Title of Session: The Perfect Classroom
Moderator: Michelle Escudier
Title of File: 20030422perfcl
Date: April 22, 2003

Started recording in After School Online Room (#1460)[TappedIn] at Tue
Apr 22 14:11:47 2003 PDT.

BJB drops 2003/04/22 The Perfect Classroom (recording).

MichelleAE asks, "Where are you from SusanneC?"

SusanneC asks, "Sorry MichelleAE for the wait. I am from Erie,
Pennsylvania. And you?"

MichelleAE says, "Pueblo, Colorado"

SusanneC says, "Nice to meet you."

SusanneC asks, "Is this session a class of yours?"

MichelleAE says, "In a way. I'm an instructional technology coordinator
and this is a chat we are sponsoring"

MichelleAE says, "Cindy G will be here soon. This is a recruitment
activity"

MichelleAE says, "We wanted to give our students a chance to interact
with the Tapped In community"

cindy [guest] arrives from nowhere.
SusanneC says, "I am in a Master's program called Educational
Technology. So I am very interested in your topic. I currently teach
secondary math"

MichelleAE says, "I love instructional technology, especially the
Instructional design aspect of it"

MichelleAE asks, "what does your program emphasize?"

cindy [guest] says, "Hi Susanne. Glad you are joining us today. I am a
former elementary teacher working with the CSU-Pueblo Teacher Education
Program."

SusanneC says, "Nice to meet you Cindy"

cindy [guest] says, "We are going to wait a few more minutes to really
dive into our topic of "the perfect classroom" to give other folks a
chance to join us"

SandraAd has arrived.
SandraAd's personal recorder (recording) has arrived.
MichelleAE says, "Hi Sandra..."

SandraAd says, "Hi Michelle"

MichelleAE says, "We're waiting a little bit to see who else shows up"

SandraAd asks, "I want to make sure I am in the correct place. Is this the discussion on the classroom of the future?"

MichelleAE says, "yes it is..."

cindy [guest] exclaims, "Hi Sandra! Thanks for joining us!"

SandraAd says, "Good---I am in the right place"

MichelleAE asks, "I guess we could get started. Is that okay?"

SandraAd says, "I am actually excited for this discussion. Our school system is in the process of adding a new school to the system and updating an old elementary building."

MichelleAE says, "Let me introduce ourselves: I'm Michelle Escudier from Teacher Education Program at Colorado State University-Pueblo. I am an instructional technologist and Cindy, my counterpart here, is the recruitment coordinator."

MichelleAE asks, "Who is everybody and what do you teach?"

BJB [HelpDesk] says, "I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED IN"

SandraAd says, "I am an instructional technology training specialist for Manassas City Public Schools in Manassas, Virginia. I focus on the elementary level."

SusanneC says, "I am a secondary math teacher in Pennsylvania"

cindy [guest] says, "Hi everyone! My title is a little boring, but I'm a former elementary school teacher currently working with the CSU-Pueblo Teacher Education Program. My main role is to work in high schools and community colleges around the state to recruit students into the field of teaching."

MichelleAE says, "I posted an agenda on the whiteboard if people want to see what we'll be doing.."

MichelleAE says, "Cindy will take things over now..."

BJB [HelpDesk] checks to see if everyone knows how to read the whiteboard

BarbaraAS has arrived.
BarbaraAS's personal recorder (recording) has arrived.

cindy [guest] says, "We recently held a conference for high school students planning to become teachers last week..."

BJB [HelpDesk] waves to Barbara. We're just finishing introductions

cindy [guest] says, "and they were involved in exploring a lot of different issues around the complexities of teaching in today's schools..."

cindy [guest] says, "One of the activities we had them involved in was thinking about the perfect classroom and how do we get close to that as teachers..."

cindy [guest] says, "So to get us started, what do you all think about creating this perfect classroom? Let's start with the physical make-up of the room? What do you think should be included (layout, technology, etc.)"

MichelleAE says, "I think the perfect classroom would be one that extends into the community, and the world."

AdrianaM has arrived.
AdrianaM's personal recorder (recording) has arrived.

MichelleAE says, "Technology such as computers and video conferencing would be in the classroom"

BarbaraAS says, "Hi AdrianaM"

SandraAd says, "Storage, computers, multi-media equipment, collaborative grouping furniture (tables)"

AdrianaM says, "Hi there I'm trying to get into the class"

BJB [HelpDesk] says, "welcome, Adriana. You're in the right place"

MichelleAE says, "Hi. Adriana Cindy and I are hosting the discussion."

SandraAd says, "I think the makeup should be setup to allow the best possible flexibility for students interaction in and throughout the room."

