DianneA: Welcome to today's session of Teachers-in-Training

DianneA: we are somewhat smaller in size today than we have usually been

LeticiaB: good to see you too!

DianneA: and previously T-in-T have taken the running for this session

DianneA: perhaps some intros might be our best nest step ...

DianneA: where are you from and what area of teaching interests you most?

DianneA: I am from Wollongong, and engage in professional development of teachers

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania. I'm interested in effective communication in an online text chat

LeticiaB: University of Houston Student-Teacher Math 4 - 8 certification

DianneA: Rik?

JeffC: Tapped In Helpdesk, in the ed biz for 15 years... live in Forest Grove Oregon.

DianneA: Any takers for the topic today ...

DianneA: anything in particular about teaching that you want to get some advice on?

DianneA: share with one another about how it is going?

BJB2: how to use learning communities for professional development?

DianneA: any others?

LeticiaB: I interviewed yesterday for a position this fall at a NEW school and many people said this will be the best choice. it will be my first teaching job of course, does anyone agree to go with the new school and why?

JeffC: hmmm... well... we could talk about my NECC presentation... I'm about to send out invitations to groups here to hold break out sessions during the second half of my 6 hour workshop.

DianneA: Leticia, what attracted you to apply for that position?

DianneA: I have no experience to speak of about new schools

DianneA: but I have heard tell of advantages and disadvantages

LeticiaB: I assumed since it is going to be new this fall that the technology would be the best the district could offer

DianneA: did the interview check that out?

DianneA: is having technology what is of greatest interest to you Leticia?

LeticiaB: the 2 schools I student-taught at were behind a little. The students didn't have the skills I expected them to have (from reading the Technology TEKS for Texas)

DianneA nods

DianneA: Bj and Jeff probably have other stories about tech levels and skill levels of students with tech

LeticiaB: technology is important to me because it motivated my students very much

DianneA: so as you apply for positions checking out their tech facilities will be important for you

BJB2: do you find that students with more access to tech do better on the TAKS, Leticia?

DianneA: did you find out what the equipment and focus is to be at this new school?

JeffC: Well... teaching in Texas means teaching to "teks"... which... uh... sux! but anyway... if you are at a new school with good access to technology... you can work your curriculum through tech... and get the kids much more actively involved.

LeticiaB: the 6th grade class I student-taught in NEVER went to the computer lab while I was there about 1 and 1/2 months

LeticiaB: technology facilities will be VERY important to me. I feel students gain so much from it

DianneA: did you find out what the equipment and focus is to be at this new school?

LeticiaB: I am not sure about how well those students do on TAKS but I feel they learn more because they are so engaged and interested

BJB2: apparently the school felt you would do a good job of integrating the tech, Leticia

DianneA notes some new schools do gear up with tech and have that as their focus

BJB2 . o O (or they wouldn't have hired you)

DianneA notes other new schools are new, because of choosing to have others foci

BJB2 . o O (it's not the tech, but how you use it)

DianneA wonders have the new school hired Leticia?

LeticiaB: the new school will have mounted projectors, big screens, smartboards, I think 3 computer labs

JeffC: how many in the classrooms?

JeffC: and what grade will you teach?

LeticiaB: the principal put my name in BUT in this district all the principals have the authority to do is put in a REQUEST for you with HR

DianneA nods

LeticiaB: it is an intermediate (5th and 6th grade) school. I think she is going to put me in the 6th grade classroom

DianneA: so if the principal selected you because you thought tech was so important to you and for teaching math 4-8, then you may well be more than half way there

JeffC: would HR ever turn down a request?

JeffC: and I'd still like to know if you have 4+ student computers in the class... that's very important.

DianneA: and any other considerations of advantages or disadvantages of new school versus other sorts of schools does not matter so much

DianneA listens to Jeff

DianneA: can you elaborate why you think a minimum of four is needed Jeff

LeticiaB: no that's the frustrating part on two computers one for teacher use and one that is usually used for whole class instruction

JeffC: well... computer labs are great... so is the other stuff... but unless you work in stations and get the kids daily access to computers... they won't be utilized as well as they could be.

JeffC: see... that presumes the didactic approach, with the teacher presenting info.

DianneA nods to Jeff

JeffC: rather than the engaged constructivist approach of having students participate... they need to be online.

LeticiaB frowns

LeticiaB: it's the best they have for now I guess

DianneA: do not the smartboards allow for more participation?

JeffC: of course, with three computer labs... you might be able to regularly schedule them at least weekly... so that's a plus.

JeffC: I'd jump on that as soon as I could... try and work out with other teachers a time, etc. so that others don't think you're hogging the labs... which you *will* (should) be!

JeffC: yes... having a smartboard in the class is a big plus.

JeffC: assuming that I read you right... that you have a smartboard in every class?

LeticiaB: however I observed last semester at a k-8 school. I was in a math class that had 12 computers. Then as I walked around the school ALL the 6th through 8th grade classes had computers

JeffC wonders if there are drops in the new school classrooms for student computers... that could be added.

DianneA: and if you are limited to lab use, then designing what to do in the lab compared to what you can do in the class will be part of making the most of the individual access time in the lab

DianneA thinks Leticia has some thinking about how to plan her lessons to do, if she gets this (and any other) job

LeticiaB: no smartboards in every class. The principal explained that she only ordered like 10 and she will order more if the demand is high. Since I asked about it in the interview I believe she will make sure I have one in my classroom

DianneA: just as Jeff has to do some thinking about the break out sessions he plans at NECC

JeffC: that's a plus.

