Title of Session: Teaching Teachers
Moderator: Dianne Allen
Title of File: 20080403teachteach
Date: April 3, 2008

Room: Teaching Teachers Group

DianneA: If you have brought a problem about mentoring, or mentoring and tech, you have come to the right place

DianneA: there is an open floor for participants to raise their issues ...

RushtonH: I actually can't stay, but will let myself stay logged in so I can get the transcript. That's got to be questionable in some cyber-etiquette-sense, so I'll apologize ahead of time.

DianneA: I have no set agenda

DianneA: Eileen is interested in meeting HS Maths souls ... but more of that in a minute when we do our official introductions

DianneA: Hello Veronica

LisaRC joined the room.

DianneA: Hello Lisa

VeronicaCo: Hello

EileenBo: So are most of you the techies (sp?) at your schools?

EileenBo: You mentioned mentoring.

LisaRC: I'm a teacher in middle school.

DianneA: Hello Teralyn

TeralynG: Hello!

VeronicaCo: I am student teaching

DianneA: Ok, one and all ...

AshleighA: I am currently student teaching in 4th grade

DianneA: let's do this bit a little more systematically ...

EileenBo: Well, our school is so small we have to assume more than one role

DianneA: Welcome to today's Teaching teachers session

DianneA: we have an open floor for your discussion issues, ..

DianneA: but to make a formal start it might be an idea if everyone introduced themselves with where you teach and what area of teaching is your specialty

LisaRC: I teach at Glenview Middle School in East Moline, IL. I currently teach special ed. language arts and math for 6th grade.

DianneA: I am based at Wollongong Australia, and my interest is Professional Development

AshleighA: I teach in Katy, TX and I am EC-4 certified

ElisabethC: I am in the process of getting my teaching license in VA, I hope to teach second grade

DianneA: Hi Stephanie we are just doing intros

DianneA: thanks Lisa, Ashleigh and Elisabeth

VeronicaCo: I am currently enrolled at the UH and student teaching in Kinder. My certification will be in EC-4

TeralynG: I teach in Aurora, Illinois - fifth grade, ESL specialty

DianneA: it might be an idea to open the chat in the Detached mode, does everyone know how to do that?

StephaniAS: I am currently student teaching first grade at Exley Elementary in Katy, TX.

VeronicaCo: Yes

EileenBo: My name is Eileen and I am the only High School Math teacher at my school.

LisaRC: Yes

VeronicaCo: WOW, Eileen!

ElisabethC: yes

StephaniAS: yes

AshleighA: yes

TeralynG: yes

DianneA: One moment all, ..

DianneA: Eileen is fresh and new today and may not know ..

DianneA: so let me tell you Eileen ...

DianneA: see the Actions menu in the top right hand corner of your chat space

DianneA: click on that and scroll down and click on Detach

DianneA: that will give you a bigger space for chat text

DianneA: if you want to change the font size choose the font at the top of the new chat space and size to suit

DianneA: and let me know when you are settled again ..

DianneA: while Eileen does that ...

DianneA: I have indicated that we are open to problems and questions you might have brought to this session

DianneA: which tends to focus on teaching teachers ... and by thinking about mentoring and mentoring in the tech environment

DianneA: but we are not limited to that

DianneA: so if you have such a question or problem and would like to share it please do so now

EileenBo: Thank you that really helped and I am back now!

DianneA: thanks Eileen

DianneA: if you have any teaching question or problem and would like to share it please do so now

AshleighA: are we to ask any questions related to mentors as far as new teachers?

TeralynG: I know that in my situation, there are so many levels of technology knowledge that frustrations can be brought into the group setting. I'm part of a group that is trying to show other teachers how to integrate technology, and we have not been met with smiling faces.

DianneA: I have opened us to any question of a teaching problem, Ashleigh if you have such a one

DianneA: Thanks Teralyn

DianneA: does Teralyn's problem match with anyone else?

LisaRC: We have 2 technology groups in our building. I am in the first group and have received loads of equipment and we still haven't been trained how to use all of it.

DianneA: Teralyn, can you tell us a bit more .. tell a story that illustrates your concern

AshleighA: As a student teacher, I would just love to know how to use and incorporate new technology devices in my future classroom, however, I know that some teachers don't want to deal with learning due to frustration levels that could arise out of such a situation

DianneA: Lisa can you also think about what you would like ot happen next in your situation, specifically

DianneA: And notice what has happened to Veronica with her frustration with technology

TeralynG: I have been part of a grant that has allowed eight of us in an elementary building to have a huge amount of equipment. We are trying to share what we have learned to try and get the building to spend money on equipment for others. But some people are hesitant to use the technology and some of the primary grades don't see how much it can help them. My esl students have gained a TREMENDOUS amount of knowledge because of it. Teachers seem unwilling to learn.

