Online Community Reflection

Education Technology

Jacob Newton

University of Alaska Southeast

Reflection:

To participate in an online community or forum can help teachers to gain new ideas and share their ideas with other teachers who are in your discipline. Many teachers benefit greatly by using online communities to create lessons, engage their students and create new meanings for their disciplines. As a math teacher I have decided to join and participate in a math forum community called The Math Forum @ Drexel: Teacher’s Place located at the URL <http://mathforum.org/teachers/>.

As a new teacher of mathematics education I found there to be many great ideas within this online community. Many master teachers are a part of this forum and offer up free advice and do not pass judgment or criticism of your questions or ideas. I found that I was not using the forum as much as I may when I will have my own classroom and not have to be focusing on my master’s classes. When I can focus on making my own classroom as great as it possibly can be I feel I will use it more.

The forum offers many different examples of teaching strategies, math problems and activities for your class. One of the things I found to be interesting was the “Problem of the week” portion of the blog. Teacher’s would upload a problem of the week that other teachers could use to have their students try to solve and discuss later. Here is a little excerpt from the blog:

The Problems of the Week Program

The Math Forum offers an integrated program based on our award-winning Problems of the Week. The program has three components:

* **Problems of the Week** (PoWs) and Write Math: PoWs by Standard, including teacher support materials.
* Problem Solving and Communication **Activity Series**, focused on strategic competence and writing fluency.
* **Professional Development** for effective implementation, formative assessment, and building mathematical knowledge for teaching.

Do the problems with your students, use the Activity Series to develop student confidence and higher order thinking skills, and collaborate with leading experts and fellow teachers through our professional development programs. More information about each component follows.

(<http://mathforum.org/teachers/>)

 I found that these ideas are great for a teacher just starting out and trying to implement technology into their classroom. I will continue to follow this forum as well as seek out other blogs and social media to use for my classroom. I feel it can be a great tool to engage your students through use of technology.

Reference:

The Math Forum @ Drexel: Teachers Place. <http://mathforum.org/teachers/> Website: Retrieved on 12/5/2015.