

Title of Session: Math Transformers

Moderator: Patricia Chen

Title of File: 20090210mathtrans

Date: February 10, 2009

Room: Math Transformers Group

PatriciaCh: what grade level do you teach

CindyHN: 4 to 8

TametriceC joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Tametrice

TametriceC: Hello

BJB2: a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

TametriceC: Thank you

BJB2: then overlap your chat and web window because Pat has featured some resources for this discussion

PatriciaCh: we can do introduction in a few minutes ...I updated the literature files ...so please look over the files and other resource materials

BJB2: Cindy and Tamertrice, do you see the resources under Featured Items?

CindyHN: yes

TametriceC: Yes, I see the featured items. How do I overlap the chat and web window?

BJB2: resize the chat using the lower right corner

BJB2 . o O (the resizer thingy :-))

BJB2: did you do it, Tametrice?

TametriceC: I'm not sure. I put the two windows side by side but I am not sure how that will work out as we continue the discussion

TametriceC left the room (signed off).

BJB2: you just have to overlap enough so you can move back and forth between the two....and don't close the web window!

BJB2 sighs

BJB2: how are you doing, Cindy?

PatriciaCh: she is the expert

CindyHN: good

PatriciaCh: I teach middle school math in Florida

CindyHN: I hope you can help me, I am now a student teacher.

BJB2: I'm a retired communication and art teacher, Cindy, and a Tapped In volunteer

PatriciaCh: what content area are you planning to teach

CindyHN: you must have a lot of experience in classroom

CindyHN: math

PatriciaCh: what state are you in

CindyHN: Houston, TX

PatriciaCh: before I get into the specificsdo you have any questions

CindyHN: what this chat is actually about

PatriciaCh: map skills

PatriciaCh: or using alternative methods

CindyHN: great, many students did not know how to read maps

PatriciaCh: quite true

PatriciaCh: I like working with the geography teacher with map skills ... a joint project

PatriciaCh: did you read the sample lesson plan?

CindyHN: I did not get that far

PatriciaCh: ok read that ...I created a generic and simple one

CindyHN: is that in the literature file?

PatriciaCh: one is for lower age group... and one can be used for middle schoolers

JeffC joined the room.

PatriciaCh: it is the file under literature

PatriciaCh: hello Jeff

JeffC waves

PatriciaCh: and you can adapt the middle school one for high school

JeffC: wow... all those for the tour today and only one taker!?

PatriciaCh: yup

PatriciaCh: nobody likes math :(

BJB2: not true, Pat!

PatriciaCh: and other one was here ...but ???

CindyHN: I don't think so

BJB2 . o O (most of the people on the tour had class after the tour)

PatriciaCh: I have been told by my students ...they love my class but hate math

CindyHN: that is funny

PatriciaCh: it is okay I have thick skin

PatriciaCh: it is all how you present the content area ...and how you make it meaningful ...with all the testing we do it is getting harder

CindyHN: math class sometime is very boring

CindyHN: most of the time teacher just gives out the lecture

PatriciaCh: right now ...I am in the preparation for test mode ...we test on 3-10 then I am home free

BJB2 . o O (most people don't like something they don't understand...so it's up to the

teacher to find a way to help each student learn)

CindyHN: true

BJB2 . o O (and the test mode makes it difficult to maintain a continuum)

PatriciaCh: I try to involve the students in the process

PatriciaCh: some students will rise to the occasion ...and some rise ????

PatriciaCh: yes ...the test mode takes the fun out of things ...but we still manage to laugh in my class

CindyHN: how do you present your lesson? lecture or hands on activity?

PatriciaCh: lecture first then group activity

CindyHN: I love group work

PatriciaCh: I teach 7th grade ...but the lower level students lack basic knowledge

CindyHN: my sponsor not

CindyHN: some of my students don't know multiple table

PatriciaCh: neither does some of mine ...in 7th grade ...we use the calculator

CindyHN: my school don't allow

PatriciaCh: I have warm up activities on the board ... the kids do it ...then I let them discuss the various strategies

CindyHN: you don't tell them the answer

PatriciaCh: in 7th grade and higher ..students are allowed to use the calculators on the state test ...that is why we allow it

PatriciaCh: no I don't always say who has the right answer ...

PatriciaCh: most of the times you will have multiple answers

CindyHN: how you lead them to the right answer

PatriciaCh: I ask ..anyone else??? then I always have someone give another answer

PatriciaCh: with the class' help we re-read the question ...analyze ...think of strategies

..either I or another student will write it on the board ...step by step ... we come to a solution

CindyHN: wow, I need to use that technique

PatriciaCh: the kids with the correct answer the first time ... makes a comment that they had it all along ...by the second month ...the kids are used to it

PatriciaCh: most of the times ...they all start on the right track ...but some get derailed ... by writing it, discussing it ... they can see where they went wrong ...but you will get some that don't care

CindyHN: exactly, that happen all the times

MichaelPS joined the room.

JeffC: Hi Michael

PatriciaCh: and the ones that were derailed they don't feel silly or stupid as they say they know it was a silly mistake

MichaelPS: hello

PatriciaCh: and it can happen to anyone

PatriciaCh: welcome

MichaelPS: thanks

PatriciaCh: we were discussing instructional strategies

CelisaGst7 joined the room.

PatriciaCh: I created two simple lesson plans ...