AdrianaM says, "Well thanks this is my first time"

BJB [HelpDesk] says, "a suggestion to help you follow the dialogue: click on DETACH in the middle right of your screen to make your text window larger and easier to read."

cindy [guest] says, "Hi Adriana-- We're talking about the perfect classroom. What do you think should be in a perfect classroom (the physical make-up for now)"

MichelleAE says, "I think there should be tables to facilitate discussion and collaboration"

AdrianaM says, "Well let me think for a moment..."

BarbaraAS asks, "what age level are we talking about?"

SandraAd says, "For young students a bathroom should be included to keep from losing instructional time."

MichelleAE says, "Any age--different ages have different needs, like Sandra said"

BarbaraAS says, "for old students too... it's amazing how having a bathroom in the room, cuts down on being out during lessons,"

BarbaraAS says, "therefore more work gets done.."

cindy [guest] says, "As for age-level, think of whatever age-level is most appropriate to your needs now as a teacher and then just include what age level you're thinking about in your discussion"

SandraAd says, "I think the basics of furniture could apply to all age groups. I could see high school classrooms having tables instead of desks."

BarbaraAS says, "art materials, and hands on equipment... a refrigerator, microwave, and storage area for personal items"

MichelleAE says, "The environment should include up-to-date resources, like textbooks"

MichelleAE says, "journals,"

cindy [guest] exclaims, "I think Sandra makes an important point! Some people think small groups are just for elementary age students. An environment that promotes collaboration is essential!"

MichelleAE says, "student created learning materials"

BarbaraAS says, "rugs, bean bag chairs, a sound system with music"

SandraAd says, "Wireless computer lab"

BarbaraAS says, "but also need a space for those learners who need quiet.. so earphones ..."

MichelleAE says, "Good point Barb"

SusanneC says, "What about putting a limit as to how many students are in the classroom"

cindy [guest] says, "I'm going to project a web site for you to take a look at. This comes from the New Century School House project that allows educators and soon to be educators to think about the perfect classroom..."

MichelleAE says, "That is a very practical point"

SandraAd says, "This is definitely an issue we fight all the time. I would think this is a must."

cindy [guest] says, "See what you think about this classroom environment based on what we have been talking about..."

BarbaraAS says, "I don't think computers should be the focus of this room.. I think curriculum should be changed so that students do what

they need to do with hands on as well as collaboratively.. they can do a lot of things at home online...."

MichelleAE says, "If they have resources, Barb..."

cindy [guest] projects the URL: http://www.landmark-project.com/ncsh/room.php?rm_id=216&floor=epg.php

BarbaraAS says, "computers (or pdas and laptops) that can be stored out of the way"

BarbaraAS says, "and pulled out when needed.."

MichelleAE asks, "Does everybody see New Century schoolhouse?"

MichelleAE says, "Cindy is going to direct us to some rooms..."

SandraAd says, "I am looking at it right now."

BarbaraAS says, "ok... now I can see it.."

MichelleAE asks, "Okay, everybody--who's in--can you read the intro and let us know what you think?"

SandraAd says, "I like this idea. It allows for flexible collaboration in the room when needed. It also incorporates appropriate technology for effective integration."

SueMR arrives from nowhere.
Sue's Recorder follows SueMR to here.

cindy [guest] says, "I think this particular English classroom really elaborates on the idea of facilitating collaboration and making technology resources and other resources available as students need them to construct knowledge and understanding."

DarleneR has arrived.
DarleneR's personal recorder (recording) has arrived.

cindy [guest] says, "It's definitely an interesting idea! We'll take a look at a few of these other classroom creations later on in the discussion."

cindy [guest] says, "For those of you just joining us, Welcome! We're talking about the perfect classroom..."

MichelleAE says, "Hi...Darlene.... Sue"

cindy [guest] says, "Now onto what the teacher "looks like" in the perfect classroom..."

BarbaraAS says, "I'm not sure I agree that that much technology is necessary... they can see the videoclip and powerpoint from home.."

BJB [HelpDesk] asks, "welcome back, Adriana. Do you need to see the webpage they're looking at?"

BarbaraAS says, "but they need to be in a face to face scenario for the discussion, and taking the discussion beyond the stories"

SandraAd says, "I think the teachers role will be more of a facilitator."

cindy [guest] asks, "What is the role of the teacher in the perfect classroom. What are their interactions like with students, other teachers, and the community?"

AdrianaM says, "Sorry I had an incoming call and I got disconnected"

MichelleAE says, "The teacher is a facilitator...."

