

**Title of Session:** Math and Technology

**Moderator:** David Weksler

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Room: MathEdTech Group

**BJB2:** Welcome to the MathEdTech discussion, Courtney.

**CourtneyFD:** I am a McNeese student. We are asked to join a forum and participate in the discussion. I am new to this, so please let me know if I am doing something I am not suppose to.

**BJB2:** let's start with introductions, please, David

**DavidW:** Thanks for joining us, Courtney

**BJB2:** and a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and click on detach

**CourtneyFD:** Thanks

**DavidW:** I'm David Weksler. Bj, Jeff and I are HelpDesk volunteers. I mostly help teachers learn more about educational technology, especially for math

**CourtneyFD:** Wow y'all are really good at this forum

**BJB2:** I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania, Courtney

**DavidW:** Well, we have been using it for quite some time

**DavidW:** I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

**CourtneyFD:** My name is Courtney Dressler, I am 23 and this is my second year to teach first graders in Lake Charles, LA.

**DavidW:** Cool

**DavidW:** So, you probably do some math teaching with your first graders

**CourtneyFD:** Yes, I am at a school were we use a lot of technology. I have 4 desktop computers, 2 laptops, and LCD projector, 30 handheld palms, and I just wrote a grant for an Active Board.

**DavidW:** What are first graders working at the beginning of the year in your school in

math?

**CourtneyFD:** We are just finishing our unit on Math and we start subtraction tomorrow. My math series Houghton Mifflin is wonderful, they provide us with resources such as a Math book on a disc that I can project on my LCD projector and a Math software assessment disk.

**CourtneyFD:** So BJB and David, what subjects or grades do you teach?

**DavidW:** I mostly work with teachers, Courtney - help them learn more about how to use it for math education

**BJB2:** I teach communication to teens/high school level

**DavidW:** Have you used any online resources, Courtney, with your students?

**DavidW:** I was part of the group of people who first started a big web site for math education - the Math Forum - [www.mathforum.org](http://www.mathforum.org)

**CourtneyFD:** Yes I use APlus Math, and Houghton Mifflin has a website

**DavidW:** One of the well-known projects at the Math Forum is called Ask Dr. Math - students can send their own math questions ...

**DavidW:** Anyway, have you seen the Ask Dr. Math web site?

**DavidW:** No problem - here is the address for the elementary level of Ask Dr. Math

**DavidW:** <http://mathforum.org/library/drmath/drmath.elem.html>

**CourtneyFD:** This sounds like a crazy question, but will Tapped in email me that notes we discussed a little while ago

**DavidW:** yes

**CourtneyFD:** That's for the website-Do you want me to view it now?

**DavidW:** Shortly after you logout, you'll get a transcript of this discussion - with all the web site addresses

**DavidW:** Feel free to take a look at it. If you don't know about it might be something you can use with your students

**DavidW:** I was actually going to show a few web sites that deal with data analysis/presentation - not sure applicable that may be to your first graders

**CourtneyFD:** That's fine do whatever you need to....

**DavidW:** There's a wonderful, simple data analysis software called InspireData - it's from the company that develops Inspiration/Kidspiration

**DavidW:** Do you start to get the students thinking of types of information?

**DavidW:** . o O ( how many people have brown/blue/green eyes, hair color, etc? )

**CourtneyFD:** Yes, we use kidspiration/inspiration in my classroom- I have actually never used it with Math though.

**CourtneyFD:** Sorry, is your previous question directed towards me?

**BJB2:** yes, Courtney...

**BJB2:** David is trying to find out how you give your children a sense of numbers

**BJB2:** and a sense of sorting information

**CourtneyFD:** Most of the students know their numbers prior to first grade

**BJB2:** I was trying to explain why you asked the questions about information, David

**BJB2:** . o O ( sorting information about hair color, etc )

**DavidW:** I know that some early elementary teachers are concerned that 1st graders, for example, need to deal with more concrete examples of numbers

**CourtneyFD:** We use counters and real life experiences a lot

**DavidW:** the trick of course is to try to find where you can bring "thinking about numbers" into all aspects of what is going on in the classroom

**DavidW:** Having students start to think about what it means if more people have blue eyes v. brown eyes

**DavidW:** Start to look at the things like comparing foot size with height

**CourtneyFD:** Yeah- We are trying to introduce them to graphs as well- We reviewed a pie chart and a bar graph today

**DavidW:** Do you know about the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives, Courtney?

**CourtneyFD:** No, but it sounds neat!

**DavidW:** It's a big web site with lots of simple tools

**DavidW:** Let me show you that site

**CourtneyFD:** ok

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

**DavidW:** They break things up nicely into 5 distinct math areas and then also into grade-level groupings

**CourtneyFD:** Do you want me to go there now or later

**DavidW:** First example under K-2....

**DavidW:** Sure, why don't you take a quick look

**DavidW:** ...is actually a Bar Chart

**DavidW:** It allows you to enter in your own data

**CourtneyFD:** It looks really neat. I guess I will play with it after the chat, because it says I need to download Java and restart my computer.

