

**Title of Session:** Tapped In Groups

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

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Room: After School Online

**BJ:** cool. Since we now have a crowd, let's get started. We usually start the TI discussions with introductions

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

**JimHi:** Science teacher Kenton County Schools in Northern KY

**BJ:** Susan? Michelle?

**MichelleDS:** I am a 6th grade Math & Science teacher in Georgia. I am also ESOL certified.

**BJ:** Thanks, Michelle and Jim.

**BJ:** Do either of you already own or belong to a group?

**JimHi:** 1 teacher and 1 student

**MichelleDS:** No

**JimHi:** I belong to several others

**BJ:** cool, Jim. Hopefully, you'll be able to help me out tonight then

**JimHi:** I am always in the need of help

**BJ** smiles...that's one of the nice things about Tapped In. We all help each other!

**MichelleDS:** This is my first time in Tapped In. Once of my assignments in my Masters class was to sit in on a class. May I ask how your groups work?

**BJ:** As Jim mentioned, Michelle, there are a couple of different kinds of groups

**BJ:** each member of Tapped In can create two groups and can join an unlimited number of groups

**BJ** nods to Jan

**BJ:** Recently the Student Center was opened, Michelle...

**BJ:** teachers can create a group room in the Student Center and bring in a class of K-12 students

**BJ:** to meet with other students, a guest speaker, etc.

**BJ:** There are also many groups in the main part of Tapped In...

**MichelleDS:** Oh, okay.

**BJ:** some of the groups are private, some moderated, and some open to anyone

**BJ:** moderated means you need to request to join the group and the moderator approves your request

**BJ:** to get an idea of the groups available, click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen, Michelle

**BJ:** then click on GROUPS

**BJ:** there are currently 441 groups!

**BJ:** Quite a few of the events that are on the calendar also have a group that allows the participants to contribute to and continue the discussion on the asynch threaded discussion board

**BJ:** questions, Michelle?

**MichelleDS:** Thanks. I checked it out. Seems like some interesting and helpful groups.

**BJ:** Jim, do you have anything to add? Problems you've experienced?

**JimHi:** Few problems

**KimFo** joined the room.

**JimHi:** actually it is easy

**BJ:** Michelle, there is a monthly Math and Science discussion...they've mentioned starting a group room for each, but I'm not sure where it is at this point

**JimHi:** Sometimes you may have to wait for awhile for approval for moderated groups

**BJ:** Hi, Kim. Welcome!

**KimFo:** Thanks BJ. Hi.

**KimFo:** Sorry I'm late. I wanted to find out more about groups. how to start one, how they work...

**MichelleDS:** Where would I go to be in on the discussions?

**BJ:** Michelle, Math and Science meet on the first Tuesday of the month, I believe

**MichelleDS:** Okay, thanks!

**BJ:** check the December Calendar when it comes out

**BJ:** Kim, have you joined any groups?

**KimFo:** No. I just found out about them when I inquired last week.

**KimFo:** I don't know anything about them.

**BJ:** ahhh...cool.

**BJ:** click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen

**BJ:** then click on GROUPS, Kim

**BJ:** that will show you all the groups currently created.

**SusanR** joined the room.

**BJ** . o O ( although the private groups don't appear on the list )

**BJ** waves hi to Sue

**SusanR** waves to all

**KimFo:** hmmm....so should I try to create one right now? and then ask questions? or is there a format here...

**BJ:** you can try that, Kim. It's pretty easy

**BJ:** each member is allowed to create two groups

**KimFo:** I am looking at one of the groups, the AAMU Writing Project. All I see is a description of it and a list of members. So what is the purpose, how does it work?