LisaRC: Specifically, I would like to receive training on our new equipment, or at least have time to just sit down and figure it out. It's hard to do that when you're trying to keep a group of students actively engaged.

DianneA: Thanks Teralyn

AshleighA: Yes, I actually am a friend of Veronicas

DianneA: Thanks Lisa

AshleighA: she's having some computer issues

DianneA reads the two posts to check for common interests

DianneA: thanks Ashleigh

TeralynG: Ashleigh - That is one of our major complaints too...not enough time.

DianneA: and Veronica is showing unusual persistence

TeralynG: I think that one of the things that I try to stress with other teachers is how much easier technology can may their lessons.

EileenBo: Teralyn, are you part of the e2t2 grant in Illinois

LisaRC: I agree with Teralyn. We have a grant too that has allowed two groups of teachers to get a ton of equipment. However, the second group just received their smart boards and won't have the student computers until next fall. I know they are getting impatient when the see all of our cool things.

TeralynG: Yes! E2T2!

LisaRC: That's our grant too.

TeralynG: Yea!

EileenBo: Hi

EileenBo: ME too

TeralynG: The jealousy thing happens a lot. Hopefully the school will see how wonderful the technology is and buy more!

DianneA: OK, amongst our more experienced participants here ... are there suggestions about where you would start with training when there is equipment but limited time, and limited skills ?

JeffC suggests using Tapped In and http://www.yugma.com and http://www.wiziq.com in conjunction with your Smartboards... that way you could team teach and/or collaborate and/or provide training both in class and out.

DianneA: and notice that teaching teachers is somewhat similar to teaching children

TeralynG: True!

AshleighA: that's not the first time I've heard that

EileenBo: or worse!

DianneA: Thank Jeff can you elaborate for us some more

BJB2: wb, Veronica!

DianneA: Hurray for Veronica

JeffC: one of the problems with "training" is that it's usually f2f and a one time shot... using tapped in, or conferencing (and desktop sharing) programs like yugma, or audio/video with powerpoint sharing like wiziq... you could have non-techie teachers being mentored real time by Smartboard teachers.

DianneA: Veronica we are discussing suggestions for how to start with training in usiing technology when there is lots of equipment and few teachers and teachers with skills

JeffC: and mentoring goes hand in hand with sustained... and in this case... real time support.

TeralynG: In my experience, providing lots of time is helpful. Also, just like with the students - to differentiate. Have something ready for the quick ones to move on to, but allow the people who don't get it enough time to build confidence.

AshleighA: what do you mean smartboard teachers?

JeffC: real time support means team teaching using the tech... having classes share... well... you just said that a lot of teachers have smartboards...

TeralynG: SMARTboards are amazing!

JeffC: with yugma you could have a teacher in another room take control of the Smartboard teacher's Smartboard... that's one way.

LisaRC: Those websites sound like good options to explore.

AshleighA: I've never actually used a smartboard - I wish I knew how

TeralynG: Jeff I have never heard of that!

JeffC: in other words... if you have teachers with smartboards that didn't know how... those with them that did know how could team teach... using two smartboards.

DianneA: Anyone with some tips on how to learn to use a smart board, or a site that can help Ashleigh offline after this session?

JeffC: that in itself would take some training and preparation, but it's doable.

LisaRC: Can you do this between schools or do you have to be on the same network?

JeffC: sure... I'll be right over after the session Ashleigh! ;-)

JeffC: can you send me a plane ticket?

AshleighA: haha

JeffC: it can be between two teachers around the world lisa.

EileenBo: We have that type of visionware but all our tech specialist does is play practically jokes one the students and teachers.

JeffC: and indeed... if we eventually drag education from the 19th into the 21st century, it will be.

JeffC: is your tech specialist an educator, Eileen?

LisaRC: http://technology.usd259.org/resources/whiteboards/smartlessons.htm

JeffC: or the guy who ran the film projector in high school?

LisaRC: http://technology.usd259.org/resources/whiteboards/smartlessons.htm   This is a great website for people who have smart boards already. There are tons of interactive lessons on all subjects.

AshleighA: Awesome! Thanks

DianneA: thanks Lisa

JeffC: here's a redirect for Lisa's site: http://snurl.com/smartboard1 [technology_usd259_org]

VeronicaCo: I think smartboards are great to use in the classroom

EileenBo: She is the media specialist/ computer teacher.

DianneA: I guess for me one of the clues to learning is being prepared to share the learning process ..

