



news brief

SCHOOL EDITION

Sevenstar News Brief

Online Education Email News

www.sevenstaracademy.org

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Sevenstar Academy News

The Online Christian Curriculum

Trends and Changes in Education

The education industry is entering into a time of unprecedented change brought on in-part by the tight economy, demands of the consumer, and a growing awareness for the need to educate youth to be 21st century learners that compete in a global economy. Here is a short list of some changes that I believe are undeniably taking place:

Personalized student centric learning. The one-size-fits-all assembly line style education model is changing as technologies become available to help educators meet the individual learning needs of students. Our best teachers have long known what their students need to achieve mastery of a topic or subject, but were confined by a technology, curriculum and time model that made it difficult to truly personalize the experience. This is rapidly changing, and a shift in this direction will improve student learning.

Online Learning. Parents are demanding it, students are enjoying it, and schools are finding that it can be part of a solution that helps them better educate more students with less money. The flexibility, speed, engagement and connectedness of online learning aligns well with the sensibilities of students.

Movement from Print to Digital content. Print has a place in schools, and books will always be used. However, print curriculum is expensive, outdated when it is shipped, inflexible, undesirable to students, and not accountable for its usage. More relevant, engaging, accurate, accountable and inexpensive digital content will win the day as technologies that aggregate, display and transport content become more prevalent.

24/7 learning. Anytime-Anywhere learning is encouraged by online schools, yet even traditional schools are finding value in better connecting the teachers and students into a learning community that continues well beyond the final school day bell. Social networking and school-based communication platforms play an important technology bridge roll for 24/7 learning to become more mainstream.

-- Randy Wielhelm, CEO, NetTrekker

(a sister company of Sevenstar Academy)

Live Out The Faith

The recent events in Haiti is yet another reminder of the not only the power of our God's creation, but the opportunities we as believers in Christ have to exhibit the Love of God. No doubt, the devastation of property and lives are real, and of a great magnitude, and all of it has been and will continue to have far reaching effects. We at Sevenstar have seen and heard for ourselves examples this tremendous earthquake has had on children's education, and the lives of their families. One such example is a young girl named Rebekah.

As victims of the earthquake, Rebekah and her brother had to be taken away from her immediate family and transported to her father's family in Florida, then onto her mother's family in South Carolina. When they can rejoin their parents is unknown at this time. With the turmoil and uncertainty, Rebekah's normal routine has not just been interrupted, but turned upside down. Her ability to focus on things such as school and other "normal" aspects of her life seems impossible to her right now.

We all need to be in continued prayer for Rebekah, and the other children who have experienced this devastating event in their young lives. Loss of family members, friends from school and their neighborhoods, pets, and everyday necessities are real and plentiful.

So while our own burdens can be heavy, as believers in what Christ has done for us let us exhibit the love for our neighbors that HE exhibited for us. Seek to help those in need through the various ministries in your hometown, churches and organizations such as Samaritans Purse, Matthew 25: and many others. Live the faith.

I Cor 13:

Sevenstar Staff

New School Partnerships

We are extremely excited about being part of the expanding ministries of these new partner schools. We look forward to assisting them in fulfilling their ministry in education.

Angleton Christian School, Angleton, TX
Briarwood Christian School, Birmingham, AL
Cincinnati Christian Schools, Cincinnati, OH
Dominion Christina School, Marietta, GA
Faith Christian School, Mesa, AZ
Grace Christian School, Raleigh, NC
Living Waters Christian Academy, Foxborough, MA
Sharon Baptist Academy, Bert Allen, LA
Washtenaw Christian Academy, Saline, MI
Wesleyan Christian School, Bartlesville, OK

We are humbled when comments such as the ones below indicate our Lord is placing Sevenstar where it needs to be.

“We chose to partner with Sevenstar Academy because the company meets our requirements for high quality courses: Competent Christian teachers who seek to use their gifts to serve Christ and their students, high quality accredited academic content, a commitment to providing biblical integration for the course, quality technical support, and economic value. There are many companies that provide quality online content but Sevenstar Academy meets all of our requirements as a Christian school dedicated to preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.”

Thank you,

Barrett Mosbacker

Briarwood Christian School

Students explore the mind of God for the art of life: “Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.” (Psalm 111:2)

SAT Testing

Sevenstar can offer students or schools online SAT 10 testing at any time during the year. Contact [Dawn Bouchard](#) for more information.