**DavidW:** that's interesting

**DavidW:** the chat we are using is actually a Java applet, but you may want to take a look at some of those applets later on, as well

**CourtneyFD:** You know what it just allowed me to look :)

**DavidW:** good

**CourtneyFD:** This is really neat, I am going to have to share this with my first grade team

**DavidW:** Another big site for online examples that are well described, linked to standards is the Illuminations web site from NCTM

**DavidW:** Have you seen that?

**DavidW:** <http://illuminations.nctm.org/>

**DavidW:** There is something like 520 lessons - divided into grade level, with activity sheets you can print out, etc.

**CourtneyFD:** Wow this is really cool! There is so much I don't even know where to start.

**DavidW:** Are there any questions you have, Courtney? I don't mean to throw too many web sites at you

**DavidW:** It takes some time to get familiar with what's available online

**CourtneyFD:** I no I am fine. Thanks though

**DavidW:** What we are typically trying to do in Tapped In is encouraging teachers to share with each other good examples that have worked well with their students

**CourtneyFD:** Do you know of a website that keeps students scores for addition facts. For example, if Jimmy answered so many addition math facts he would move to the next level?

**DavidW** thinks

**DavidW:** Here's one that may do a little bit of assessment:

**DavidW:** <http://home.indy.rr.com/lrobinson/mathfacts/mathfacts.html>

**DennisW** joined the room.

**DavidW** waves to Dennis

**DavidW:** Hi, Dennis. Welcome

**DavidW:** Courtney, have you seen Rainforest Maths?

**DavidW:** It's especially aimed at elementary students

**DennisW:** Hi Dave, I am a visitor from Denver Public Schools learning about tapped in.

**DavidW:** <http://www.rainforestmaths.com/>

**DavidW:** Welcome to Tapped In, Dennis

**DavidW:** This is the math education and technology discussion

**DennisW:** Thanks.

**DavidW:** Welcome to the Tapped In community, Dennis - looks like you just became a member today

**CourtneyFD:** No I have not seen Rainforest Maths- Thanks for the first website. I am going to post in on my classroom blackboard

**DennisW:** I did and I need to return to the class. Best of luck.

**DennisW** left the room.

**DavidW:** One of the cool, new tools that I've come across recently is a data analysis tool called Gapminder

**DavidW:** Google is hosting a version of it that shows some interesting comparisons of world data in a rather dynamic way

**DavidW:** This may be a bit beyond where your students are at the moment, Courtney, but take a quick look

**DavidW:** <http://tools.google.com/gapminder/>

**DavidW** can't remember if Bj or Jeff has seen this

**SethLe** joined the room.

**DavidW:** A Swedish scientist is trying to develop better and simpler ways of presenting complex data in dynamic ways

**DavidW** waves to Seth

**DavidW:** Hi, Seth. Welcome

**SethLe:** Hello

**BJB2** has looked briefly at gapminder

**DavidW:** Just having people take a look at a new statistical tool from Google

**DavidW:** <http://tools.google.com/gapminder/>

**SethLe:** okay. thank you.

**CourtneyFD:** Pretty neat. It's amazing what technology and people can do

**DavidW:** Additionally, there is a web site, Swivel - [www.swivel.com](http://www.swivel.com) - that lets users (it's free to join) upload data and share with other people

**DavidW:** Seth, if I recall you teach middle school - are you using an software for data analysis with your students?

**SethLe:** We have purchased TinkerPlots but haven't used it yet.

**DavidW:** There's a great deal people can do with just a spreadsheet - getting at the basics of algebra

**SethLe:** Do you know of any collection of spreadsheet resources?

**DavidW:** There are some good resources at the Math Forum - [www.mathforum.org](http://www.mathforum.org)

**DavidW:** This is a nice article about using Excel

**DavidW:** [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech/tech079.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech079.shtml)

