Title of Session: Middle School Portal - Wikis
Moderator: Kimberly Lightle
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Room: Middle School Portal Group

KimberlySL: Hi everybody - while were waiting for everybody to join us - click on http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/2008/08/26/teacher-tools-that-integrate-technology-wikis/ - this is the article that we're going to work our way through

KimberlySL: Hi Wendy - glad you could join us

WendyQ: Thanks

KimberlySL: Let's introduce ourselves - I'm with Ohio State University and work with math and science teachers. One of my projects is the Middle School Portal

DrChristo: I'm Elizabeth, and I am a high school chemistry teacher.

KimberlySL: How fun - in a previous life I was a chemistry teacher

BJB2: I am in Pennsylvania and am a retired communications and arts teacher

WendyQ: I teach adult education in Cambridge, MA and will be teaching writing and GED this year

DrChristo: Cool! It's rare to find someone who doesn't say "yuck, I hated chemistry"

KimberlySL: I was a paint chemist for a while too!

KimberlySL: Again thanks for coming - let's get started

WendyQ: I loved chemistry in high school

BJB2: cool, Kim...I love science and art

DrChristo: Thank you, Wendy.

KimberlySL: Do any of you have a wiki that you use in your personal or professional lives

WendyQ: not me

DrChristo: Not yet. I want to start one with my class.

WendyQ: me too -- I think

KimberlySL: Oh good - it is really very simple to get started - I'll show you one later that I built today

KimberlySL: but first please go to the article and read the first three paragraphs - through Wikis in the Classroom and come back in a couple of minutes http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/2008/08/26/teacher-tools-that-integrate-technology-wikis/

BJB2 checks to make sure everyone go the url

LaraO joined the room.

WendyQ: I printed it

BJB2: welcome, Lara

KimberlySL: Hi Lara - glad you could join us

BJB2 . o O (a reminder that all urls will be in your transcript)

LaraO: thank you - sorry I'm late

KimberlySL: We're talking about wikis - please go to the article http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/2008/08/26/teacher-tools-that-integrate-technology-wikis/ and read the first three sections and come on back

KimberlySL: I guess I mean sections - through wikis in the classroom section

DrChristo: I'm back. Looks good so far.

KimberlySL: The first sections just give an overview of what a wiki is next we'll look at some free wiki providers

WendyQ: done

DrChristo: Good. That's one of the things I want to know - of all the sites out there, which should I choose?

KimberlySL: I am very comfortable with three different wiki providers - PB wiki, WetPaint Wiki, and wikispaces - have you heard of those

DrChristo: I have heard of all of these.

WendyQ: I've seen PBwiki, but haven't done anything with it

DrChristo: I did a project on WetPaint last year.

KimberlySL: If you go back to the article and scroll to the bottom of the page at resources you can click on all three of them - go ahead and do it and look at the differences

LaraO: WOW I had not thought of using wikis in that regard, and I teach tech

KimberlySL: I have been writing proposals with colleagues across the country in both PB and WetPaint wiki - they are much prettier than wikispaces but wikispaces has its own benefits

LaraO: i know this is a simple question, but how do you protect the kids from someone posting something that is inappropriate? Or is it a locked system where they have to have a id to post information?

WendyQ: My question is, which wiki sites are easier for students to use?

KimberlySL: Depends on how you set them up - all three allow you set who can post and for that matter even see the content - it can be a private wiki

LaraO: wonderful - I worry about that a great deal - not only from adults but from other kids that are not quite on the right pathway so to speak

KimberlySL: All three are easy - basically you have blank pages to type and add images too - the thing that is special about a wiki is that you can edit somebody else's work and their work is not lost

KimberlySL: Everyone can see the new version but can also see old versions and compare the versions

DrChristo: One of my colleagues had her class use a wiki last year. She found she had problems determining who had made what changes. How can we better control that?

