



▶ TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ARE USING TWITTER TO SHARE AND GATHER IDEAS.

APRIL 2013



▶ HOW CAN HASHTAGS BE USED TO MAKE SEARCHES MORE CONTENT-SPECIFIC?



▶ TWITTER CHATS - HAVE A DIRECT LINE TO NATIONAL EXPERTS!

Coach's Corner

WORKING WITH THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF THE HATBORO-HORSHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

TWITTER – A TOOL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

You may have heard about your students or colleagues sending “tweets”, using “hashtags”, or keeping track of their “followers”, but did you know that Twitter can be a fantastic tool for professional development? I joined the Twitter party over two years ago and use this tool to share teaching ideas and articles with colleagues from around the math world, receive news from professional organizations, and keep tabs on a few former students. Some teachers use Twitter as a way to post class links, assignments, and resources. In writing this article, I asked my friends on Twitter to share why they like using Twitter:

Bob Lochel @bobloch 43m
Writing an article about educators using Twitter. How do you use Twitter? What do you like about using it? Send me your thoughts! Thx.
Expand

Andrew Stadel @mr_stadel 34m
@bobloch Use: Share/find ideas, links, & resources for professional advancement/feedback. I like the 140 character limit to keep it succinct
Hide conversation Reply Retweet Favorite More
7:02 PM - 17 Dec 12 Details

Luke Walsh @LukeSelfwalker 8m
@bobloch Sharing with #EdTech companies on how I am using their product. Copy/steal/borrow ideas. Bragging, I mean sharing my stuff :-)
View conversation

John Thomas Miller @millerphysics 17m
@bobloch I have been using twitter for the past 3.5 years with my Ss Check out my resources ow.ly/1QiwKf Also follow me @millerSTEM
Expand



GETTING STARTED WITH TWITTER

To start, go to www.twitter.com and sign up for a new (free) account. You will need to come up with a user name to have people identify you. Also you will be asked to name a few people to start following. I currently have 220 people (or organizations) on my follow list, and their updates and messages appear in my twitter “feed”. Below are some lists of both math people and national leaders to “follow”. Another great way is to follow a trusted friend and see who they are following!

MATH PEOPLE TO FOLLOW:

@bobloch – that’s me! I often post teaching tips, and links to new blog posts.

@ddmeyer – Dan always shares interesting teaching thoughts and ideas.

@maxmathforum – Max Ray from the Drexel Math Forum.

@NCTM – NCTM posts a daily math challenge.

@mathalicious – “real world” lesson ideas for math class.

@fivethirtyeight – Nate Silver, from the NY Times, posts under this name.

@JohnAllenPaulos—best-selling author of Innumeracy

EDUCATION LEADERS:

@dylanwiliam – Dylan is an education researcher, who often posts links to educational studies.

@grantwiggins – “Understanding By Design” author.

@DianeRavitch—Education historian and friend of public education

@RickWormeli—author of “Fair Isn’t Always Equal”

@chrishman – from the Philadelphia Science Leadership Academy.

@danbowdoin – Dan posts a daily article on tech integration.

PARTICIPATE (OR JUST LURK): After you sign up, you will be able to view new posts from everyone you follow. I find that I check posts and make posts on Twitter in spurts usually trying to check in a few times a day to see if any interesting articles or ideas appear. But the beauty of Twitter is that you can check-in whenever you like. I appreciate that I can have brief “conversations” with math friends from around the country and hear about what is happening in all sorts of classrooms. In recent conversations, I have debated the usefulness of the “same-change-change” rule for adding signed numbers, shared thoughts on Keystone Exams, and received personal support from the designers of the QAMA estimation calculator. I am connected with people whom usually our only interaction would be at conferences.

What’s up with hastags?

#mathchat #edchat
#edtech #scichat
#elachat #langchat
#web20chat
#sbgchat

On Twitter, hashtags provide a means to search for and filter out posts related to topics, and are indicated by the number (#) sign. For example, searching for the tag #phillies will filter posts related to the Phillies. For math folk, the hashtag #mathchat is often used to share ideas to a wider math audience and is one I use often to advertise my blog posts. Googling “education hashtags” will provide you a more complete list.

Also, two math chats are held on Twitter each week using the #mathchat tag to sort discussion. Chats are facilitated by Colin Graham (@colinTgraham) on Monday at 4PM and Thursday at 7PM. Other hashtags to check out are #edchat, #STEM, #sbgchat (for standards-based grading) and #elemchat. For a full schedule on twitter chats: try this link: <http://cybraryman.com/chats.html>