www.k12science.org/currichome.html>

JosephWi: Ok. Thank you.

DavidWe: Email me - wex@pobox.com - if you don't find what you are looking for

DavidWe: If anyone wants to look at some of Susan's K-3 math resources, she can probably lead you to them

DavidWe gives his typing fingers a rest

KeyanaJ: ok

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: I will head up you can join me

JosephWi: Thanks everyone for the links and information.

DavidWe: You're welcome, Joseph. Thanks for coming