JeffC: well... my thinking is who wants to login here on June 23rd and talk about their specialty.

JeffC: I've already got people from TakingItGlobal lined up.

DianneA: How will that fit in with what you are doing for your presentation?

JeffC: it's hands on workshop... 6 hours: http://snurl.com/necc2007

LeticiaB: how do you all use technology in your classrooms???

JeffC: I did a 3 hour last year with David Weksler in the room, and I presented virtually.

JeffC: same plan for this year.

JeffC: here's something I did 10 years ago Leticia... can still be used today: http://snurl.com/netc1

DianneA: and what sort of thing are you expecting they might do with Tapped In?   Does that need others from Tapped In to be engaged/ provide some support?

JeffC: not really... I'll have them up to speed with Tapped In by the second half of the workshop.

JeffC: I plan on doing what I did last year as well... getting them here a month before the conference.

DianneA nods

JeffC: it's like my own mini-festival!

JeffC: I'm not just using Tapped In either... I plan on using other collaborative software.

DianneA: so can I ask again ... do you have some particular purpose for using Tapped In for the break out session ...

LeticiaB: I'm not sure how could I use Tapped In for 5th and 6th grade students (in the computer lab)... ???

JeffC: yes... because it's the best way for transcripts to be generated.

DianneA: as Leticia asks how do you use tech in classrooms

DianneA: and I ask why and when do you use tech in classrooms

JeffC: well Leticia, you could create a Tapped In K-12 classroom for your students.

JeffC: I created one for my daughter's 2nd grade class last year, and am working with her 3rd grade class this year.

DianneA: no Leticia, you need students to have access to use Tapped In

JeffC: Tapped In may be used for a variety of purposes... we created powerpoints (using links I posted to their classroom here), corresponded with another classroom, etc.

DianneA: though you could design a lesson(s) for the lab using Tapped In and the student campus

JeffC: Leticia, you'll need to make sure your district allows chat here.

DianneA: and you then use Tapped In as your store of resources and tasks and pointers to websites for mathematical activities

JeffC: And if not... there's a way to poke a hole in the firewall to allow chat here and *only* here: http://snurl.com/nochat

LeticiaB: ok!

DianneA: as Jeff says, the transcripts that Tapped In generate can be part of how you assess your student engagement and learning

DianneA: so designing a lab session to work with Tapped In might be the way to go

DianneA: and if you have a teacher computer and a smart board you can spend time in the classroom doing some of the preparatory learning so that time in the lab is spent on the work, not how to use Tapped In

JeffC: and we can help you learn how to use it... setting up your classroom, etc. in advance.

LeticiaB: that would be great!!! I will talk to the principal next week to check on these things!!!

LeticiaB smiles

DianneA points Leticia to Jeff as the expert in using Tapped In to help classroom use

LeticiaB: lol ok

DianneA wonders if Rik has any questions ... comments ...?

JeffC: Even if you can't get the principal or IT department to open chat here, you can still use the web interface... that definitely *shouldn't* be filtered.

DianneA: what do you mean Jeff?

DianneA: can that mean access to rooms and links and resources?

LeticiaB: oooh I almost forgot to ask... the district I will teach in is moving to 3 week assessments? Do you all have anything similar to this?

JeffC: what... like report cards every three weeks?

JeffC hopes that Leticia has a good grading program in her district... that's a very short time to be doing grades.

LeticiaB: no every three weeks the district will give their test to check for mastery and I believe it is to make sure we are teaching the curriculum. The grades are turned in to the district

LeticiaB: I am new to this game BUT this seems like this will be difficult

JeffC: great... basically high stakes testing every three weeks.

JeffC: and how long does the test take?

JeffC: so... do the math as far as how much instructional time is taken away from the teaching over the course of the year.

BJB2 checks the clock on the wall

DianneA wonders what the world is coming to; and wonders if anyone knows what happens when you overcorrect a system ...

LeticiaB: the test I saw this semester had an avg of maybe 15 to 20 questions (mainly problem solving)

DianneA: Thanks BJ

BJB2: The next Teachers in Training discussion will be on June 7.

BJB2: perhaps you'll have an update for us, Leticia?

LeticiaB: wow that was fast!

JeffC: well... I suppose if they're only asking 15 to 20 questions per test, it *shouldn't* take more than 15-20 minutes... but my guess is that's a half hour.

LeticiaB: yes I will!!

LeticiaB: thank you all for your advice!!! How did I get through student-teaching without YOU ALL!!! I kick myself for not doing this sooner!!!

JeffC: lol

DianneA grins

BJB2 smiles. Thanks, Leticia! May I quote you on that?

DianneA: this is a case of what and who you know!

BJB2 . o O (for the TI Newsletter)

LeticiaB: lol< sure!!!

DianneA: Well that looks like all for today, folks, thanks for your inputs and contributions

BJB2: Thanks for leading the discussion, Dianne

BJB2 hugs goodnight

DianneA nods to BJ

DianneA hugs goodnight

LeticiaB: thanks! see you all on June 7th with updates for sure! bye!