BJB2: good, Celisa. Welcome

PatriciaCh: welcome

BJB2 . o O (you might want to listen for a few minutes)

CelisaGst7: Thanks. I this is my first exploration of Tapped IN

PatriciaCh: I teach very low level students to Algebra 1 kids ...

CindyHN: I teach low level 6 grade

BJB2: Celisa, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select larger text

CelisaGst7: Is this better?

PatriciaCh: so I would adapt the simpler of the two lessons so my ELL students and lower level student ...then scaffold different activities to help them to learn map skills

CindyHN: their famous statement: I don't know

BJB2 smiles...we don't see your screen, Celisa

PatriciaCh: you got it

PatriciaCh: a great group activity ...plan a trip

CelisaGst7: Maybe I will click out and come back.

PatriciaCh: the second activity is a fun one ...treasure map ...if you school permits it ... you can show the Pirate movie ..with J. Depp ...I did that one year

CindyHN: I have to check on that

PatriciaCh: one of the great things about children literature ... you can adapt it to math skills

PatriciaCh: the Gingerbread Baby you can use the same book ... talk about cookie recipes ...now you are teaching fractions and whole numbers

PatriciaCh: Is this making any sense?

CindyHN: yes

CindyHN: I love to do these kind of things but my sponsor keep saying we don't have time

PatriciaCh: homework or group activity ...triple a recipe ... dividing the recipe in half in the old days ...we could ask the kids to bring in cookies

PatriciaCh: when do you take the test

CindyHN: two more weeks

PatriciaCh: After that ... you will have time ...

PatriciaCh: I don't do a whole lot of fun stuff when I am in the prep mode either

BJB2: Celisa logged in with a question, Pat: "I am looking for online interactive web sites for my 7th grade math students who are academically at risk. We are currently studying scale factor and constructions. Any suggestions?"

BJB2 thinks maps are a good two dimensional way to look at scale

PatriciaCh: I will have to check around

CindyHN: I use ratio box

PatriciaCh: the maps skills is one of the scale concept ... I do believe she is also referring to scale factor ...which is ratios

PatriciaCh: there is a home building/architecture website that relates to that ...on a student level ...but I cannot remember the url

BJB2: Celisa, if you get a free Tapped In membership you can join this group...

PatriciaCh: The thing to remember is ...solve word problems ... it is all ratios

BJB2: then Pat can post that url to the discussion board when she finds it

PatriciaCh: yes I will do that

PatriciaCh: I have different resource links posted

CindyHN: I like your resource links

PatriciaCh: it is different and kids can access it from home

CindyHN: what modification will you make if kid don't have computer

PatriciaCh: the resource materials are really for the parents ...

PatriciaCh: we have limited lab time ... I do a lot of little extra help in the classroom ...students coming early for help

CindyHN: I just wish they would come

PatriciaCh: some of transportation problems too

CindyHN: yeah

PatriciaCh: I collect homework every night I write corrections on the paper

CindyHN: my teacher doesn't

PatriciaCh: I find it is invaluable ..

CindyHN: we go over the homework in class

PatriciaCh: I ask the student to do another problem so I know if he or she understands

PatriciaCh: I ask the kids to try ... to let me know when they don't know what to do next ... sometimes it is the language barrier

CindyHN: true

PatriciaCh: I do too but some are very shy about asking

CindyHN: they afraid that their friend think they stupid

PatriciaCh: I have one young man ... it is the language ...but now he is more apt to try ..when I remind him then he gets it without my help he is the type of kids who have to make the achievements on the state tests

PatriciaCh: he will write on the homework paper ...now he just tells me ... without fear of being ridiculed

CindyHN: I have a lot of at risk students

PatriciaCh: I have to say ...I have about 70%

CindyHN: same with mine

CindyHN: we just need to try harder

BJB2: Celisa, is that consistent with your class?

PatriciaCh: I have one class that is not at risk ...but my other advance ...30% is at risk ..so the 70% is my other 4 classes

PatriciaCh: my motto is ...if I can just reach one student then I am happy

CindyHN: true

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

PatriciaCh: my 4 classes used the same textbook but my method of instruction or delivery is different each time

CindyHN: why

BJB2: Pat, do you want to choose another topic for March or just go with pot luck?

BJB2 . o O (or ratios?)

PatriciaCh: because of the make up of the students

CindyHN: a lot of absent

PatriciaCh: ratios is good I can find sites as well as books to help Celisa

BJB2: the next math Transformers discussion will be on March 10 [Ed Note: ratios is scheduled for April. March 17 will be a guest speaker, Dianne de las Casas]

PatriciaCh: I will post it once I find the resource

PatriciaCh: absenteeism is a problem

BJB2 nods to Pat. Thanks so much for leading this discussion. Cindy, I hope you feel better having a shoulder to lean on!

PatriciaCh: it is almost 8 PM ...

CindyHN: yes, thanks so much for your tips

PatriciaCh: please stop by next month and let me know how you are doing

CindyHN: I will

BJB2 . o O (Tapped In is designed for collaboration among colleagues!)

PatriciaCh: no problem ... us old teachers have to pass on the tricks to others

BJB2 waves bye and heads for the K to 3 Resource Discussion

PatriciaCh: goodnight

CindyHN: goodnight

BJB2 . o O (experienced, not old!)

BJB2 winks