**BJ:** I suggest that you start out with a group that is public or moderated...

**BJ:** because it's easier for people to join it

**BJ:** Michelle, why don't you try joining a group

**BJ:** to find a group you might be interested in, Michelle...

**BJ:** click on the SEARCH tab at the top of your screen and then click on GROUPS

**BJ:** Sue, you've created groups and have joined a number of groups...any suggestions, recommendations?

**KimFo:** If I create one can I easily delete it ?

**SusanR:** the K to 3 Resource Group or Bernie Dodge's Group

**BJ:** ahh...Sue is the leader of the K-3+ Resources group that meets here twice a month...

**SusanR:** I created the K to 3 Resource Group

**BJ:** and Sue created a group to go with the calendar event group

**BJ:** Kim, you can't delete a group

**BJ:** but you can edit it

**SusanR:** If you click once on my name you can ID me and see the groups I have joined.

**BJ:** do you find it's better to have the group public, Sue?

**BJ . o O** ( unless you want to control who joins...then you should have the group moderated )

**JimHi:** I made mine public

**SusanR:** Yes, I would like to attract new members (preservice teachers for instance) and welcome the sharing of resources and ideas

**JimHi:** Just like the input from a variety of people

**SusanR:** same here, Jim

**BJ:** I agree, Sue and Jim

**KimFo** left the room.

**BJ** smiles...Kim created a virtual field trips group!

**KimFo** joined the room.

**SusanR . o O** ( Vft\_Grp )

**BJ:** Kim led the monthly virtual field trips discussion groups here for quite a while...

**KimFo:** So....I just created a group called Virtual Field Tripping. how do you think I came up with that one? :))))

**BJ:** but time and other obligations have caused her to no longer be able to schedule those sessions...

**BJ:** but, now she can let people find out more about her VFT's by joining the group

**BJ:** If enough group members express interest, they can meet in real time like we're doing, but in the group room

**BJ . o O** ( did I get that right, Kim? )

**KimFo:** As much as I understand about groups, it sounds very good. Does a group basically give you a "room" and the chat window from which to meet?

**BJ** nods to Kim...and a threaded discussion board

**BJ:** and you can upload urls, documents, files to the group room too

**KimFo:** Can I keep this chat window open at the same time as I go look at my group?

**BJ:** no, if you go to your group room, you'll leave this chat window/room

**JimHi:** I use mine as a resource room as well

**BJ** nods to Jim...excellent idea.

**KimFo:** Is it akin to the groups on yahoo without the advertising?

**BJ:** yes, it's a bit like that but with all the features of Tapped In

**KimFo:** ok...I'll be right back.

**SusanR:** the rooms have the same capabilities..each room can have a different focus

**KimFo** left the room.

**BJ:** right, Sue.

**BJ:** Michelle, did you find any groups that sound interesting to you?

**BJ:** one thing that should be pointed out...

**BJ:** only Tapped In members can join a group...

**MichelleDS:** I saw a few, but I don't think I want to join anything tonight. I'm just observing.

**BJ:** and only group members can enter a group room. No guests are able to enter group rooms

**BJ** nods to Michelle.

**BJ:** you can do a lot with group management...the owner of the group can edit quite a few features

**MichelleDS:** You all have been very informative. I have to leave now, but I will certainly come back and check out some groups.

**BJ:** or, you can give the group power to do all the editing...which makes the group much more collaborative

**BJ:** Great, Michelle. Don't forget to look for the math and science discussion groups

**JimHi:** I have done that with my IEQ group

**MichelleDS:** Absolutely. Thanks for the info.

**BJ:** there is also a middle level science group that will meet later this month

**JimHi:** I want them to share resources...add...edit

**MichelleDS** left the room (signed off).

**BJ:** cool, Jim. How is it working?

**JimHi:** OK so far..getting more in our lead teacher group to get online

**JimHi:** Lead teachers in middle school science

**BJ:** great! They would enjoy seeing the discussions that Jan does for mid level science..she's excellent!

**JimHi:** There are many good science groups

**BJ** agrees with Jim

**JeffC** joined the room.

**JimHi:** hi Jeff

**BJ:** Sue's K-3 group also provides science information

BJ waves hi to Jeff

**SusanR** does a search for Science groups

**KimFo** joined the room.

**KimFo:** So, if you have a group, and you want to have a discussion with a number of the members, you just have them go to TI, click on Tapped In, click on Groups, then click on your group?

