

Title of Session: Math Resources K-20

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

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Room: Math Resources

JeffC: looks like everyone's here... so let's start with intros.

JeffC: please tell us a bit about yourselves.

JeffC: I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk, in Forest Grove Oregon, and facilitate this group (though I'm not a math teacher).

SofiaV: I teach high school math in NJ, use Technology, interested in new ideas.

BetsyKB: hello! My name is Betsy and I teach Algebra II in Franklinton, NC. I'm just finishing up my first year teaching and although it's had its ups and downs, I have truly enjoyed it

BetsyKB: I'm also trying to figure out how to incorporate technology more into next semester's courses

JeffC: ok... great! I can see from your profiles that Sofia has already joined this group, the first thing I'd recommend is for Betsy to do so as well.

BJB2 thinks Sofia should post to the discussion board asking for SL resources

JeffC: to do that, click the little "i" in the green circle at the end of the Welcome box (next to the link for this group, or click the link).

JeffC: then click the link to "join this group"

JeffC: then click the "Room View" button to take you back to the Welcome screen.

BetsyKB: i've clicked the "join this group", but can't find the "room view"

JeffC: BJB is right, Sofia... at some point you might want to make a Discussion post about using Second Life for math. I don't use it.

JeffC: what do you see in the top frame Betsy?

SofiaV: ok, I will do this later.

BetsyKB: yes - got it now

JeffC: ok... great!

JeffC: basically I have a few resources and ideas for math teachers here... and am really hoping to encourage a few math teachers to take more control of this room.

JeffC: I totally support collaboration, and hope that I can encourage you to get involved (in the future) in building the resources here.

SofiaV: sounds great

BetsyKB: ok - neat

JeffC: Bj pointed out that this room needs "spring cleaning"... not all of the links work, etc., and there is always updating to be done.

JeffC: ok... first things first... if you want to enlarge the size of this text chat, click the Actions menu-- Larger Text.

SofiaV: ok

JeffC: you may also "Detach" your chat and have a larger chat window... that will mean switching back and forth though when I refer to the top frame.

SofiaV: ok

JeffC: now... when I put up a link in chat, it's important for you to *hold the Ctrl key down when clicking* or else your popup blocker will log you out.

JeffC: or... accept popups from Tapped In (best) or turn off your popup blocker.

BetsyKB: ok - thanks

SofiaV: ok

JeffC: a couple of sites that I recommend are Math Forum <http://www.mathforum.org/> and Mathway <http://www.mathway.com> ...are either of you familiar with either of those sites?

BetsyKB: I don't believe so - I'm going to go check them out

SofiaV: know mathforum.

BetsyKB left the room (signed off).

SofiaV: we lost betsy

JeffC: right... mathforum has been around for quite a while... I definitely recommend taking a look. mathway allows students (and teachers) to plug in problems (all the way up to Calculus) and see step by step resolutions. yup... hopefully Betsy will be back soon!

JeffC: she's logged back in and is in Reception.

BetsyKB joined the room.

BJB2: she's back!

JeffC: here are those links again Betsy: <http://www.mathforum.org> and <http://www.mathway.com>

BetsyKB: sorry guys - I tried opening the website...even disabled the pop-up blocker, but I got kicked off

BJB2: a reminder, Betsy, to hold down the ctrl key when you click on a url

BetsyKB: I think I'll copy and paste them into my browser this time!

JeffC: lol... good idea

JeffC: mathforum has been around for quite a while... I definitely recommend taking a look. mathway allows students (and teachers) to plug in problems (all the way up to Calculus) and see step by step resolutions. yup... hopefully Betsy will be back soon!

BJB2: you can do that from the Actions menu....send to pasteboard

SofiaV: ok

JeffC: would you like a few minutes to look at those sites or would you like me to move on?

SofiaV: please, move on -but it's up to Betsy

BetsyKB: let's move on - I can check these out later...they look pretty good though

JeffC: ok... good

JeffC: a site I found this past month is called "A Plethora of Polyhedra"... there's a link in the top frame.

JeffC: <http://www.uff.br/cdme/pdp/pdp-html/pdp-en.html>

JeffC: this is a really fun site for everyone.

JeffC: you can look at a wide array of polyhedra, cut them up, etc.

JeffC: now... how to *incorporate* that site into an every day math class... well... I'll leave it to you two math teachers to come up with some ideas there!

SofiaV: ok,

JeffC: all I know is I had a lot of fun looking at a lot of different shapes, not to mention learning that they all had different (real person) names apparently.

BetsyKB: well, you could go to the lab and have students work with the shapes and manipulate them and see them in 3d instead of trying to simulate that on a blackboard

JeffC: yup

JeffC: I don't see how a teacher could even begin to simulate polyhedra on the blackboard! well... maybe a couple... but this site really gives you a much better way to do it.

JeffC: and if you have a Smartboard... you could manipulate the shapes (and/or have your students do it).

BetsyKB: anytime I have to draw anything on the board...must less a 3d figure, it never turns out well!

JeffC: do either of you have access to a Smartboard or something else in your class to allow for online demos and manipulation?

