



TCEA Best Practices Session Notes

Forum:

- Date: 2/3/04
- Location: Austin, TX
- P21: Diny Golder and Susan Saltrick

Host organization contact info

- Key contact name: Texas Computer Education Association

Participants:

- Background: K-12 teacher who are actively using computers in the classroom
- Number: c. 3000 educators from across the state

Purpose: This was a best practice session focused on showcasing classroom examples of technology in all subject areas in K-12.

KEY MESSAGES relating to Highlighted Examples:

- See CD which we brought back
- Comments from particularly good sessions
 - From a middle school science class, an investigation of Texas rivers.
 - Students used research and evaluation skills to find appropriate information on rivers, then used writing, graphics, and communication skills to draw maps, add photos, write captions and illustrative text. They then email the resulting powerpoint to their parents.
 - The teacher above observed that she is finding it harder and harder to continue to offer lessons like this one, as much attention is going to test preparation. While her kids really love this sort of work, and she believes they benefit from it quite a bit, it is hard to match to the curriculum guidelines. She worries that innovative 21st century lessons are at risk in the current high-stakes climate.
 - Technology really gets the kids engaged, makes the subject come alive”
 - “Kids are more willing than teachers to just dive in. Not being afraid to make mistakes can create better learning moments.”
 - “Kids need limits though on their use of technology, as they can spend an unlimited amount of time on the details (e.g., powerpoint sound effects). Need to stay focused on the core content to be mastered.”
- Ann Crowe, a young teacher of science, (anncrowe@risd.org) makes extensive use of technology, and reported feeling no pressure to conform to accountability standards. “This is the way kids need to learn.” She has 30 wireless laptops in her classroom. “I wouldn’t know how to teach without them.” All lab reports, for example, are created from a lab report template that draws on Excel and Word – kids do extensive graphing and data analysis with these tools. All her testing is

- done on the computer as well. Another example: She has kids “Color the Heart” using paint tools, then they print the resulting heart diagram onto T-shirt transfers, then each gets to wear their heart to class on a special day.
- Jennifer Coleman of Hillsboro Jr HS. Good highlighted example for her 7 & 8th grade Technology classes. Her small Texas town has a number of historical markers. Kids go with her on a walking field trip, take digital photos of the markers, research the history behind them, and then use Excel and PowerPoint to create historical timeline of their community.

FOLLOW UP

See CD or website at <http://www2.ednet10.net/instructionaltechnology/techapps/> for a wealth of highlighted examples.