MichelleAE says, "and a true leader--she inspires"

BarbaraAS says, "they should be using the time for a chat with the author of the books, or experts on the time period.."

cindy [guest] exclaims, "Barb, I like your ideas of more tech integration in that English classroom we looked at!"

BarbaraAS says, "the teacher could be helping them develop questions for the author ..."

SueMR listens intently.

SandraAd says, "The teacher also encourages and promotes students to take more responsiblity for their learning. This will allow them to become teachers as well."

MichelleAE says, "Right Barb, the teacher as leader/facilitator/guide"

BarbaraAS says, "and then maybe developing additional plots... or having a discussion with peers in different countries to see if they interpret the books the same way"

MichelleAE says, "Right Sandra. taking responsibility for your learning means students are reflecting on their learning"

BarbaraAS says, "so the teacher could ask the students what they need to know about the story... and point them to where they can find resources.."

MichelleAE says, "If the students become responsible for their learning, they will become peer teachers"

SandraAd says, "I think students will value their learning more because of this peer teaching."

MichelleAE asks, "What do you think Susanne?"

cindy [guest] says, "So it sounds like we as teachers guide more, helping students learn how to learn..."

SandraAd says, "Exactly"

BarbaraAS says, "not only value it more, but stretch it because they will give each other ideas"

AdrianaM says, "This also makes the student feel in control"

cindy [guest] says, "I agree Adriana"

MichelleAE says, "Good point Adrianna..."

MichelleAE says, "the lexus of control resides with the student"

SandraAd says, "I think this also allows each child to feel successful in their learning."

SusanneC says, "I agree. Students tend to learn more when they are in control and responsible for their own learning"

BarbaraAS says, "research says that students who collaborate are exposed to more ideas, and therefore, expand their critical thinking skills"

cindy [guest] says, "I'm going to try and project another example from the New Century School house. This is an example from a primary classroom. See what you think about the role of students in this classroom..."

cindy [guest] projects the URL:

http://www.landmark-project.com/ncsh/room.php?rm_id=75&floor=epg.php
BJB [HelpDesk] checks to see if everyone sees that url

MichelleAE says, "I got it! Let's take a few minutes to read..."

MichelleAE says, "Wow..."

cindy [guest] says, "I'm very much intrigued by the cross-age levels in this classroom..."

MichelleAE says, "Me to..."

MichelleAE says, "This would be a true community of learners"

cindy [guest] says, "Sometimes I think we get too hung up on grade levels in the US when we should be able to provide learning opportunities for students based on what they need, not what grade they are in."

BarbaraAS says, "I like the office meet living room feel.."

BarbaraAS says, "with the fish tank.."

SandraAd says, "Children would love this classroom environment."

SueMR says, "I like the size and number of facilitators involved. It has a family feeling."

MichelleAE says, "Right, most little kids like interacting with older kids and adults"

BarbaraAS asks, "how would you plan activities that the older students wouldn't be bored with? and would also grow?"

SueMR exclaims, "This is ideal!"

MichelleAE exclaims, "good question, barb!"

MichelleAE asks, "What does everyone else think?"

SandraAd says, "The same we do in our classrooms today. Some students could have extra requirements for the same project given to the students."

BarbaraAS says, "not against it.. just think it would need some real planning to work.."

SueMR asks, "Would the activities be open ended?"

MichelleAE says, "I agree. But older students would need more depth requirements"

SandraAd says, "Some could be---others could be given specific guidelines."

cindy [guest] says, "Agreed Barb-- I think that's why it's important to allow students to move at a pace that's appropriate for them. These older students might be just a bit ahead of the younger students."

BarbaraAS says, "but even now, those G&T students complain that they have extra work.."

SueMR says, "This would require more planning than the traditional classroom."

SandraAd says, "I taught in an inclusion classroom for two years. I dealt with this constantly."

BarbaraAS asks, "and what were some of the ideas that you utilized?"

MichelleAE asks, "What is your general feeling about inclusion, then, Sue?"

BarbaraAS asks, "did the G&T students get pulled out?"

BarbaraAS asks, "how were their needs met?"

SandraAd says, "I had my students create PowerPoint presentations for an animal project. I gave a rubric for the basic class. Those students that were advanced were allowed to add more to their presentations."

cindy [guest] says, "This is a nice way to differentiate Sandra."

AdrianaM asks, "How old were these students?"

SandraAd says, "Third grade"

BarbaraAS says, "good idea, Sandra.."

MichelleAE asks, "Did the students use the slides to teach each other?"

AdrianaM says, "Ohh that must of been interesting"

BarbaraAS says, "I'd love to hear more ideas though.."

cindy [guest] says, "So it sounds like we are in consensus that the role of the teacher is to facilitate learning, collaboration and communication amongst students. Also, it seems that the more we can pull in the community the better..."

