Title of Session: MIRACLES Tech
Moderator: Robin Orloski
Title of File: 20080618miracles
Date: June 18, 2008

Room: Robin Orloski's Office

RobinOr: Hi Jerad

JeradV: Hello

BJB2: you're here for the MIRACLES discussion, Jerad?

JeradV: I am supposed to observe a presentation for an Ed class I am taking.

BJB2: cool! you picked a good discussion to join :-)

RobinOr: Great, is it a grad class you are taking?

RobinOr: I first found out about Tapped In through a course at San Diego State U.

JeradV: Yes. I am in the Ed Leadership program at NDSU

RobinOr: Well, we may have a small group today considering lots of teachers are probably enjoying their first couple of weeks out of school.

BJB2: There have been quite a few people logged in who are taking summer grad classes...like Jerad ;-)

RobinOr: I would think that is typically what will be on right about now. Most teachers will want to enjoy their first couple of weeks off before learning again.

BJB2: Robin, shall we start with introductions?

RobinOr: Definitely

BJB2: Jerad, please tell Robin where you are located and what you teach

JeradV: I teach fourth grade in Fargo, ND.

BJB2: I'm in south central Pennsylvania and taught remedial communication. I'm on Tapped In helpdesk.

RobinOr: I'm in Denver, and used to be a classroom teacher - 2nd, 3rd and technology.

RobinOr: Now I write curriculum and training for education.

RobinOr: What attracted you to this class and what you hope to gain from the presentation?

BJB2: now that I'm retired I can focus on more resources that I can share with the Tapped In community

JeradV: I wanted to take this class to see how I could use technology in my classroom

RobinOr: Great, well we can see if this will fit some of your needs. [side note - a storm is brewing here, so if it bounces me out for some reason, I'll try to get right back in]

RobinOr: I am going to be sharing information about a free technology curriculum that is available on the Web.

RobinOr: If you have any questions while we are going through it, please jump in.

RobinOr: I'd like to spend just a couple of minutes giving you some background about it.

BJB2 listens

RobinOr: The program is called MIRACLES Tech and was created by the Todd Wagner Foundation (link to the website www.toddwagnerfoundation.org for later)

RobinOr: The foundation is a non-profit organization that helps improve lives of inner-city residents by increasing access to technology, education and capital

JeradV: should I go to that website?

BJB2: the url will be in your transcript, Jerad...you can look later

RobinOr: No, not necessarily. You can go there later if you want to learn more about the foundation. One of the ways they increase access to technology is through free high-tech after-school programs for youth living and learning in underserved urban areas.

BJB2 . o O (when you log out you will automatically be emailed a transcript of this discussion)

JeradV: I don't see or hear anything. Do I need to do something or am I fine for now?

RobinOr: Which is such a great feature, because you don't have to take notes unless you want to. Also, I leave the docs and links up in my office so if you need to you can return here to get them.

RobinOr: You are fine, there is no audio and I'll be sure to let you know when you need to go out to another website or click on a link, which we will do in a little bit.

RobinOr: So, the Foundation adapted the MIRACLES Tech program from an intensive program they developed called MIRACLES.

RobinOr: First, I want to show you how to get to the website and give you time to sign up for an account if you want to.

RobinOr: You can always sign up later if you would feel more comfortable doing that.

RobinOr: But, I'll show you how to get there and what to do & you can decide when and if you want to get an account.

RobinOr: Then, we can talk about specifics for how to use the curriculum.

JeradV: ok

RobinOr: When you get to the website, you will click on the yellow MIRACLES Tech tab at the top.

RobinOr: I'll show the link in a minute, and you can refer back to these instructions in the chat as you look at the website.

RobinOr: You will see 3 choices: Instructor Signup, Instructor Curriculum and Student Tests.

RobinOr: Go to the Instructor Signup.

RobinOr: When you sign up, in the section that asks "How did you hear about the MIRACLES Tech program?" please select "Conference or Workshop" and type "Tapped In" in the explanation box right below it.

JeradV: ok

RobinOr: If you look on the left hand side of your Tapped In screen, you should see a "Links" link. Go ahead and click on that and select the MIRACLES Tech Website link. Spend a couple of minutes signing up for an account and join us back here as soon as you can.

RobinOr: I think is labeled MIRACLES Website w/MIRACLES Tech

RobinOr: Let me know when you are back.

BJB2: http://www.miracles.org/

BJB2: I'm back

JeradV: I'm back

RobinOr: Great, any questions so far?

RobinOr: If not, I'll move on...

JeradV: No. I just signed up. I haven't looked at the curriculum yet.

