Tech: Twitter

This resource is related to the “Use the Right Tools” section of the “Technology:” chapter of the book *First Aid for Teacher Burnout: How You Can Find Peace and Success*. It will help you use Twitter in powerful (yet easy) ways.

One of the reasons Twitter’s users find it to be so addictive is that it’s fun to use. It’s fast, easy to learn, a lifeline to a larger community, and a great PD and learning tool. Educators dominate this form of social media, with more than 3,000 tweets daily relating to education (Stevens, 2014).

The following strategies can help you benefit from Twitter. Apply these strategies as appropriate for your circumstances:

- **Get started.** Open a new Twitter account by visiting https://twitter.com/. If you need help, ask someone to walk you through the setup process (Twitter users are everywhere, and don’t overlook your students’ potential to assist you).

- **Connect with others.** When veteran teacher Saumell (2014) recommended connecting with colleagues to avoid burnout, she indicated social media as an additional avenue for sharing your burdens and successes with others. Twitter is used extensively by educators and is highly conducive to sharing thoughts and learning. You can make these connections informally by following Twitter users whose content interests you, tweeting (i.e., posting short comments), and responding to tweets.

- **Participate in #chats.** #chatting involves participating in an organized chat with other Twitter users. Often a time or particular topic is established but not always. The one requirement that makes #chatting work is that the chat has a designated hashtag. Basically, everyone participating in the chat posts the same hashtag (e.g., #edchat) somewhere in their tweets. All users can click (or, alternatively, use the search tool to find) the hashtag so
the only comments tagged with it appear on the screen. Participants can then follow and add to the conversation. #Edchat is one way to do this, and instructions for participating are provided in the text box.

References


Participate in #Edchat

If you join Twitter (www.Twitter.com), a social media site, you can participate in weekly chats with educators all over the world.

• **When:** Tuesdays at 12:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Eastern Time

• **How to Participate:** Search for tweets with the hashtag #edchat. You will see a running conversation of tweets and can add to this by placing #edchat somewhere in your own tweets.

• **Types of Topics Discussed:** current teaching trends, edtech integration, education policy and reform, etc.