SandraAd says, "The students presented the slide show to the class. We were reviewing survival skills. The presentations became teaching tools."

AdrianaM says, "I agree with you Cindy"

cindy [guest] asks, "If we could really make this perfect classroom happen, what hurdles and challenges must we get past in our current situations in education to make this happen?"

MichelleAE exclaims, "economics for one!"

SandraAd says, "Funding and getting everyone on board with our ideas"

SueMR says, "This model should work well for Special Education Inclusion."

BarbaraAS says, "lack of technology, lack of training for teachers."

AdrianaM says, "$$$$$$Money"

BarbaraAS says, "a curriculum that is subject oriented rather than student oriented"

MichelleAE says, "resistance to change on various levels"

DarleneR says, "keeping up with the students interest"

SandraAd says, "Definitely true Michelle"

SueMR says, "less emphasis on formal testing"

MichelleAE says, "the politicizing of education..."

BarbaraAS exclaims, "you've hit the nail on the head Sue!!"

cindy [guest] asks, "Darlene-- you make a great point! How do we compete with X-Box?"

cindy [guest] says, "These are all extremely pertinent obstacles..."

AdrianaM says, "Formal Testing is like filing taxes"

SandraAd says, "Students love technology! This will help keep students interested."

MichelleAE says, "right, but I do believe there is a place for standardized testing"

MichelleAE says, "its what and how we test that's important and when..."

cindy [guest] asks, "If you were to create your perfect classroom starting today in whatever role you are in, what would be your first steps?"

SandraAd says, "We do have to be held accountable some way--- standardized testing."

BarbaraAS says, "you can tell Michelle has never administered one of these state tests .. ;-)"

MichelleAE says, "True, Barb, but I proctored many medical school tests"

SandraAd says, "My first step would be to collaborative with my staff and administration."

AdrianaM says, "I agree"

BarbaraAS says, "yes, accountable.. but who says standardized tests really measure what we want especially with different cultures"

MichelleAE asks, "Good point Sandra, but what about including the larger community?"

DarleneR says, "when I was in Germany the military daycare tried to model themselves after "Reggio" (i think that's the name) This is a daycare in Italy. It is fashioned much like the suggested classroom. They recorded student conversations so they knew what materials to provide for further learning. (so[rry] for the change of topic, slow typer)"

AdrianaM says, "You can't do it by yourselves"

SandraAd says, "Yes, the community is key. This is where some of the funding could come from. We want the community involved."

MichelleAE says, "In a way, we could look at it, as tapping the wisdom and experience of the community"

SandraAd says, "The community involves the parents and it is important to include them in the collaboration process."

cindy [guest] exclaims, "And as much as we hate to think so or don't really have the time to do it, we as educators must become more politically active so our voices are heard!"

MichelleAE says, "Right! We have to provide/provoke systematic change"

MichelleAE says, "and Systemic change"

AdrianaM says, "Now that there are funding cuts, is technology affected"

MichelleAE says, "Everything is affected..."

MichelleAE asks, "How can we promote change with funding cuts?"

cindy [guest] says, "That's a really tough question Michelle..."

SandraAd says, "Find other means of getting the funding----grants..."

SandraAd says, "Collaborating with businesses to help with funding"

cindy [guest] says, "I think until we find better economic times, we as classroom teachers keep making the changes the best we can in our individual classrooms..."

AdrianaM asks, "So do you think that teachers who were gonna start their perfect classrooms are now waiting for a better time?"

cindy [guest] says, "Tapping into our communities and being as resourceful as possible."

MichelleAE says, "Good question, Adriana"

MichelleAE says, "Maybe too many people are waiting to see what happens"

cindy [guest] says, "I think we can make changes right now that don't cost money-- organize your classroom for true collaboration..."

MichelleAE says, "Right Cindy"

cindy [guest] says, "Create authentic learning opportunities that involve the community"

MichelleAE says, "Collaborate with peers"

SueMR says, "Involve the local community and local commercial establishments."

cindy [guest] says, "Do what you can with what you have control over..."

SandraAd says, "These are good points. There is no reason to wait until the perfect time comes---there will never be a perfect time to start creating. We need to take advantage of what we have now---even if it is little."

AdrianaM asks, "What if your community is not very wealthy?"

MichelleAE says, "You can still have a wealth of parents/caretakers, caring people in the community"

cindy [guest] says, "They may not be wealthy in money, but I bet they are wealthy in wisdom from a variety of people..."

cindy [guest] says, "This has been a great chat... I have another prior commitment that I have to attend to..."