BJB2 thinks filling out the form was the easy part ;-)

RobinOr: Great, we'll do that next.

RobinOr: So, this is a free resource.

JeradV: ok

RobinOr: It is an instructor-led curriculum as opposed to something students would pick up and do on their own.

RobinOr: It is broken down into 8 project-based modules.

RobinOr: Each module runs between 12-15 program hours.

RobinOr: The modules can be used in any order, although the first 3 work well by going through them sequentially to give a really good basic foundation in technology.

RobinOr: The areas the modules cover are: basic tech skills, clay animation, web design (Frontpage), video production, image manipulation (Photoshop), robotics, intermediate web design (Dreamweaver) and web animation (Flash).

RobinOr: Each module includes planners to help organize the lessons.

RobinOr: And a materials list so that you know what you need.

BJB2: looks very comprehensive!

RobinOr: There are detailed lesson plans, which I will show in just a minute.

BJB2 . o O (I need to take a few of those lessons myself)

RobinOr: I know, right? We could all use a little extra.

RobinOr: They also have student guides that you can copy or print for your students as they walk through the projects.

RobinOr: I will use the Video Production module so that I can show you how to navigate through and use it.

JeradV: Are they designed for a certain age or grade?

RobinOr: They were designed for 4th-8th grade, but I have found that students younger than 4th grade do fine with a little more teacher support.

RobinOr: Older students usually move through them a little faster, depending on their tech knowledge.

RobinOr: An introduction to the module is included at the beginning of each module.

JeradV: thanks

RobinOr: In the Video Tech module, students move through the entire video production process.

RobinOr: The module uses Adobe Premiere software but there are also how-tos for Windows Movie Maker.

RobinOr: Each module uses different software and can be adapted if you have a similar type of software.

KristenTH joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Kristen. Welcome

RobinOr: Go to the Files link on the left hand menu and open the Video Tech Description document. This will give you an idea of what the module is about.

KristenTH: Hello

BJB2:
http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=21110&FILE_ID=48370&state=doDownloadFile

RobinOr: Look over it for just a minute and then come to the chat and we will go on.

BJB2: Kristen, are you here for the MIRACLES discussion?

KristenTH: Yes

BJB2 . o O (that started 30 minutes ago)

KristenTH: I thought it sounded interesting

RobinOr: Kristen we are just starting to look at the curriculum so you should be able to get some out of the session.

KristenTH: great

BJB2: It's fascinating...and an amazing free resource!

KristenTH: I love FREE!

BJB2: This discussion will be repeated on Monday, June 23

RobinOr: We are looking at the link that BJ typed above, which is the description of one of the modules.

RobinOr: Thanks for saying that so you can catch the first half again on June 23. If we have time at the end I'll show you how to go to the signup page

RobinOr: You can also reach it by going to the Links link on the left hand side and clicking the Video Tech Description.

RobinOr: Jerad, did you get a chance to look at that?

BJB2 . o O (FILES link)

RobinOr: Sorry, yes, the Files link rather than the Links.

RobinOr: Let's move on. Is everyone back with us?

JeradV: I looked at it by going to the Video tech description

RobinOr: Perfect.

RobinOr: MIRACLES Tech curriculum is aligned with the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS).

RobinOr: which you can also find here...
http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NETS, if you need them for future.

RobinOr: No need to go there right now though.

BJB2: I like the way the lessons are group oriented and collaborative

RobinOr: Yes, it definitely gives students a chance to be creative and share ideas.

RobinOr: Let's briefly check out what a Materials list looks like and then we will move on to the lessons.

RobinOr: Go to the Files link on the left hand menu and open the Materials document.

RobinOr: Look over it for just a minute and then come to the chat and we will go on.

BJB2:
http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=21110&FILE_ID=48369&state=doDownloadFile

RobinOr: Let me know when you are back.

BJB2: I don't see any text on the pages...just the title

RobinOr: Hmmmm...let me check on that....

JeradV: I don't see anything either

BJB2: whew! Thanks, Jerad...I thought it was my tech ineptitude!

JeradV: no problem :-)

RobinOr: You are so right, no one is crazy! I just uploaded the document again, so it should be labeled 0h_Materials.pdf in the same place

BJB2:
http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=21110&FILE_ID=48375&state=doDownloadFile

BJB2: much better ;-) Thanks

RobinOr: It will just give you an idea of what materials are needed. This module has more materials because of the video equipment, but you can make do with less if you need to. Some classes have just had a video camera & off they went.

RobinOr: 3 planners are included in each module.