The Principal's Corner

What's New in Student Activities

A new Christian Character program is being introduced to our students. Each month, we will focus on a new Christ-like characteristic, integrating it in our courses and activities through Bible verses and discussion threads. We will use that same character trait to have teachers nominate a Student of the Month who best portrays that trait. Also, we are challenging our students to read the Bible in 2010! A Facebook group for social networking is being developed and will be launched by the end of January! Future activities for the semester are a school newsletter, virtual science fair, mission trip, and much, much more!! It will be an exciting semester for our students!!

Mrs. Kristin Bird , Principal
Sevenstar Academy

Good Things Continue To Happen Through Online Christian Education

From a student who selected our Chinese language course:

"I am having a lot of fun in this Chinese class. One thing that was hard for me was when I got further into the lessons there was no more Pinyin telling you how to pronounce the Chinese words. Thanks to Mrs. McCrea she has helped me learn how to pronounce the Chinese words correctly and that Pinyin letters can have more than one characteristic. I am very glad that Sevenstar offers Chinese as a language class!"

Another student stated their case very simply -

"I'm taking on-line courses because it's the way of the future!!!"

We continue to pray for your Online education efforts and the bearing of fruit.

Online Learning on the Rise

Industry Articles and Links: (Ctrl and Click to connect)

Are any of these challenges familiar?

eschool.news@eschoolnews.com

Thousands of K-12 schools across the nation are turning to online-learning providers for help with credit recovery, enrichment opportunities for gifted students, and for providing core curriculum classes in areas where there isn't enough demand to justify keeping a teacher on staff. Online learning is also meeting a need for students who have trouble learning in a traditional school environment. What's more, it's a cost-effective way for schools to address all of these areas, which is an important consideration in the current economic climate.

Increase capacity without increasing the budget

http://www.blackboard.com/resources/k12/Bb_K12_Summary_BlendedLearning.pdf

"Educators support online learning because of its unique abilities to provide students with enriched learning experiences, to extend learning beyond the school day, and to support more successful differentiated learning strategies that personalize students' educational experiences. Additionally, as educators gain more experience with the approaches to and benefits of blended learning, they have discovered that this instructional model helps them increase capacity without commensurate increases in budget or staff."

New electronic devices could interest schools

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/01/07/new-electronic-devices-could-interest-schools/>

A fascinating list and worth reading/maybe even joining the discussion!

[21 Things That Will Become Obsolete in Education by 2020](#)

How do you feel about number 18?—Cafeteria Food!

"Some schools offer dual enrollment as AP alternative"

More high schools are offering dual-enrollment courses as an alternative to Advanced Placement courses, saying it is a more cost-effective way to offer students college credit and challenge them in their senior year. [The New York Times \(free registration\)](#)

(Sevenstar offers 130 dual credit courses—would you like to give your students the option for Christian College Courses at a great price?)

New Courses and Tuition Rates in 2010!

Last month, Sevenstar Academy announced new and revamped courses coming the fall of 2010. With this development and a lot of prayer, we need to announce as early as possible an increase in the tuition rates effective July 16, 2010. Costs incurred by partner schools, parents and students is an action Sevenstar takes very seriously, and with considerable prayer. You can rest assured that we will do all that is possible to ensure the product and service you receive from Sevenstar is reflective of what you expect. Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership.

ACSI Partners with Sevenstar for New Partnerships!

ACSI and Sevenstar are pleased to continue the member benefit *Scholarship* program, exclusive to ACSI Member schools. For a limited time your school can receive a special "start-up *scholarship*" for partnering with Sevenstar to increase your curriculum options. If you would like to learn more about ACSI and Sevenstar's start-up scholarship, please [Click Here](#) and mention "ACSI Scholarship" in the "reason for contact" box. You will be offered a **Complimentary Online Webinar**. One person that asks for more information will **win an iPhone or Netbook** on June 1, 2010.

Monthly Webinars

If you are needing more information about partnering with Sevenstar, join us during our upcoming Webinar for schools. Register by clicking the date below:

[Tuesday, February 9, 2010: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM EST](#)

Once registered you will receive an email confirming your registration with information you need to join the Webinar.

System Requirements

PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 2000, XP Home, XP Pro, 2003 Server, Vista

Macintosh®-based attendees

Required: Mac OS® X 10.4 (Tiger®) or newer

For all webinars, please log on 10 minutes early. Two reasons—you may need some software downloaded (quick, safe, and easy) and we are limited to 10 participants. Provide enough time to dial in on your phone so you can listen and ask questions. Join us and find out how we can help you provide your students a Christian online curriculum.

February Devotional

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only."
James 1:22 ESV

Jesus calls us to make a difference in our world. It does not matter what our job is, we can make a difference by doing it with excellence and an attitude that brightens the lives of those around us.

Paul B. Alexander, Teacher/Chaplain
Sevenstar Academy

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