LaraO: ooooh help in teaching editing - I'm the school newspaper advisor also

KimberlySL: Elizabeth - I wonder what wiki provider she used... Sometimes it is hard to be editing on the same document at the same time - things get confused

DrChristo: I think she was using PBwiki

DrChristo: I haven't tried it myself. Does it specify which changes were done at any given login?

KimberlySL: Yes - so if you know usernames you will know who is adding what content and you can give students usernames so you will know them

KimberlySL: Back to the school newspaper - if there is content that you want edited - post the content and then ask students to edit away

KimberlySL: You can also have multiple pages in your wiki - here is an example of the wiki that I started today - http://middleschoolmathscience.wikispaces.com/

KimberlySL: I was able to add my own title - middleschoolmathscience - wikispaces put that in the URL

KimberlySL: I also made it a public wiki so everybody could see the content but if you want to edit content you will have to register

LaraO: this would be great for cooperative learning. It keeps the focus on individual accountability.

KimberlySL: Great idea - there are some ideas for assessing student participation in the original article

WendyQ: I'm thinking about posting student writing and making different groups responsible for editing different things: grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.

WendyQ: I'll probably only have a few computers in the classroom, so they'd have to work in teams which I like anyway

KimberlySL: Go to the home on the http://middleschoolmathscience.wikispaces.com/ and go to the top tab that says history - you'll see that I updated the page three times today

LaraO: is there any chance we could look at one that has or is being used in a classroom?

KimberlySL: Lara - I have looked at quite a few wikis and couldn't find a good one at the middle school math or science classroom - I'm still looking

WendyQ: oh, try the "compare" function. It's cool!

DrChristo: Do all wikis show the changes that clearly?

KimberlySL: Yes - try the compare function - you could edit student work and then they could compare your version with their version

WendyQ: it's like "track changes" in Word

LaraO: read my mind

LaraO: that is wonderful

KimberlySL: Good question Elizabeth about comparing changes - I think wikispaces is the cleanest

WendyQ: How are the others different, Kimberly

KimberlySL: so you've looked at Home - click on the other two pages that I created (creating pages is easy - you'll see the Action area on the left side - you just click on new page)

BJB2: Kim is sharing information about using wikis in the classroom

LaraO: the possibilities are endless, working through a math challenge in a coaching basis

DrChristo: Lara, that's a great idea. Chemistry problem coaching, too.

KimberlySL: Wendy - about the comparisons - they all have that functionality - in fact WetPaint wiki allows to you compare multiple versions but it really get messy quick

WendyQ: I'm not sure what you mean by "the other pages," Kimberly

KimberlySL: Wendy - on the left navigation bar - see Home? Right below Home is Blog Post Ideas and MSP Feedback - those are the other two pages that I created - give them a look

WendyQ: ah

WendyQ: got it

KimberlySL: I was hoping that you might go ahead and register and add some comments to either of those pages - I did set the wiki up so you would have to register to edit pages

DrChristo: I love your blog post idea, Kimberly. My sister, who is an English teacher, wants to start a book discussion. Your page is a great example of how she could do that.

WendyQ: I liked that link to Connecting News to the Science Education standards -- I can see involving my students with this

DrChristo: Should we just click "join this space"?

KimberlySL: Oh Elizabeth -a wiki would work great but there are widgets that are free so you can have a book shelf and discussion - I don't want to get off track but we are using Shelfari for a bookshelf for Polar Science children's literature books

KimberlySL: I think so - click on join this space - you will have to add some information and then I'll get the request and will have to approve you (i think) - what happened?

KimberlySL: http://www.shelfari.com/beyondpenguins - Elizabeth - here is the link to the Shelfari site - it's another free tool

DrChristo: Thanks.

DrChristo: I've requested to join your wiki. Did it work?

KimberlySL: I just got the email and OK'd your request

KimberlySL: What's happening on your end?

WendyQ: I just made a request to join, too

WendyQ: brb

DrChristo: Yes. I've got an "edit this page" button.

KimberlySL: still waiting for Wendy's request

DavidW joined the room.

