



IPRO 320

Developing a Professional Networking Website for Teachers

Presented By: Marijke Bochantin,
Dmitriy Pindrik, Michael Tilatti

The Problem



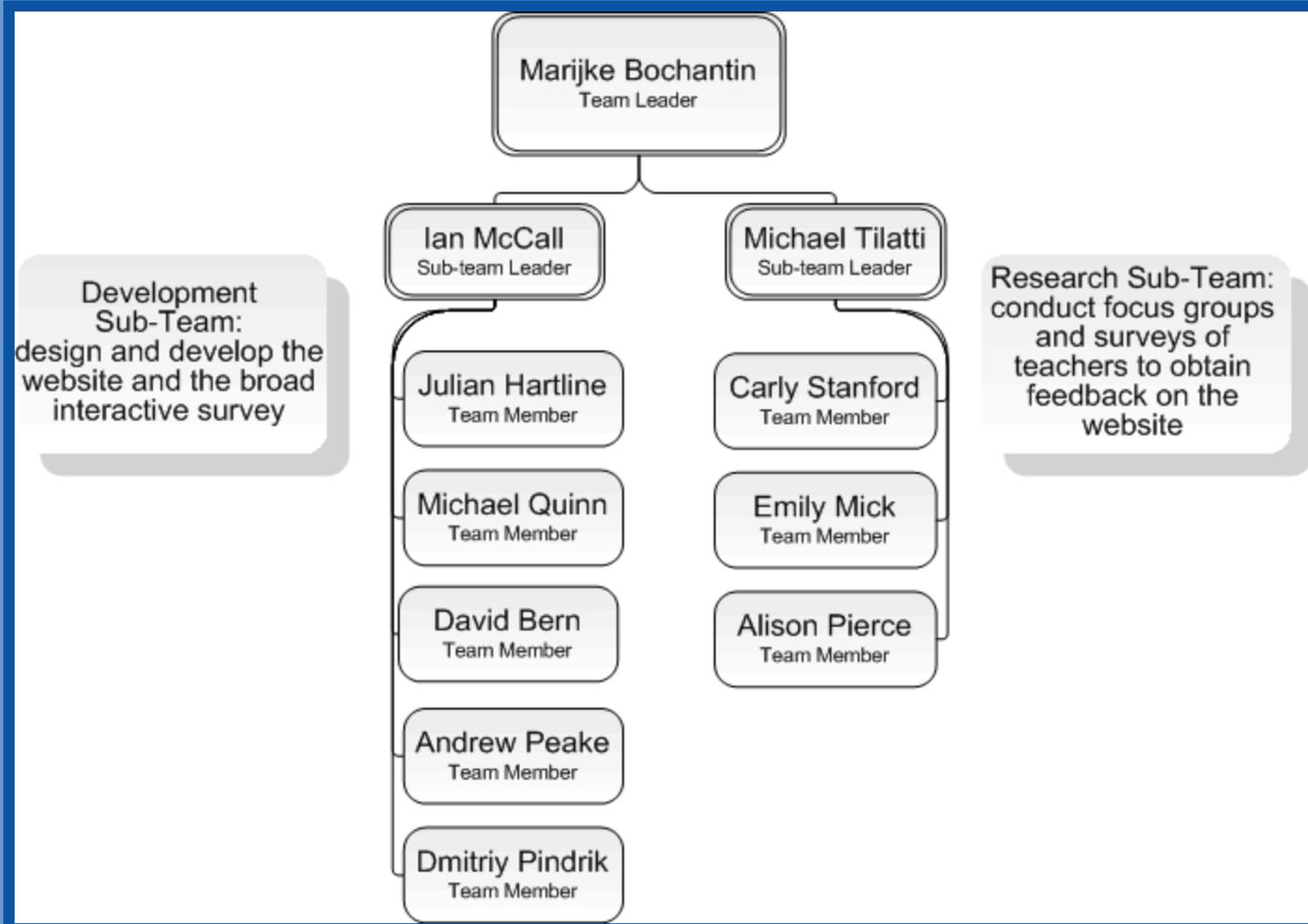
- Time Pressures
 - Preparing for class
 - Finding class materials
- Performance Pressures
 - Standardized Tests
 - No Child Left Behind
- Additional Roles
 - Discipline and Counseling
 - Watching for drugs and signs of abuse