**DavidW:** Here is a good set of specific examples - you can download the excel files, themselves

**DavidW:** <http://www.teacherlink.org/content/math/interactive/interactiveexcel.html>

**SethLe:** Thank you. I'll look at them at a later time.

**DavidW:** Seth, these will all be in the transcript of the discussion - you'll receive it by email shortly after you logout

**SethLe:** Can you tell me how I can find the transcript of previous sessions?

**DavidW:** Courtney, any other questions you may have

**BJB2:** [www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

**DavidW:** Transcripts usually show up within a week to 10 days

**DavidW:** . o O ( BJ edits them )

**DavidW:** One of the challenges presented by many of the online tools for math is that teachers need to feel comfortable with the technology in which the math is embedded.

**CourtneyFD:** No, Thank you for showing me these wonderful websites and thank you for helping me for my first forum.

**SethLe:** I found the transcripts. Thank you.

**DavidW:** There is enough variation in how web sites/software is built that it can be a challenge to know how to manipulate technology tools for the desired effect

**DavidW:** It may be actually a good thing for students to build something, in a

spreadsheet, for example, or in creating a simple pie chart (Courtney's first graders), so they are using the tool to demonstrate what they understand

**DavidW:** You don't want the technology to "get in the way"

**SethLe:** I don't know if I'm jumping in in the middle of a conversation about variations in web sites and software.

**JeffC:** doesn't want "the way" to get in the way of technology!

**DavidW** smiles

**DavidW:** Feel free to jump in, Seth

**CourtneyFD:** Yes, I agree

**SethLe:** It seems to me that if a student is computer literate, these variations are not that big a deal.

**DavidW:** I agree, Seth. Most often the students will feel very comfortable figuring out the software - sometimes that challenge is more for teachers

**SethLe:** That is true.

**SethLe:** What have you done to break down that handicap?

**DavidW:** One part of the transition is that teachers can use software and SmartBoards, for example, as high-tech blackboards and the teacher simply teaching the old way with fancier tools

**DavidW:** It's easy to say one is "utilizing technology"

**SethLe:** I think there has to be a better way but I sure haven't figured it out.

**DavidW:** The real challenge, at the educational level, is to encourage teachers to give up some "control" in the classroom - giving students opportunities to present different ways of solving problems

**SethLe:** That is a major issue, one that is true in all of our endeavors, not just with technology.

**DavidW:** I think it IS a big challenge and it depends on the resources at hand - if you are in a classroom where everyone has a laptop - then you have different options than if there is just one computer

**DavidW** thinks that is an excellent topic for a future discussion



**SethLe:** I agree.

**BJB2** looks at the clock on the wall

**CourtneyFD:** I have 30 Palms and I use a program called Sketchy- Which is just like a drawing program- I will say 2 frogs are on a log and 2 more frogs join them. They draw 2 green circles and 2 brown circles and write the addition sentence. They could use pencil and paper. But they have more enjoyment in learning when technology is involved

**SusanR** joined the room.

**DavidW:** I'll do some work on getting some resources together to address that, Seth

**DavidW** waves to Susan

**SethLe:** Thank you very much.

**SusanR:** hi David

**BJB2:** The next MathEdTech discussion will be on October 16

**CourtneyFD:** Well, Thanks for all your help, It is time for Courtney grade papers :)

**DavidW:** So, Courtney, you have the students using the Palms most every day?

**CourtneyFD:** Yes, pretty much

**DavidW:** Courtney, say hello to Susan who leads the K-3+ resources discussion

**JeffC:** that's great

**SethLe:** I'm off - thanks for getting me started in this sort of discussion forum.

**DavidW:** Susan, Courtney teaches 1st grade in Louisiana

**DavidW:** Thanks for joining us, Seth

**SethLe:** Thank you. Good bye.

**DavidW:** That's impressive, Courtney - is that consistent throughout your school?

**DavidW:** . o O ( Palms )

**CourtneyFD:** No, only about 7 teachers out of 30 have Palms

**DavidW:** very cool

**CourtneyFD:** Well, thanks again for your help.

**DavidW:** Thanks for joining the discussion this evening, Courtney. Look forward to seeing you in Tapped In, again

**DavidW:** Susan, have I shown you Gapminder, a data analysis tool?

**SusanR:** no please do

**DavidW:** <http://tools.google.com/gapminder/>

**DavidW:** it has a variety of presentation modes - a small set of interesting data sets

**DavidW:** Thanks, BJ, Jeff