DavidW waves

LaraO: hiya!

WendyQ: waves back

DrChristo: I did it. I changed the page. I added a link to the Blog page.

KimberlySL: While I'm waiting - one more thing about wikispaces - they want to give away 100,000 "plus" wiki to educators http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K

KimberlySL: Excellent

DavidW smiles

WendyQ: Nothing from me yet?

KimberlySL: Nothing - don't know what is up

WendyQ: It says the request has been sent

KimberlySL: David - We're looking at my wiki - http://middleschoolmathscience.wikispaces.com/ and trying to edit pages

WendyQ: We can just go on, if you want -- I think I understand the mechanism

DavidW: Thanks, Kim

LaraO: I sent a request also, and set up a free account

DrChristo: Wendy, I was already a member of wikispaces itself. Perhaps that's the difference.

WendyQ: probably

LaraO: question if you teach more than one subject, is it better to set more than one account or just use the one with different pages

WendyQ: Kimberly, can you embed graphics in a wiki page, or is it just text?

KimberlySL: I just approved loneil115 - is that you Wendy

LaraO: nope me

DavidW: if you are just signing up it may take a few minutes to generate an email

WendyQ: no, I'm teacherWendyQ

KimberlySL: about images - when you can edit a page there is a visual editor that allows you to embed images and html, etc

LaraO: smile

WendyQ: I just refreshed the page and now I have an edit this page button, too

KimberlySL: oh good!

KimberlySL: I just approved dweksler

KimberlySL: I'm assuming that is David?

DavidW: yes - thanks

KimberlySL: Elizabeth - I just looked at your addition to the Blog Post Ideas page - looks great - everybody click on the Blog Post Ideas page - the last sentence is new

KimberlySL: then click on history and you can see which part Elizabeth added - it is

highlighted in green

KimberlySL: well - times flies when you are having fun! Please go back to the original article http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/2008/08/26/teacher-tools-that-integrate-technology-wikis/ and finish reading it

KimberlySL: Todd Williamson who wrote the article provides some ideas for using wikis in the classroom as well as how to get started

WendyQ: I just inserted a picture which I'm sure you'll want to delete but I couldn't resist

DavidW . o O (good picture, Wendy!)

KimberlySL: It looks great!

DrChristo: I want that mug, Wendy.

WendyQ: I actually have one of those mugs

DrChristo smiles

KimberlySL: Please take advantage of one of the 100,000 wikispaces free upgrades - http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K

DavidW thinks he has a Dr. Science t-shirt somewhere

WendyQ: I like what Williamson says about ground rules

KimberlySL: I think Wendy asked for some classroom examples - this is one of the resources that Todd highlights in his article - http://wikisacrossthecurriculum.wikispaces.com/

KimberlySL: BTW - one of the nice things about the wikispaces for educators - there are no advertisements

DrChristo: That's good. I was just noticing the ads in the link you just gave us.

LaraO: well thank you all for the information - but time to get supper cleaned up. I look forward to learning more from each of you in the future.

WendyQ: except for the sponsored links along the side in the link to wikis in the classroom

BJB2: The next MSP discussion will be in October

WendyQ: bye Lara

LaraO: thank you!

KimberlySL: Another BTW - we have two other articles one about Integrating Tech http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/middle-school-math-science/category/integrating-technology/

BJB2 . o O (October 7?)

KimberlySL: Yes - October 7 - thanks so much for coming!

WendyQ: Thank you, Kimberly, this has been great. Wikis, here I come! :-)

BJB2: Thanks, Kimberly.

DrChristo: Thanks Kimberly. I've learned a lot!

DavidW smiles

KimberlySL: Hope to see everyone next month - not sure what the topic will be but something technology related

WendyQ: I'll keep an eye out

WendyQ: bye all

BJB2: join this group, Wendy

DrChristo: Goodnight.

WendyQ: OK

BJB2 . o O (Kim sends out a reminder)

KimberlySL: Will do