Project Goals

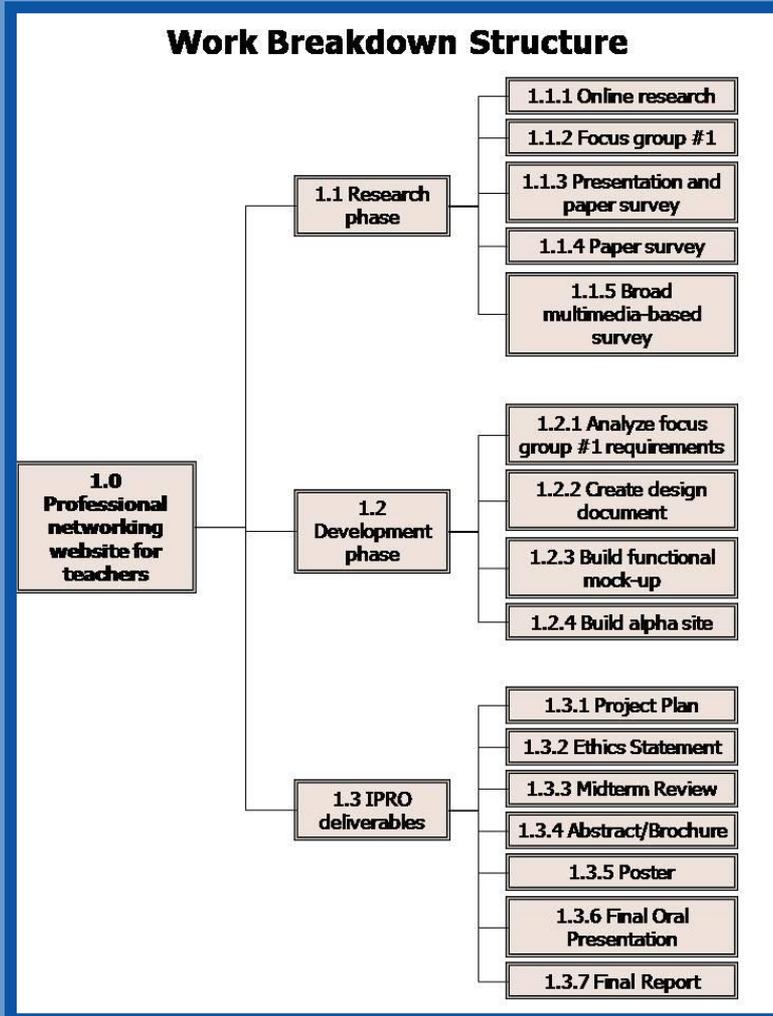


- To create a functional professional networking website for teachers that meets the needs specified in our research
 - User-friendly
 - Time-efficient
 - Content-rich
- Easy to update and maintain
- To generate interest within the educational community to use this site

