

Title of Session: ArtsSites - Very Special Arts
Moderator: BJ Berquist
Guest Speakers: Sandy Middleton and Sherry Ward
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Room: After School Online Room

BJ: Hi, Bruce. Welcome!

BJ: are you here for Very Special Arts?

BruceNe: yes please

BruceNe: is this the place?

BruceNe: for Very Special Arts?

BJ: yes, Bruce. One of the presenters is logged in and on her way

BruceNe: thanks

BruceNe: no hurry

SandyMi joined the room.

BJ: Yay! Hi, Sandy.

SandyMi: Hello Everyone! Sorry for the delay

BruceNe: Hi Sandy

BruceNe: I am new and visiting

SandyMi: Hello Bruce . I am here with Sherry Ward my colleague

BruceNe: hi Sherry

BJ: looks like we have a small, but distinguished group, Sandy and Sherry!

BJ: Let's start with introductions, please

SandyMi: hello. Sherry Ward and Sandy Middleton are pleased to join you.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and work with many special students

SandyMi: Sandy is Director of Education Services at VSA arts and a former teacher

BruceNe: I teach at a university in Kansas. I am interested, but do not teach art per se

SandyMi: Sherry Ward is Coordinator of Education Services and a former teacher

SandyMi: Neither Sandy nor Sherry are art teachers. That's perfectly fine.

SandyMi: What do you teach?

BruceNe: ok

BruceNe: computers and management info systems

SandyMi: The work that VSA arts does is primarily focused on classroom teachers who wish to integrate the arts into their classrooms regardless of subject matter.

BruceNe: I see

BruceNe: visual arts, dance?

SandyMi: The format we want to use this evening is to tell you a little bit about VSA arts and our upcoming institute and in particular we want to engage you in a discussion of the role the arts can play in learning experiences.

BruceNe: ok

SandyMi: The VSA arts mission is creating a society where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts.

BruceNe: I see

SandyMi: To learn more about us, visit the url www.vsarts.org/

BruceNe: I will now

SandyMi: We are a nonprofit that was founded 30 years ago by Jean Kennedy-Smith.

SandyMi: If you click on the apple on the home page, it will bring you to the page about the VSA arts Institute.

BruceNe: ok will do that

SandyMi: The VSA arts Institute is the primary professional development offering that VSA arts has for teachers.

BruceNe: interesting

SandyMi: The VSA arts Institute features an intensive examination of the most recent practices in arts-based teaching and learning.

BruceNe: I see

SandyMi: Our Content focuses on effective means of intersecting the arts and education to promote learning for people with and without disabilities.

BruceNe: for all students or primarily for persons with disabilities?

BruceNe: I see

SandyMi: When we started our organization our mission was to promote programming for people with disabilities. Over the years we have come to realize that arts-based inclusive learning practices work for students with and without disabilities.

SandyMi: Are you familiar with the research compendium Critical Links

BruceNe: no

BJ: I'm not either.

SandyMi: No matter. The point is that we know, and perhaps you know, that the arts are indeed an effective tool to promote learning for everyone.

BruceNe: can you give an example of using art to teach something other than art?

SandyMi: Critical Links is a volume that speaks about multiple research that support this.

SandyMi: Absolutely.

SandyMi: Math: Music is often used as a means to support math concepts and learning.

BruceNe: interesting

BruceNe: I might be able to do something with music because computers are becoming a kind of musical instrument

BruceNe: maybe the students could create midi files and I could teach them about streaming media

SandyMi: Beats, rhythm, patterns...Beats in drumming involves the repetitive and sequential repetition of rhythmic patterns consisting of numerical groupings.

BruceNe: yes

BJ: . o O (and fractions)

SandyMi: Yes. Explain more about streaming media.

BruceNe: multimedia files are large and people don't want to wait for the whole thing to download before beginning to hear it

BruceNe: so it is kind of like drinking water from a fountain

BruceNe: you receive it fresh as it comes across the network

BruceNe: is there a web site where students can create their own music from basic patterns?

SandyMi: We are not familiar with this, but suggest that you give it a try. I would also suggest that you visit MENC website which is devoted to music and has lessons.

BruceNe: ok

BruceNe: will I receive a transcript of this conversation?

SandyMi: I am not certain about a website specific for students but MENC is the place to begin.

BJ: Bruce, you might browse through my backflip folders for resources to use with music...

BruceNe: ok will do

BJ: www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist

BruceNe: taking notes -- one moment please

BJ: you'll get a transcript of this discussion after you log out, Bruce

BJ: o O (you don't have to take notes)

BruceNe: thank you

BruceNe: that helps

SandyMi: Do you prepare students to work in schools?

BruceNe: I am in a college of business

BruceNe: they get jobs wherever they can these days

BruceNe: but I am interested in almost everything

BruceNe: especially things that can be done online

SandyMi: It is our belief, which is supported by research, that the arts can be used to provide greater access for understanding no matter what field you are in.

BJ: agrees!

BruceNe: I believe that

BruceNe: they talk about Web services orchestration

BruceNe: in other words, computer programs have pattern of execution across multiple sites

BruceNe: like in music or dance

BJ: interesting, Bruce.