RobinOr: You can check out the 1-week planner while you are in the Files section.

JeradV: I am back

BJB2:
http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=21110&FILE_ID=48368&state=doDownloadFile

BJB2 . o O (1 Week Planner)

RobinOr: There are also 6-week and 12-week planners

RobinOr: Not posted here, but on the website.

RobinOr: Lesson plans are written in one hour segments so you can easily adjust or modify the planners to fit your needs.

BJB2: very nicely presented

RobinOr: The 1-week planner would be more for a summer camp, where as the 12-week planner would go nicely with a teacher that wanted to incorporate at least 1 or 2 hrs per week into their classroom.

RobinOr: Everyone back and with us?

BJB2 nods

JeradV: yes

KristenTH: yes

RobinOr: Great, we'll move on.

RobinOr: The lesson plans that are included all follow the same format.

RobinOr: A preparation section explains what you need to do to prepare to teach the lesson followed by a detailed, step-by-step, scripted (if you need it) lesson plan.

RobinOr: They are designed so that a teacher with little or no technology experience can pick it up and run with it provided they know the software.

RobinOr: If the teacher does not know the software he/she probably learn enough to begin by working through the lessons and student guides.

BJB2 smiles...and asking for student help!

RobinOr: Definitely, my students taught me a lot through the years.

RobinOr: Go ahead and take a look at a lesson plan if you haven't had a chance. Go to the Files link on the left hand menu and open the Lesson 1 document.

RobinOr: Come back when you've taken a quick look.

BJB2: Lesson Plan

1: http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=21110&FILE_ID=48367&state=doDownloadFile

RobinOr: There are also student guides with some of the lesson plans that require students to complete multiple steps.

KristenTH: This is very interesting.

RobinOr: Let me know when you are back and ready to move on.

RobinOr: Also, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

BJB2: Student Guide: http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=21110&FILE_ID=48366&state=doDownloadFile

RobinOr: Students can take pre- and post- tests for each module online.

RobinOr: The website will score the test automatically.

RobinOr: However, it will not save testing information so you need to be sure to have the student print out his or her test with the score.

RobinOr: Here is a link to one of the student tests...http://www.miracles.org/index.cfm?FuseAction=LiteForms&tests=1

RobinOr: Choose whichever one you want to look at.

RobinOr: Just remember, your students will need to print out their completed tests, because the website does not save scores or tests.

RobinOr: Let me know when you are back...

BJB2: pretty comprehensive

KristenTH: when you submit where does it go

JeradV: I am back

KristenTH: I see on the site you can submit

RobinOr: After the student completes the test and submits it, the website scores it and the students gets a page that tells them their score and shows which answers were correct.

RobinOr: You can take a test yourself later on to see how it works.

RobinOr: MIRACLES Tech is starting a presence in Second Life so that educators can go there to get ideas and tips on using the MIRACLES Tech curriculum.

RobinOr: Search for "MIRACLES Tech"

RobinOr: if you are a Second Life member.

RobinOr: You can let other teachers know about the curriculum. They don't need to come to a Tapped In session to use this, but can if they want some explanation about the curriculum and how to use it.

RobinOr: As long as you are using for educational purposes, you can make as many copies as you would like and distribute them to your students.

RobinOr: We have just a minute left, was this helpful? Do any of you think you will be able to use the curriculum?

JeradV: Very helpful! I think that I will be able to use it. Thank you.

RobinOr: And, do you have any questions? I would be glad to stay on and answer questions for as long as you want. And Kristen, I can show you how to login to the site.

BJB2: I know I'd like to use the basic stuff for my own prof dev.

JeradV: I don't have any questions. Thanks Robin.

RobinOr: Definitely, contact me through Tapped In if you have any questions when you start using it. Otherwise, the presentation is complete, thanks for coming.

BJB2 . o O (Jackie Onya will be presenting this information on Monday, June 23...check your Tapped In calendar)

RobinOr: Kristen do you want me to show you the sign up place.

RobinOr: Kristen, if you go to www.miracles.org and click on the MIRACLES Tech tab it will take you to the MIRACLES Tech landing page where you will see an Instructor Signup link. Just follow the instructions to sign up for an account.

BJB2: Thanks, Robin. Good job!

RobinOr: Thanks everyone, like BJ mentioned, you will get a transcript of this session by email. Hope to see you all again sometime! Take care

BJB2 waves bye

KristenTH: I am signed up on the site.

KristenTH: Thanks I love this.

BJB2: Kristen, look around at the resources and check out the files and links here in Robin's office

BJB2: then see if you can come back next week and ask questions...you too, Jerad