Title of Session: Social Studies Forum- Teaching and Collaborating with Technology
Moderator: Michael Hutchison
Guest Speaker: Dan Fouts
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MichaelH: Hi, everyone, welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum...
MichaelH: tonight's topic is a good one dealing with professional development, especially for those teachers who want to introduce technology into their social studies classroom
MichaelH: and our guest this evening will discuss some strategies and a great prof. devel
MichaelH: opportunity
MichaelH: let's start with some introductions...
MichaelH: would everyone like to tell us who they are, and if they're snowed in...?
MichaelH is a technology curriculum facilitator in a small school district in Indiana
DeborahEB: Debbie Brittenham, South Pointe Middle School, Diamond Bar, California. No snow here.
SusanR: K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ottawa, Ontario..snow and extreme cold!!
DanMF: Dan Fouts (no relation to the Hall of Fame quarterback!), Maine West High School Des Plaines, IL social science teacher
MarilynMo: **MarilynMo** is the Director of Technology in a K-8 private school in Farmington Hills, Mi - about 10 inches of snow today
WaltS: I'm Walt Stasiak, a social studies teacher in Rockaway, N.J. Morris County - NW NJ)and it is just starting to snow here
MichaelH: Dan's our guest tonight... and he's going to describe some things about professional development, so I'm going to let him introduce what he'll be demonstrating for us...
MichaelH: Dan, I guess I just "passed" to you
DanMF: I am here to share a course with everybody that my district's teachers have found very useful in incorporating the Internet in the classroom.
DanMF: Also, I would like to talk about, in general, strategies for integrating the Internet in the classroom. It might be best to start with giving a link which describes the course Teaching and Collaborating with Technology.. some of you may have already visited it.. It takes about 2 minutes to view
http://www.academycourses.us/Quincy_MSE5IT231/Brochure/
MichaelH: Dan, why don't we give everyone a minute to look at the brochure, but we'll want them to come back here as soon as they are done... remember, all the links Dan shares will be in the transcript
DanMF: sounds good
MichaelH: so you can view them later... just let us know when you're back and ready to continue the discussion
MichaelH is back
DeborahEB: I'm back
MarilynMo: I'm back

MichaelH: by the way, Dan, the brochure effects are cool, too

DanMF: Thanks...

WaltS: I'm back

MichaelH: Dan, I think that's everyone

MichaelH: except Sue...

SusanR: I am back

MichaelH: now we're all here

DeborahEB: Yes

MichaelH: Dan, so this is a "self-paced" class, right?

DanMF: yes... correspondence learning

MichaelH: basically all online?

MichaelH: no seat hours?

DanMF: well, the tool you learn how to use is online but the course is taught through self-paced handbooks

DanMF: no seat hours

MichaelH: and is there a time limit to finish once I start the course?

DanMF: you can finish at any time by the end of the semester...

MichaelH: If I enroll in the course, Dan, what sorts of things will I be learning?

DanMF: you learn how to integrate the Internet using a practical tool (the Internet Organizer) and skills of how to apply that tool to your everyday job.... so.. managing paperwork, presenting information to parents and students etc...

DanMF: ... all of the stuff we already do as educators...only this time it is in an online environment

MichaelH: like maybe a resource web site for teachers to follow what the class is doing, or for grade check-ups?

DanMF: ....it's really a web site for students to follow what the teacher is doing... the teacher posts the information on the tool, the students visit to access them

MichaelH: and the web site is the "graphic organizer", right?

DanMF: Internet Organizer is the actual name..... the other part to the course is that teachers learn how to visit other teachers' web sites and share information

MichaelH: so, like, if I was enrolled in the course, you and I could exchange information by looking at each other Internet Organizers?

DanMF: correct...

MichaelH: is there a way you could let us look at an organizer... ?

DeborahEB joined the room.

DanMF: sure.... visit www.minduniversity.com click on visitors, type in "mrfouts" in the text box on the right and click "visit site"   Have a look around. You will see the classes I am teaching

MichaelH: why don't we take a minute to do that, and let everyone see it first hand... then come back here... say two or three minutes or so?

MichaelH: I could see where this would be essential for students who are absent...

MichaelH: can students download worksheets or be tested online, Dan?

DanMF: worksheets yes... and yes.. I give online quizzes off this tool

MichaelH: Dan, students who enroll get three hours grad credit upon successful completion of the course, right?

DanMF: yes... and re-certification credit if applicable in the state

MichaelH: do you have many students who are taking the course who are not enrolled at Quincy?

