THE STUDENTS, THE SENATOR, AND THE POWER OF TWITTER

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www.mrstg.com
www.twitter.com/MrsTG
www.twitter.com/MrsTGsKiddos

Photo credit: “Twitter” by ELDH on Twitter
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On April 10, 2011,
after having set up a classroom twitter account
and finding some Iowa politicians
to follow for our unit on Iowa History,
I randomly wrote:
On April 11, 2011,
I received the following email.

Hi Mrs. Te Grootenhuis,

I saw on Twitter that your students were hoping to get some questions answered from Senator Grassley. Could you email me at change.mcelhaney@grassley.senate.gov and we could discuss if having him speak with the students via IP or Skype might be a possibility? Or if they'd rather email in the questions, he could answer them in writing as well.

Thanks!

Chance McElhaney
On April 11, 2011, I then wrote:

Excited to hear via email from @ChuckGrassley! Still wondering about @SenatorHarkin, @SteveKingIA, and @TerryBranstad ...
We received:

TerryBranstad Terry Branstad
@mrstgskiddos Have you sent us an email with a question?
11 Apr

We replied:

mrstgskiddos Mrs. T.G.'s Class
@TerryBranstad Thx 4 response! We're wondering what's the hardest part of your job? Also what problems have you had to overcome? Plz reply!

We received:

TerryBranstad Terry Branstad
@mrstgskiddos I will speak with the governor and Tweet you his answers! Thanks!
On April 12, 2011, we received:

**MY TWITTER TESTIMONY**

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

As to the problems to overcome. A split Legislature, with one political party controlling each chamber, is very challenging.

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

budget problems. I believe it is critically important to position our state for the future and create the jobs that we need.

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

take in each year, spending less than we did last year. I believe we have put in place new policies to correct our

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

decisions that we need to in these difficult budget times. We had to correct a financial mess, and now spend less than we...

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

Per your questions yesterday: The hardest part of the job is maintaining the discipline to make the tough financial...

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

of Iowa. -- Tell the students thanks for their great questions! More info is found here: http://bit.ly/falU4mK Best wishes.

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

are servants of the people and recognize that we need to provide the best services in the most economical way to the people...

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

opportunity is one in the same. So I think there is an opportunity to work out our differences and recognize that we all

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

But it is also an opportunity to work together. I learned in 1984 that the Chinese symbol in their language for danger and...

12 Apr

Terry Branstad

@mrstgskiddos

As to the problems to overcome: A split Legislature, with one political party controlling each chamber, is very challenging.

12 Apr
Re: Senator Grassley
On April 27, we wrote via email:

Thanks so much for replying! Yes, we would love to SKYPE with the senator. We’ve been busy with projects and programs the past week. I’ll give you a call after school today. Thanks, Chance! We are really looking forward to this opportunity!
-Michelle TG
So, after three emails, two phone calls, and two practice Skype sessions, on May 16 at 1:05:

MY TWITTER TESTIMONY
Oh, and back on May 4…

MrsTG  Michelle TG
@TerryBranstad My @mrstgskiddos will be riding 4 hrs 2 visit DesMoines next week. Would love chance to personally say thx 4 twitter response. 4 May

in reply to ↑

@TerryBranstad
Terry Branstad

@MrsTG What day and time?
MY TWITTER TESTIMONY

May 13, 2011
Meanwhile, back on Twitter…

@MrLanesClass we just figured out that you are from Irland. That's pretty cool.
27 May

@MrLanesClassOops! We meant Ireland! Sorry for the typo!
27 May

@mrstgskiddos We looked at your website, your lunches sound nice! We bring our own lunches to school, like ricecakes, sandwiches and fruit.
31 May
MY TWITTER TESTIMONY

AND...

@MrsTG Michelle TG
Going 2 try this 2 encourage summer reading:
Read 3, Get 1 Free:
http://mrstg.edublogs.org/2011/05/20/read-three-get-one-free/
20 May

@wordsbysheela
Sheela Chari

@MrsTG Neat idea! Also, if you need more books, maybe you could partner w/ debut author groups willing to donate free books. Just a thought.

20 May via web
Then during the first week or two in June…

It was like CHRISTMAS!
And all of that was just within EIGHT WEEKS of setting up a classroom Twitter account. Imagine what a YEAR will produce?
TWITTER IN HIGH SCHOOL

Video from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv5qvSlXTmA
Downloaded and saved using http://www.zamzar.com
#1.

Build your own Personal Learning Network (PLN)

http://www.twitter.com
#2. Follow some “Rock Stars” in education
Take charge of your OWN professional development.

#3.

MY CHALLENGE TO YOU
Start a classroom (or school) Twitter account
How to Set Up a Twitter Account
(Plus other helpful tips from the folks at Twitter)
http://support.twitter.com/entries/100990-how-to-sign-up-on-twitter

Tens Steps to Kick Start Your Twitter Network
http://edte.ch/blog/2011/07/26/10-steps-to-kick-start-your-twitter-network/

Six Examples of Using Twitter in the classroom
(cont’d…)
“Just One Tweet”
Presentation from Erin Olson & Shaelynn Farnsworth
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pefA_zckUbR0wv0dJItfBcGtKowazFlcggDwOB-Yryg/edit?hl=en_US&pli=1#

See my original
“The Students, The Senator, and the Power of Twitter”
via Angela Maiers’ web site

Photo credit: “Twitter” by ELDH on Twitter
So, what do you think?