DianneA: being prepared to give it a go, and being open to learning from others, especially peers

DianneA: and children

VeronicaCo: I agree

TeralynG: The hard part is that some people feel like they know it all and there are others in my group that don't know a whole lot. They say that they are intimidated.

DianneA: so making the use of the technology the experiment of the lesson might be the way to go, especially when there is lots of equipment and not much expertise

DianneA nods to Teralyn

DianneA: how then do you help the intimidated?

TeralynG: I have people that are afraid to speak up because they think their ideas will not count for much. I try to help by bringing up ideas that I have seen them use in their classrooms...

LisaRC: I tell the new teachers to just start by using a little bit at a time. As they learn one thing, they can keep adding to the basics.

DianneA nods to Teralyn

TeralynG: sometimes it is a matter of building experience and then self-confidence.

AshleighA: I agree with Teralyn

AshleighA: I know that as a new teacher I'm very intimidated - but I'll never learn unless I try

EileenBo: E2T2 has bought and trained half of us on Smartboards. The school has bought everyone else one. So that leaves us to help them. It hasn't happened yet since they haven't been installed yet. You are really opening my eyes.

AshleighA: not to mention that students love when technology is incorporated

TeralynG: That is an awesome attitude! And ask lots of questions. Teachers love feeling like what they do or say is important!

DianneA: so is one of the steps to find and get the intimidated together and let them learn what they need to know at their pace, and with one another?

AshleighA: that's how I would like to learn

TeralynG: Yes, that, and I have a couple teachers who learn by doing, and a couple others who want to be told what to do step by step. That can be difficult too.

AshleighA: yes, I could see how that could be difficult

VeronicaCo: I would feel more comfortable learning with others that are on the same boat as I am.

AshleighA: maybe you could pair those who like the hands on experience together and then those who need the step by step instruction that way they are surrounded by people who learn like them

DianneA: can you elaborate for me Teralyn about the difficulties of being told what to do step by step?

VeronicaCo: It's kind of like students. I try to pair my students up by their knowledge level.

DianneA nods to Veronica

AshleighA: wouldn't it be a little time consuming? have to give step by step instructions? and then of course it's frustrating for those who just want to pick it up and start using it

TeralynG: Well..I learn by doing. So I'm sure that for some pieces of technology, there are steps that I have missing or out of order. It requires a fair amount of preparation to differentiate.

VeronicaCo: Students that will be able to get the task done, with a student that might struggle.

DianneA nods to Teralyn

AshleighA: I completely agree Veronica!

DianneA remembers the very first computer (an apple 2c) and the fabulous manual and doing it step by step and going great guns ... then getting others to do it, and then discovering that while I could do it, I didn't know how it worked, and it wasn't until someone else had a problem and I had to trouble shoot that I then started to think about how do these things work, and what do I need to know and how should I learn it so that I did know

DianneA: afk for 10 minutes or so

EileenBo: For me the untapped resource is the students themselves. I don't think I have ever had a problem they couldn't help, even with the smartboard. They have told me about all sorts of shortcuts that they have seen other teachers use. Maybe it would be easier from them .

VeronicaCo: I agree

AshleighA: students seem to pick things up more quickly then adults - it's amazing what they know!

TeralynG: I agree. The kids are great risk takers. They aren't as tentative as teachers can be.

VeronicaCo: Plus, they are growing u with technology. We did not start interacting with technology until much later.

TeralynG: True

LisaRC: Sometimes I like to try a new activity with a group that I know will be involved, whether or not it goes right. We then tweak it so it works well for some of my more challenging classes.

VeronicaCo: (up) sorry-spelling

TeralynG: Yes, I have a job on my occupation board for project managers. Those are the kids - along with my technology coordinators - that I have do some of the tricky stuff.

VeronicaCo: How about if we involve our students in making the product. That way everyone will learn as the task goes.

AshleighA: That's a great idea Teralyn

VeronicaCo: If something goes wrong, the students will be able to put their input as well as the teacher.

AshleighA: yes, collaborative work seems to work well with some students

VeronicaCo: I like that idea, but how about the lower students?

VeronicaCo: Do they feel left out/or lower since they are not able to do "tricky" stuff?

AshleighA: lower students definitely benefit in that situation

LisaRC: You would be amazed at what lower ability students can do with technology. I teach special ed. and a lot of those kids are more proficient with our stuff than some of the teachers!

TeralynG: Some of the lower students provide the information - the meat and potatoes, while those students with more tech savvy help put the project together.

VeronicaCo: I understand!

AshleighA: I've observed that in my 4th grade class!