SandraAd says, "The community as individuals may not be wealthy but as a whole..."

DarleneR says, "yes, people who aren't money driven usually have time to spend with students"

MichelleAE says, "So it sounds like we need to start from a variety of places to build the perfect classroom"

cindy [guest] says, "I am going to leave you with the general URL for the New Century Schoolhouse project..."

cindy [guest] says, "It's a great site to get ideas and to "create" a classroom that you think is perfect..."

MichelleAE says, "Maybe some of you could go there to create your classroom"

MichelleAE says, "It should be emailed to you automatically..."

cindy [guest] says, "The URL is http://www.landmark-project.com/ncsh"

SandraAd says, "Thanks for this discussion. It was the best one so far I have experience in Tapped In."

MichelleAE says, "Great...but I don't have to go"

SusanneC says, "I agree. The conversation was quite interesting"

MichelleAE says, "Cindy has an appointment..."

MichelleAE says, "WE can still wind up the discussion..."

cindy [guest] exclaims, "Thanks everyone!"

SandraAd says, "Thanks Cindy"

AdrianaM says, "It was a pleasure having all of you in this discussion"

BarbaraAS says, "so does Barb.. see you later"

MichelleAE asks, "What would the student in the perfect classroom be like?"

MichelleAE exclaims, "bye guys!"

AdrianaM says, "Bye"

SueMR says, "Thanks! This was a stimulating discussion."

DarleneR says, "bye thanks.. this was my first group"

MichelleAE says, "I'm still here...."

BarbaraAS says, "bye..."

SandraAd says, "The perfect student would be one that values his/her learning."

MichelleAE says, "Right, the perfect student would be excited about learning"

SusanneC says, "The perfect students would stay attentive and on task throughout the entire class"

SandraAd says, "The perfect student would always go above and beyond what is expected."

MichelleAE says, "The perfect student would know that making a mistake is an opportunity to learn"

SandraAd says, "The perfect student would be willing to answer questions even if their answer might be incorrect."

MichelleAE says, "Right. I read recently that the problem with some students is that they don't want to go outside their comfort zone"

MichelleAE says, "Nor do their parents want them too"

MichelleAE says, "They want to be 'safe'"

MichelleAE says, "whatever that means"

SandraAd says, "I am one of those students. I typically don't talk much in face to face settings. I am more open to discussing in this type of setting."

MichelleAE says, "Which is why we need a variety of ways to communicate in our perfect classroom"

MichelleAE says, "to give people a chance to show their strengths"

BJB [HelpDesk] says, "good point....also something to consider when doing parent conferences"

MichelleAE says, "Students need to understand that taking a risk helps them to grow"

SandraAd says, "There is a new technology that allows students to respond to teachers through this type of response. This keeps the students from being embarrassed. This might be in every classroom in the future."

MichelleAE says, "I read about using instant messenger for that"

MichelleAE says, "To show equity, we need to give every student a chance to shine"

SandraAd says, "Every student may shine differently---creating opportunities for each to shine in his/her own way is important."

MichelleAE exclaims, "Another component for the perfect classroom!"

MichelleAE asks, "To add another dimension, how would the students use the community?"

SandraAd says, "As a resource for their learning----collaboration"

SusanneC says, "project-based learning"

MichelleAE says, "Right. Also, for research"

MichelleAE says, "and pbl like suzanne said"

MichelleAE says, "I would love to take biology students to research outdoors..."

MichelleAE says, "the perfect classroom would allow students to explore their world"

SandraAd says, "Think of what student learning would be if we didn't have field trip restrictions....Students would be able to experience so much more hands-on...the perfect classroom..."

MichelleAE says, "Right...the students would also create collaborative projects involving field work"

MichelleAE says, "and they would have a chance to evaluate and reflect on their progress"

MichelleAE exclaims, "Does anyone have anything to say? time is up!"

MichelleAE asks, "Would you be interested in discussing this topic again?"

SandraAd says, "This has been such a great discussion. If we only had the resources to create our perfect classrooms..."

SusanneC exclaims, "Thanks MichelleAE. I really appreciate the discussion!!"

MichelleAE says, "Wouldn't that be special? teachers wouldn't have to buy their own supplies"

SusanneC says, "Bye. Nice to meet you all."

MichelleAE says, "Well, bye everyone. Thanks for participating..."

SandraAd says, "Thanks for facilitating. You did a great job keeping the discussion focused."

BJB [HelpDesk] says, "thanks, Michelle. Let me know if you want to schedule another discussion"

MichelleAE says, "okay all. Maybe we can do something similar and get our students to participate next time"