SandyMi: Yes. Have you ever thought of having your students create art of the patterns that are executed across the multiple sites?

BruceNe: small business in networks of strategic alliances in a sense "dance" with one another

SandyMi: You are getting into the real metaphors. Yes.

BruceNe: it would be nice to be able to create software that would allow that visualization

BJ: Sandy, did you tell Bruce about the Institute?

SandyMi: We wish we knew more about software for you, but there has to be something out there.

BruceNe: I have the URL of the page now I think

SandyMi: Do you see the picture of the apple in the lower middle of the screen

BruceNe: yes, but it is probably being used by technicians who do not see it as art

BruceNe: yes

SandyMi: Click the apple to go to the VSA arts Institute information

BruceNe: yes, I am there

SandyMi: The VSA arts Institute will take place in New York in October (10-13). It will bring together 150 artists, teachers, administrators.

BruceNe: interesting, but I cannot budget the trip and they make me present papers and I don't have any paper in this area

BruceNe: I get into chaos theory a little in the MIS course and that is frequently represented as art and as computer simulation

BruceNe: Management Information System

BruceNe: organizations as "flows" rather than as org charts of authority

SandyMi: Chaos theory. Neat. Isn't Steve Hawking a chaos guy?

BruceNe: I am not sure about Steve Hawking

BruceNe: but yes, is interesting

BruceNe: and students know almost nothing about it in the business college

BruceNe: does not match the "take charge" perspective of leadership

BruceNe: can only be influenced, not "managed"

BruceNe: isn't there something about the pot wanting to define itself on the wheel?

DavidWe joined the room.

SandyMi: Let us ask you. What alternative access to understanding the principles of business chaos theory do you offer your students other than reading and writing?

BruceNe: please stay with us David

SandyMi: hello David

DavidWe smiles and takes a seat

BruceNe: small class tonight

BruceNe: let me be quiet for a bit

SandyMi: David tell us a little about yourself

DavidWe: Hi

SandyMi: Are you a teacher?

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. Bj and I have known each other for 7 years

DavidWe: No, Sandy, not exactly...

BJ: we've been talking about www.vsarts.org David

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: I've been using Tapped In since 1996

SandyMi: Do you have an interest in art and its ability to provide greater access to learning?

DavidWe: I help teachers learn how to use technology for learning and teaching

BJ: they are having an institute in NYC in October

DavidWe has many interests, among them art

DavidWe smiles at Sandy

BruceNe: some time David I would like to ask you how one gets a job doing that, but probably not now

DavidWe listens as he is just north of New York City at the moment

DavidWe listens to Bruce

SandyMi: The use of technology in learning is neither of our expertise, but great strides are taking place in this area.

SandyMi: You might want to check out the VSA arts online gallery where you will be introduced to many artists who use computers to produce computer generated art.

DavidWe: I've been trying to figure out how to keep doing what I was doing (working with teachers and technology) the past 5 years

DavidWe: I'm at a good friend's house talking about some of these issues - although we are talking more about math, but you know...

DavidWe waits appropriately to heighten the tension

DavidWe: Art and Math kinda go together, right BJ?

BJ nods to David. We were just talking about that.

BJ: David has helped me a lot during my Math and arts discussions here in Tapped In

BJ . o O (and in most other topics!)

BruceNe Bruce tries to learn to use the comment key

DavidWe . o O (and our favorite example is...)

BruceNe: but fails to do so correctly

BJ: Sandy and Shelly, our hour is about up...

BruceNe: maybe not

DavidWe: type the following, Bruce :waves

DavidWe . o O (start with a colon :)

BruceNe waves

DavidWe cheers

BruceNe: lol

DavidWe: Well done

BruceNe: thank you

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: You're welcome

BJ: I'm disappointed that there wasn't a larger group here for such an important discussion...

DavidWe: Nice to meet both you and Sandy, by the way

BruceNe: can we try this again another time?

DavidWe . o O (Labor Day holidays would be my guess)

BruceNe: same topic?

BJ: but I know a lot of teachers are in or getting ready for their first week in school

DavidWe apologizes for showing up late

DavidWe nods to BJ

SandyMi: We would like to try again at a later date.

BJ: I'd love to invite Sandy and Shelly back again!

DavidWe: I think that would be great

BruceNe: I learned some things this time and it was useful

BJ: let me know when would be a good time for you, Sandy. Maybe after the institute?

SandyMi: Glad you learned something this evening. Thanks for joining us.

BJ . o O (November?)

SandyMi: Sounds great.

DavidWe wonders if he can ask about Bruce and Sandy, who they are and where they are

BJ: you are all welcome to join the Arts and Literacy discussions in Tapped In, too...

BJ: the topic is always integrating the arts into some part of the curriculum

BruceNe: I teach in a business college in Kansas

SandyMi: We would love to join the other discussion

BJ: the next arts and literacy discussion is Sept 13

BJ heads for bed. Thanks again, Sandy and Shelly. I'll be in touch about the November meeting.

