The main purpose of the site is to allow teachers to professionally network in order to reduce the time spent between classes online looking for materials. The site houses a vast database of lesson plans which can be accessed by teachers to use in their classrooms. Teachers are encouraged to use the forum section of the community to ask fellow teachers questions about anything related to teaching. The calendar portion of the site is designed to allow teachers to find out several weeks in advance when large workshops and conferences are planned. The calendar will remind teachers when an important event is coming up and will allow them to easily and quickly find directions. In order to further help teachers constantly trying to find time, the site has the most recent headlines from various news sources to help teachers bring current events to their classrooms.

TeacherKnowledgeShare.com

The site is open to all teachers to come and share their ideas, lessons and questions with the rest of the teaching community.

Questions or Comments?
Contact Braband@IIT.edu
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Problem Statement:

Schools and teachers are under tremendous pressure to improve performance as measured by standard test scores. With tight budgetary constraints and a difficult set of demographics, teachers carry a significant burden which puts a big strain on their personal time and resources. The problem is exacerbated by the large number of new teachers entering the system each year and a high turnover rate. Little time exists in the course of the school day to provide effective face-to-face mentoring or for established teachers to share best practices, class management techniques, etc. with each other. Continuing education courses are highly treasured for their networking value, but these are few and far between in the normal course of one’s teaching career. The problem begs for a virtual solution.

Solution:

Teacher Knowledge Share

We are students at Illinois Institute of Technology who built an online community for teachers which includes all K-12 programs in the State of Illinois. This online community of teachers allows virtual mentoring and electronic sharing of best practices, classroom experiences, individual teaching materials, etc. It also provides social networking with one’s professional peer group (teachers). This is a not-for-profit business outside the auspices of the respective Boards of Education.

Site Features:

- View/Post Lesson Plans
- Forums
- Expert Advice
- Calendar
- News Links (CNN/NY Times)
- Real Time Chat

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