MichaelH: but transfer the hours to other schools?

DanMF: actually, nobody who has taken the course is from Quincy...

MichaelH: so anyone wanting to take the course should check with their school or district first to see how the course applies

DanMF: the course is intended for educators in and out of Illinois... yes... every district has a different course approval process.... you just have to check to see.

MichaelH: Dan, let's say I enroll in the course... what sorts of things would I be doing and what sorts of assignments would there be?

DanMF: You would download an MS word handbook and follow the step by step instructions on how to set up your own Internet Organizer account. Then, you use this account to post your online work and learn how to use the tool in the classroom. The final project is a web activity which you use immediately in the classroom.

DanMF: the assignments ask that you use the tool in the classroom...so it is quite practical

DeborahEB: What sorts of things are these, that you use in the classroom?

DanMF: One thing would be a web site resource list-- you learn how to copy and paste web addresses into your Internet Organizer "file cabinet" and then post these sites to your students.

VirginiaS: Do the students need passwords to get to the Internet Organizer that you've created?

DanMF: another would be something called a "Virtual Field Trip"... sort of like a webquest where you send the kids off to different web sites and ask that they complete a task.

DanMF: No passwords needed... all the kids need is your IO (Internet Organizer) member id... Mine is "mrfouts"

MichaelH: Dan, once you set up an Internet Organizer, it's there in perpetuity, or do you have to renew the site?

DanMF: .... the site is being provided for free up to a storage limit...in perpetuity...which is great.. if you want lots of storage.. you would have to pay some extra

VirginiaS: One advantage I'm thinking that might be nice with an IO is that your teaching materials are "out there" and not on your home machine when you're at school and on your school machine when you're at home. Am I correct in thinking this?

DanMF: yes...it's like a file cabinet in cyberspace... I never use disks anymore

MichaelH: Is it easy to edit the organizer if your schedule changes substantially... say, for example, if I'm teaching US History this year, but find myself teaching all World History next year?

DeborahEB: Can you set up separate sections for each class you teach?

DanMF: ... yes.. all you would do is make a new subject called "world history" and then "hide" the other one in case you taught it later

DeborahEB: Ahh

DanMF: Deborah... yes.. I make a yellow folder to designate a unit I am teaching

MichaelH: Dan, can you include downloadable activities, etc... for example, let's say I have a study guide the students are doing... can I put a copy on my Int. Organizer site so

that a student who loses his or needs a spare can just click and download it to his/her home machine?

DanMF: yes.. Michael.. my kids love the fact that if they lose something, they don't come to me anymore. I always say..."It's on the site"

MichaelH: that sounds great, Dan

MichaelH: Dan, what should our audience tonight do if they want to enroll? What's the procedure?

DanMF: Well, at the end of the online brochure there are 3 ways to enroll... online at www.academycourses.us   by phone or by mail

MichaelH: how much is tuition?

DanMF: $385

MichaelH: Well, it sure sounds like a great opportunity, Dan, and I hope everyone takes a good look at the brochure and considers joining you for the course.

DanMF: If anybody is interested in looking at more IO's sites of teachers, please e-mail me at dfouts@maine207west.k12.il.us Let me know your subject area.

MichaelH: We have a couple small housekeeping chores tonight before we quit...

MarilynMo: Dan, can someone get an Organizer without taking the course?

DanMF: Marilyn... absolutely.

DanMF: Marilyn... the course is a great way to learn the site...but if you want to do some experimenting without the course, great.

MarilynMo: Thanks

MichaelH: we're going to cancel the next SSF session... someone in my home is having a birthday that day...

MichaelH: but we may have a really good session coming up in mid-February

MichaelH: we plan to have C-SPAN in the Classroom join us to discuss resources we can use to teach Campaign 2004...

MichaelH: more on that later...

MichaelH: Dan, thanks for joining us for the session tonight... it was great

DanMF: Michael.. thank you very much. I really enjoyed it.

MichaelH: we appreciate you coming, Dan.

MichaelH: Please feel free to join us again sometime...

DanMF: and thanks to everybody else... I would love to come back as a participant in some of these upcoming sessions...

MichaelH: I think you'll find the C-SPAN session to be a good one.

DanMF: I teach government, so it should be great.

MichaelH: I'll get with you and let you know when that one will be scheduled...

MichaelH waves goodnight to everyone

DanMF: Great... goodbye

SusanR: Thank you, Michael and Dan!