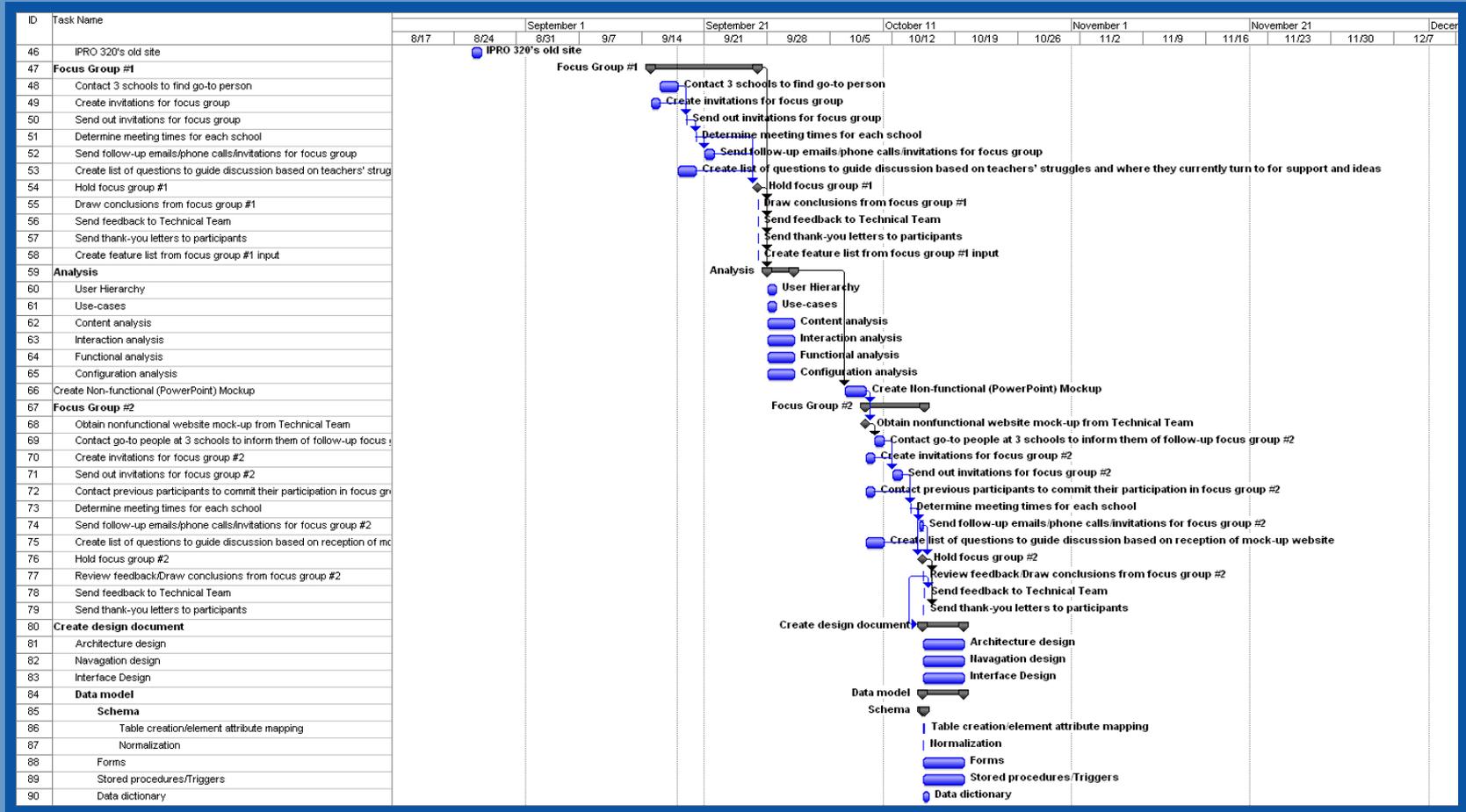
Team Organization



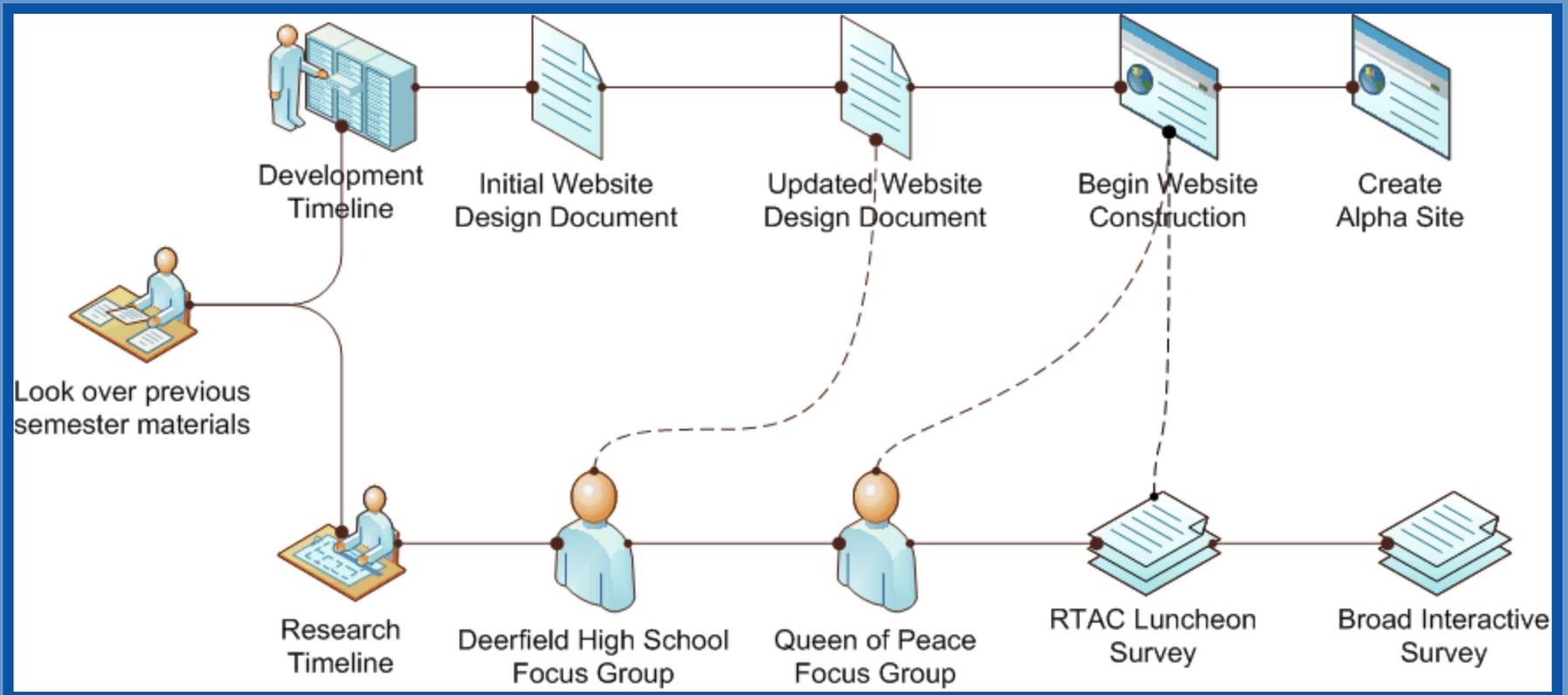
Work Breakdown Structure



Gantt Chart



Our Timeline



Research



- Deerfield High School focus group
- Queen of Peace presentation/paper survey
- Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC) Luncheon with paper survey
- Broad web-based multimedia survey