**JeffC:** Hi all... I figured I'd drop in... I have a number of science search engines in my bookmarks at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> in the Search folder

**BJ:** Kim, have them go to the search tab and then groups and enter your group name

**BJ:** Jeff, you mentioned something during the science and math discussions about starting group rooms as resource rooms

**BJ:** did anyone take you up on that?

**SusanR:** There are some interesting Science Groups...Science Geeks..Science Teaching

**SusanR** would like to join Kim's group...does a search

**BJ:** I'm not sure all those groups are public..some are only open to specific tenant members

**JimHi:** I welcome anyone to our group (IEQ)

**KimFo:** Susan, my group is public :) glad to have you!

**BJ:** good to know, Jim. Thanks

**JimHi:** It deals with KY Core Content but our core content standards are the same as the national

**SusanR:** Thanks, Kim

**SusanR:** entered "Field" into the search bar and it came up

**JeffC:** Right... if someone would like, they could set up a resource room for Science, with grade level specific support, discussions, file sharing, links.

**JimHi:** We are allowed two groups...right?

**BJ:** right

**JimHi:** Does my student group count as one of them?

**BJ:** I think it does, Jim

**JimHi:** Well..I have my two then

**KimFo:** Jeff, there are about 20 science based virtual field trips for K-12 on my site. You might want to add that to your resource room?

**JeffC:** Absolutely Kim... what's the URL?

**BJ:** [www.field-trips.org](http://www.field-trips.org)

**KimFo:** Kim grins as she says.....go to my group:))) Actually BJ....

**KimFo:** I'm using tramline.com these days.

**BJ** nods..sorry, Kim

**SusanR:** and there are some K to 3 Vts, Kim

**KimFo:** it's easier than people having to remember the dash in field-trips...but both work and not a problem at all!

**KimFo:** Where Susan?

**KimFo:** Jeff, if you go to <http://www.tramline.com/trips.htm> and scroll down a little, you'll see all the science trips.

**SusanR:** on your site, Kim..can I add them to the K to 3 Resource Group?

**KimFo:** Oh! duh! Of course, please do.

**JimHi:** gotta go guys....good discussion thanks!

**KimFo** waves bye

**JimHi** waves bye

**JimHi** left the room (signed off).

**BJ:** any last comments? Questions?

**KimFo:** Jeff, do you organize regular meetings with your group?

**SusanR:** Thank you Kim and BJ

**KimFo:** Thank you Susan!

**JeffC:** There are Science and Math forums here that I have started leading.

**JeffC:** I'm working on what to do next... so any and all input from you would be appreciated.

**KimFo:** Ah...but do you use your group for that or one of the TI public meeting rooms?

**JeffC:** I don't have students

**BJ:** Kim, you can do both

**KimFo:** but you are offering your forums to teachers?

**BJ:** yes, Jeff's math and science discussions are on the calendar

**KimFo:** But the advantage of using one of the public TI groups is that BJ broadcasts on the lists, yes?

**BJ:** also, you can have the threaded discussions to communicate with the group between monthly meetings

**BJ:** and store the resources in the group room

**KimFo:** do the discussion posts automatically get sent to any of the group members?

**KimFo:** I mean emailed to them?

**BJ:** yes, all posts to the threaded discussion go to the members of the group

**BJ:** most are emailed, but some people prefer not to subscribe

**KimFo:** Thanks so much BJ. Thanks Jeff for your insights as well.

**BJ** . o O ( you know how overwhelming emails can be )

**BJ:** Thanks for joining us, Kim.

**KimFo:** boy, no joke!

**KimFo:** The pleasure is all mine :)))

**BJ:** you can read the threaded discussions in the group room if you don't want to read them via email

**KimFo:** good to know.

**KimFo** waves good night and see you later.

**BJ** waves goodnight