BetsyKB: that would be fun - we have one smartboard at our school, and another teacher has it, but that would be a fun activity to collaborate on

SofiaV: Geometer's Sketchpad is a great software - we use it a lot for building different shapes

BetsyKB: I have a laptop in my room and we do have access to a computer lab, so I could model it for them and then give them an assignment to work on the program during our next lab time

JeffC: yes... and... if you could hook up with another teacher with another Smartboard (in another school), you could collaborate online (uh... if you have a webcam and the ability to communicate using Wiziq, Elluminate, Yugma, or another conferencing system).

BetsyKB: is Geometer's Sketchpad 3d? I don't teach Geometry, but I might next year, so I was wondering

SofiaV: I use Skype and video calls

JeffC: Yes... Geometer's Sketchpad is something that comes highly recommended... I didn't know about 3D with it though.

BetsyKB: I love the webcam idea - I just finished a course where the other students talked about using Skype in their classroom and I thought it was a GREAT idea

SofiaV: It does have it

JeffC: there ya go Sofia (assuming that you can hook up with another school that will allow the teacher to use Skype... there's always the IT department to deal with!)

BetsyKB: how do you use it in your classroom?

BetsyKB: skype, I mean

JeffC thinks perhaps Betsy and Sofia could possibly collaborate in the future.

SofiaV: I have a wireless tablet pc, web camera and installed software -Skype (all you need for communication)

SofiaV: Sure,

BetsyKB: yeah, there's an idea - what do you teach, Sofia?

SofiaV: Algebra 1, Precalculus, Geometry

BetsyKB: wow - what a range! I just taught Algebra II next year, but haven't gotten my schedule yet for next year

BetsyKB: so, how do you incorporate skype into the classroom/your lessons?

JeffC: Betsy, I helped Sofia create a virtual classroom here last Saturday. At some point you might want to do the same (I can help), and your two classes could officially collaborate... in that way your virtual classrooms here could act as a hub for further collaboration.

BetsyKB: that sounds great - I'd love to do something like that. my students are from a small county and I try to incorporate global learning into the curriculum to expand their horizons a bit

JeffC: that's wonderful Betsy

SofiaV: sounds great

BetsyKB: have you ever used the mathcounts.com website? i used that earlier in the semester when I was teaching word problems

JeffC: ok... another thing to be aware of in this room... BJB does an excellent job of posting to Discussion (in a number of rooms) when she finds relevant sites, etc. so... at some point I'd definitely recommend taking a look at the Discussions here.

JeffC: <http://www.mathcounts.com>

SofiaV: I am looking now into the Second life. Within the game to build different geometric shapes. I want to use it in a class project.

BetsyKB: neat - are you just on the second life website?

JeffC: I'm looking at it now Betsy. As far as Second Life... I definitely recommend going through the teacher/teen portal in setting up anything there... you'll have a hard enough time convincing the IT people to let your students go there.

SofiaV: yes, it's restricted in our school, so far

JeffC: I'm not getting much from mathcounts other than as a placeholder... what's the website you're referring to, Betsy?

BetsyKB: <http://mathcounts.com/>

BetsyKB: that's copied from my url

JeffC: ok... I made a mistake by adding www

JeffC: btw... I've just promoted both of you to Moderator status here.

JeffC: if at any time you'd like to be a guest speaker here, or know of one, let me know and I'll set things up.

SofiaV: thanks,

BetsyKB: sure thing

JeffC: ok... one other link to share: <http://www.univie.ac.at/future.media/moe/index.html> (Maths Online)... you can also click the link from the top frame.

JeffC: I've been looking for more online problem solving for math, and interactive whiteboards. One site that has some support for math is <http://www.wiziq.com> ...though they're still working on supporting math.

JeffC: and like I said... there are *tons* of links and resources in Discussion. as Moderators now, you may move Discussions into appropriate folders if you want, Delete or Edit links that don't work, etc.

JeffC: it's up to you to determine how much time you want to spend here (no pressure!)

JeffC: and if you'd like Betsy, I can help you set up a K-12 room now, so that you and Sofia could officially collaborate (it's up to you if you'd like to do it now or later).

SofiaV: I am very sorry, but I have no more than 10 min

JeffC: no problem... we'll do it another time then.

SofiaV: You can do this with Betsy. Just in case my e-mail vaxsmans@mcvts.net

JeffC: one thing I'd recommend you both do is post in the Personal Introduction folder in Discussion... discussion posts act as mini-listserves and forward to all the group members via email.

BetsyKB: yeah, I'd like to go ahead and set up a virtual classroom

SofiaV: ok, great

JeffC: I have to leave in a few to take my son to his baseball practice, but I can paste up the info for you Betsy, that way you can create your class.

BetsyKB: thanks, Jeff, that would be great

SofiaV: ok, thank you so much, Jeff, BJ, Betsy. See you next time.

JeffC: ok... I'm going to paste up two rather long notes (which will scroll your screen).

JeffC: the first shows you how to set up your class.