Deerfield Results

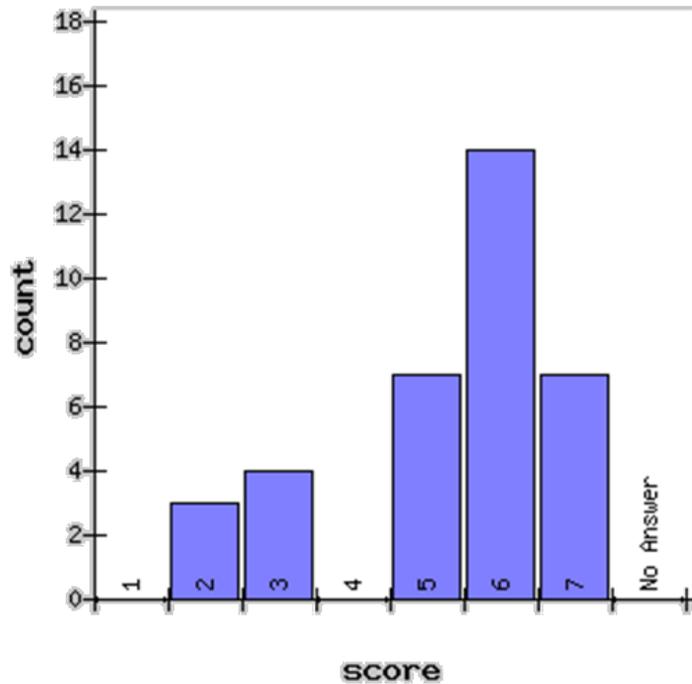


- Lesson plans
 - Teachers own their lesson plans
 - Others can add comments, but not modify existing lesson plans
- Inclusion of news feed
- Interested in quick communication tool

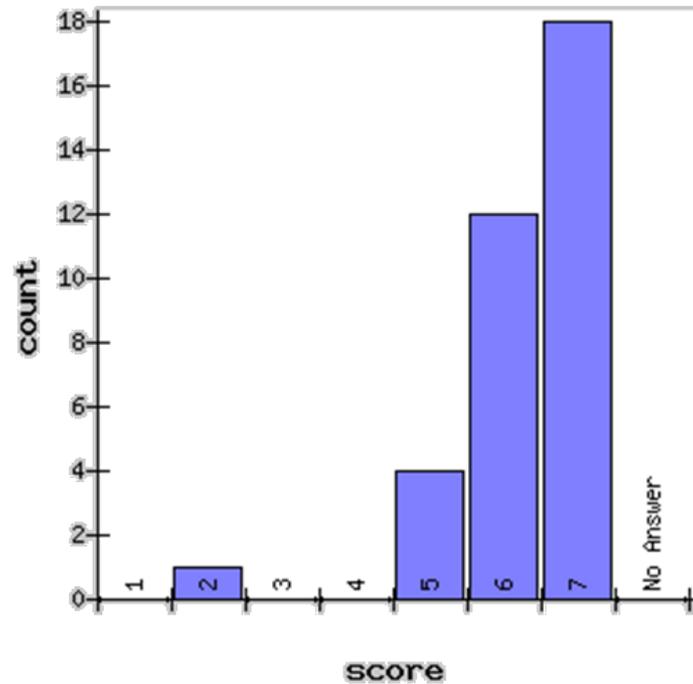
Queen of Peace Results



Likelihood to look at other lesson plans



Importance of a place to receive feedback



Challenges Encountered



- Research Team
 - Difficulty finding research participants; impacted timeline
 - IIT IRB Approval
- Development Team
 - Needed to get permission for the RSS Feeds
 - Development of copyright and privacy policies

Our Product: the Alpha Site



- Incorporated features requested by teachers
 - Public section
 - Inclusion of CNN and NY Times news articles
 - Professional profiles
 - Discussion forums sorted by grade
 - Ability to post and view lesson plans
 - Tagging system makes searching easier
 - Live chat along side for quick responses



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Teacher Knowledge Share is a website dedicated to increasing communication and the flow of resources between teachers of all grades and all subjects. The site focuses on providing teachers with the ability to post, share, review and trade lesson plans; have ongoing communication with coworkers about important issues – whether they are from the same school, same school district or miles away; and manage their time by using the calendar to find out about workshops, conferences and other relevant events to attend.

The project began in the Fall of 2008 at the Illinois Institute of Technology. The group consisted of eleven students with a large variety of majors. After speaking with over one hundred teachers from various areas around Chicago, a set of features for the site was developed and implemented. The site is open to all teachers to come and share their ideas, lessons and questions with the rest of the teaching community.

