



SARAH THOMAS

How to Learn from a World of Educators

Websites: sarahdateechur.com, sarahjanethomas.com, edumatch.org and theedsquad.org

Twitter: @edu_match, @sarahdateechur, and @theedsquad

Voxer: sarahdateechur

A little bit about Sarah....

- 13th year in education (10+ years in the classroom; currently a regional technology coordinator in Maryland).
- Before becoming an educator she worked in radio, TV, and film.
- Twitter helps you get connected:
 - Sarah and Matt both felt connected almost instantaneously.
 - Getting involved with **Twitter chats** helped Sarah to quickly understand the format and Q&A flow; they have greatly increased her learning experience.
 - The right Twitter hashtags can help you to find people that are interested in the same topics that you are.
 - Allow for sharing of ideas and getting feedback quickly.
 - Access to people that you wouldn't have access to otherwise.
 - Quickly gather practical ideas to use in your classroom (save time looking elsewhere for information).
 - Collective wisdom is so much better than if we try to do things on our own.
- First steps for getting started on Twitter:
 - Create your account.
 - Add your profile photo (change the egg out).
 - Update your bio; include that you are an educator.
 - Find people to connect with.
 - You can find some people of interest here <http://www.edumatch.org/awesome-table-of-edumatch> ; these are people that are self identified as people that want to help other people.
 - Your thoughts don't need to be original. Just add your own spin.
 - 5-10 minutes each day is enough or start with some slow moving chats.

- Follow great people and continually follow more people; over time your feed will reflect more and more the kind of information you want to review.
- Twitter Hashtags to check out
 - #Ditchbook
 - #Futureready
 - #CUE
 - #ISTE18
 - #EDUMATCH
- Voxer:
 - App that basically works like a walkie talkie or radio show that you participate in. Feels personal because you listen and hear people's voices.
 - Can have 1:1 conversations, small groups, or large groups up to 500 people.
 - Groups have particular focusses.
 - First steps:
 - Download the app.
 - Set up an account.
 - Join specific groups to access the content that you have interest in.
 - Do you know anyone in a group?
 - Find a group that you want to be a part of
- Takeaways and next steps:
 - Be open to the connections, learning, and differing viewpoints.
 - Pace yourself and prioritize to avoid burnout.
 - Stretch outside your comfort zone.
 - Consider opening a Twitter account if you don't have one.
 - Tweet your thoughts using #Ditchsummit; use @sarahdateechur in your Tweet to connect with Sarah.
 - Check out <http://www.edumatch.org/books> for a free copy of EduMatch's book.