BetsyKB: ok

JeffC: the second gives you some management ideas.

JeffC: after I paste... click Actions-- Send to Pasteboard

BetsyKB: ok

JeffC: then follow the directions in setting up your class... and then the directions on management (invite both Jeff C and Sofia V once you are there).

JeffC: ready?

BetsyKB: sure

JeffC: K-12 Student Group Creation

JeffC: 1) Click the Tapped In tab in the top frame

JeffC: 2) Click the Groups subtab

JeffC: 3) Click the Create a new K-12 Student group link

JeffC: 4) Read all the terms... (recommend copy/pasting the agreement into Word for later use)... check the box saying you agree to the terms... click Continue

JeffC: 5a) Name your group: (ex. Mr. Cooper's AP English) 28 characters maximum.

JeffC: 5b) Nickname: Give it a nickname (ex. cooper_ap) 10 characters maximum and *no spaces* This will be the name of your group room. Empower your students by asking what they want the nickname to be (panthers, peacenicks, etc.)

JeffC: 5c) Purpose: The purpose can be what you want... teach online with your class, collaborate with other classes, etc. This shows up on your group profile page (and may be edited later).

JeffC: 5d) Topics: Select up to three topics that relate to the group (ex. ESL, Language Arts, Technology Education) for your group's profile.

JeffC: 5e) URL: You may type in your school's homepage or any appropriate link. Be aware that this will also show up in the group's profile. If you are looking to collaborate with other K-12 educators, consider giving the teacher's homepage with information that you are looking to collaborate with other teachers and students.

JeffC: 5f) Duration of Group: Defaults to 3 months, can be up to 12 months. The group may be renewed later by the Owner or Moderator.

JeffC: 5g) Grade Level: Elementary, Middle, or High School

JeffC: 5h) Number of Accounts: Select the number of students in your class and add 5 (just in case). If you have more than 50 students select 50 (more may be added manually later). Also consider creating more than one K-12 group.

JeffC: 5i) Prefix: Prefix may be no longer than 6 characters. Prefix will generate default student names (student names can be edited later) If you don't plan on changing their user names, these names will be used by the students with numbers attached. (ex. choose "coops" to autogenerate coops01St coops02St etc.). All students automatically have the

St suffix added to their user names.

JeffC: 5j) Click Next

JeffC: 6a) Specify a password: Type it twice, at least 5 characters. All students will login initially with this password. Once logged in, they should immediately change it so that other students cannot use each other's accounts. (more on this in the Quicknote K-12 Group Management). Owners and Moderators may change individual passwords at any time.

JeffC: 6b) Join K-12 Students Box: Check the box to join the K-12 Students group. This is a support group for educators with K-12 students. In addition to posting questions regarding help for your group, you may also post requests for collaboration, lessons, etc. This group has over 400 members at Tapped In.

JeffC: 6c) Click: Create Group: This will create your group. If you are unsatisfied or need to make any changes, simply click the Back button instead.

JeffC: 7) You may now click the link at the bottom of the page to enter your K-12 Class!

JeffC: 8) Read the Note: Quicknote K-12 Group Management for further help.

JeffC: that's the first note

JeffC: here's the second:

JeffC: The following tips are for those who have created a K-12 class on how to best develop and manage it.

JeffC: 1. Consider inviting Jeff C to your class to help with setup and management. I am like the principal of the K-12 Campus and currently Moderate over 50 K-12 classes. To invite me:

JeffC: a) Go to your K-12 class

JeffC: b) Click the Settings link on the left of the top frame.

JeffC: c) Click Member Management

JeffC: d) Click Invite Users

JeffC: e) type: **JeffC** etc. and invite me.

JeffC: 2. Invite your Principal to join the class. Use the same route as in tip #1, but unless s/he is already a Tapped In member, on step "d" use Invite New Users and use the principal's email address to invite.

JeffC: 3. Edit your student names. The system defaults to giving user names generated from Tapped In, which will make it very difficult to readily identify who is saying what or posting to Discussion. To edit student names:

JeffC: a) Go to your K-12 class.

JeffC: b) Click: Settings

JeffC: c) Click: Member Management and scroll down

JeffC: d) Click the green "edit" link next to a student name.

JeffC: e) Change their user name to their firstnamelastinitial (no spaces between). If a user name is already taken consider adding their second last initial or the number 1.

JeffC: f) Type in their first name in the first name box.

JeffC: g) Erase the info in the email address and password box.

JeffC: h) Click "save changes"

JeffC: 4. Set Discussion to "Digest." If you use the threaded Discussion board your students will generate quite a few posts. Setting Discussion to Digest means that you will receive *one* email a day which will include all the posts from your class, instead of individual emails.

JeffC: 5. Change your own email address to a gmail, yahooemail or hotmail account. If you don't set Discussion to digest your school email will be flooded and it will be hard to manage. This step is optional if you set Discussion to digest.

JeffC: ok... I'll stay logged in... but have to run... back in about 15. BJB can answer questions while I'm gone.

BJB2 listens for questions

BetsyKB: all right - I'm getting started