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Post new Forum topic

| Forum | Topics | Posts | Last post |
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|  General Discussion Talk about anything! | 3 2 new | 10 | 2 weeks 1 day ago by inter |
|  Teaching Software Come here to discuss various software packages designed for teachers. | 0 | 0 | n/a |

Expert Help

Come here to talk to the subject experts.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
|  Meet the Experts Come here to read and respond to interviews with subject experts. | 0 | 0 | n/a |
|  Expert Q&A Come here to ask questions and read responses to questions with subject experts. | 0 | 0 | n/a |

Grade-based Discussion

Talk about teaching in grade-specific forums.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------|
|  10th Grade | 1 | | 2 weeks 1 day ago |
|---|---|--|-------------------|



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Lesson Plans

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All Lesson Plans:

Elements, Atoms, and the Periodic Table posted by inter on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 13:21

Mitosis: Chromosome Replication & Division posted by inter on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 13:12

The Properties of Water posted by inter on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 13:11

Constitution Review posted by love2teach on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 02:57

Multiplication Bingo posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:25

Lady bug math posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:17

subtraction game posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:15

Salute posted by apierce on Tue, 11/11/2008 - 01:14

Calculus Integration Theory posted by love2teach on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 22:15

TESSELLATIONS: An Application Of Simple Regular Polygons by Mary Racky - Kenwood posted by mgrilley on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 19:49

Use A Chair To Teach Math by Laura B. Reed - Rosa L. Parks posted by mgrilley on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 19:48

An Introduction to Pi and the Area of a Circle by Edwina R. Justice - Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy posted by mgrilley on Mon, 11/10/2008 - 19:47

The Pythagorean Puzzle by Earl Zwicker - Illinois Institute of Technology -



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|----|--------|--------|--|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| 49 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Title IPRO Day | 6 |
| 50 | 7 | 8 | 9 Title CPS HS End of Third Grading Period | 10 Title Calculus Convention | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 51 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

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All Posts

david: Hey, anyone have a few tips for teaching 4th graders fractions?

apierce: I am having trouble with the children shouting out in class instead of raising their hands. Does anyone have a solution?

mgrilley: I have found that seperating kids who are unruly without upsetting them is often the best way to deal with that

hartline: In my classroom, I give students on their best behavior small treats in the form of points that they can use to earn snacks and pencils from my stash. The misbehaving children quickly realize that good behavior is worth something to them

mgrilley: I really like the idea of pencils, kids seem to love the fun colors, and characters like Batman are a huge hit with the boys

bochantin: That sounds great! By the way, has anyone heard about the group out there, How Many Earths?

mgrilley: the ecological footprint group? Yea, I had them in to talk to my kids, they were amazing!!!

mgrilley: Yea I read your post on the forum, I am pretty excited myself!

bochantin: yea I am thinking of having them in after reading the forum on it

apierce: Thank you for your input. i bought some goodies so i hope that works

apierce: does anyone use the gold star technique anymore?

quinn: Yeah, but typically just for the young students (K-2).

inter: i am having trouble teaching my twelfth graders calculus. does anybody have any ideas?

Accomplishments



- Rebuilt the website from scratch, basing the functionality on results from our research
- Created a multimedia tutorial and survey instrument
- Completed significant market research
 - Two focus groups
 - 1200 survey invitations
- Made available multiple data sets for future teams to reference

Next Semester



- Focus on marketing the site to teachers and gaining a large user base
- Add more lesson plans to the database to make it more useful to initial users
- Include expert opinions for teachers to reference on the site
- Further develop multiple sections
 - Guidance Counselors
 - Administrators

Acknowledgements



- Our advisors, James Braband and Dr. Scott Gehrs
- Eric Williams of Chicago Public Schools
- All past and present members of IPRO 320
- Queen of Peace High School
- Deerfield High School
- Retired Teachers Association of Chicago
- Our guests today!

Questions?

