

Thread NSTA Question: Social Networking in Science

On Tue, Jan 18, 2011 at 7:17 PM, Frank William Meadows <fwm2008@me.com> wrote:
Greetings,

I am seriously considering using social networking in the classroom. One of the ways I will do this is by using twitter to conduct formative assessment. How does everyone else use social networking?

Frank

Frank William Meadows

NYS Dually Certified Life Science,
Inclusion Biology & Regents
Biology Teacher (7-12)

I LOVE this idea but does your admin know about it?? I wanted to create a science Myspace page (before Facebook took over) and was told no. I was ready to have parent permission and everything!!

~Ryan

Mrs. Ryan Renee Rudkin
8th Grade, *Physical Science*
Rolling Hills Middle School
(916) 933-9290 *or*
(530) 676-2490

I use Facebook to connect with my students, I created a group and have encouraged students and parents to join. There, I can create Events for assignments that show up on students' Facebook homepage, send messages to everyone to give advice/reminders, answer questions from students, post pictures and videos and labs and have a place to post cool stuff my students and I find on the Internet. All this without having to "friend" any of my students but still utilize a website that most of them are already on.

~Rhiannon

Rhiannon Boettcher
Physical Science Teacher
Hazelbrook Middle School
Tualatin, OR

As a semi-social networking tool, I have found that using a wiki works well with my 8th grade science students. All I ask is that they keep the discussion topics science-related. Through wikispaces.com you can request usernames and passwords for all of your students, and you can monitor all discussions. You can also make the wiki private, so only those with passwords can view it. During its first two weeks it received over 2,000 hits, and that was just from 105 students. It was a BIG hit. It's also great tool for the students to ask questions without using e-mail, and everyone can see the responses.

Tim McCollum
Charleston Middle School
Charleston, IL

Frank,

How do you envision using social media for formative assessment purposes?

--Stamatis

I would highly suggest Edmodo (www.edmodo.com) I've used this in a few of my classes and I really like it! The format is reminiscent of facebook , so the kids are pretty comfortable with it without a whole lot of direction, and kids don't need email addresses to sign up (which is always a plus). Let me know if you have any questions about how I've used it in my classes.

Julie