AshleighA: It blows me away

TeralynG: I agree with Lisa. You'll find that some of your students who may be lower work much better with technology. You'll find that their output is better.

LisaRC: I actually had a student last year who taught me how to use Inspiration after the music teacher had used it with his class.

TeralynG: Especially when they have a choice in their output. Inspiration is great!

VeronicaCo: That is awesome. One student showed me how to look up their grades from a math program that they use.

VeronicaCo: I was amazed.

LisaRC: He was actually a pretty good teacher, and he was so proud of the fact that he showed a real "teacher" something new.

EileenBo: It has also been my experience that the "low level" students are fine when it come to computers and technology. It seems to be the great equalizer.

AshleighA: yes, many of my special ed kids enjoy spending time on the computer

TeralynG: Kids LOVE teaching something to the teacher.

VeronicaCo: I think that allowing the students to teach the teacher something new, just reinforces that teachers continue to learn everyday.

VeronicaCo: I have an autistic student in my class, and his reward at the end of the day is to play on the computer.

LisaRC: I'm with you. We just received our senteo clickers and I haven't installed the batteries yet. I need to get on the ball because my students social studies teacher just used them with the class and it's all they can talk about.

AshleighA: students think it's great when they know more about something than their teacher

VeronicaCo: We have had to stop him from ordering Disney DVD's...

TeralynG: Senteo's are great! Instant feedback and no grading papers for the teacher!

EileenBo: Those clickers are GREAT!!

VeronicaCo: Lisa, what are senteo clickers?

AshleighA: yes, please explain

VeronicaCo: No grading....I like those words

EileenBo: They are a remote on which students can submit answers to questions

EileenBo: with instant statistics

AshleighA: yes I think I used that in one of my college courses one year

AshleighA: to take quizzes

LisaRC: They allow you to do group work on the smart board. For example if you want to put a math problem on the board and give multiple choice answers, each student has a clicker and answers the question. That way you know everyone participated and who knows how to do it.

AshleighA: yes, my professor also used it to prevent cheating!

LisaRC: I think you can do short answers too, I just haven't gotten that far yet.

EileenBo: It's great to let you know instantly how many "got it'

VeronicaCo: That is very handy!

TeralynG: Yes, I have even used them to collect info from my students about what subject they have a hard time with, or other opinion questions. It is very handy.

EileenBo: I use it to review for exams and the grades have gone up at least one letter grade.

AshleighA: that's fantastic!

LisaRC: I know some teachers were using it for ISAT practice right before they took the test. I would like to do that early on, so by ISAT time my kids aren't so stressed and know the format of the questions.

AshleighA: that's a great idea Lisa

DianneA pops her head back in and wonders if someone could summarize what we have been getting out of today's session and if there are issues that the group might like to explore in a month's time

EileenBo: I am using them to review by PSAE's. Even HS kids are more interested

EileenBo: Students are a good resource.

DianneA: If you have an issue for our next session please post it to the whiteboard here

DianneA: thanks Eileen

LisaRC: Do you know how to print a transcript of this session? I have to sumbit it to my instructor for my Capstone class.

AshleighA: I think it's just e-mailed

DianneA: Lisa you will get a transcript in your email box when you log off

EileenBo: Before you leave how do I get a transcript?

EileenBo: Me too

TeralynG: You go to the actions menu in the upper right corner and paste it to the clipboard

LisaRC: Thanks, Dianne!

DianneA: another route is to copy to the pasteboard just before you log off and then copy and paste that to a word doc

TeralynG: Then you can copy and paste it into a word document if you want

BJB2: transcripts are automatically emailed to members 10-20 minutes after you log out

DianneA: capturing the pasteboard is under the Actions menu

LisaRC: Is anyone else participating in Capstone?

TeralynG: I am

VeronicaCo: yes they are

VeronicaCo: I receive my transcripts through email, but hotmail sends it to the junk mail

AshleighA: thanks for sharing the different way to incorporate modern technology ! I've learned a lot this session

AshleighA: I'll be reviewing up on my smartboard use

VeronicaCo: Thank you everyone

BJB2: Thanks, Dianne, for leading the discussion

LisaRC: This is the first time I've used tapped in. I've really enjoyed it. Thanks!

TeralynG: Thanks everyone!

DianneA: Nods to Bj

DianneA: thanks to the group for a great discussion

BJB2 waves goodnight

DianneA: its always the quality of the participation

VeronicaCo: Thank you everyone

BJB2 agrees with Dianne

EileenBo: Thanks! This was a lot more fun and more helpful than I expected!!!

VeronicaCo: I am going to get more information on the clickers.

ElisabethC: Thank you

LisaRC: If it's something your district will pay for, I highly recommend them.