

## Sevenstar News

The Online Christian Curriculum

### Technology in Education At Work:

As we all move through these hectic yet fulfilling first days of a new school year, we at Sevenstar thought it would be encouraging to know how one **Partner** school is pursuing twenty first century solutions to the education challenges they face today.

The Northern Beaches Christian School (NBCS) outside Sydney, Australia has been providing quality Christian education for nearly 30 years now. Established by a dedicated group of people from the Northern Beaches Christian Centre, they started with only 38 students in a church hallway and have been growing steadily since. When the 2010/2011 school year begins they will have a student population of more than 1200 and a dedicated staff of 130 supporting one of the first day schools in Australia to offer fully accredited distance online courses to students in their final two years of schooling.

The move to introduce innovative education began in 2005 when the NBCS leadership and board recognized the need to make a shift in the pedagogical practice of teachers. This was required so they could prepare students for the ever-changing work environment and be life-long learners in a technology-driven world. What followed was the creation of the *Sydney Centre for Innovation in Learning (SCIL)*, the research, development and innovation unit within NBCS.

As a direct result of research led by the SCIL, the Northern Beaches Christian School has been steadily creating 21st Century-equipped learning spaces across the campus. A good example is the recent opening of the new multimedia centre, known as the **SCIL Building**, incorporating multimedia and multi-modal learning spaces and an information hub (see picture)



Mr. Stephen Harris, the Principal of NBCS and the Director of SCIL, "is passionate about excellence in education" and has travelled the globe to learn and bring home the ideas and information needed to build such an environment. He wants their school to excel academically, but also penetrate the hearts of young people for Christ.

With over 300 visitors to the school since February, it's not hard to imagine some of the feedback they have received. Below are just a few:

*"Teacher education should be based on a school like this"*

*"A most inspiring example of transformative education in practice"*

*"The teachers and the students are totally immersed in this innovative structure and radiate its success story"*

We encourage you to go to these links to see and learn more about NBCS and SCIL, and consider how technology may take your school to the next level of instruction and learning (<http://www.nbcs.nsw.edu.au/> and <http://www.scil.nsw.edu.au/>).

We want to thank Anne Knock, Director of Development at NBCS and the SCIL for her help with this short article. If you want to contact Anne for additional information you can email her at [aknock@scil.nsw.edu.au](mailto:aknock@scil.nsw.edu.au). **It's an honor for Sevenstar to call Northern Beaches Christian School and the Sydney Centre for Innovation and Learning a partner in providing 21<sup>st</sup> century education.**

R. Mark Beadle Ed.D  
Head of School  
Sevenstar Academy

## **Our Newest School Partners**

We are SO...privileged to partner with these schools and expand the possibilities for their students.

Amherst Christian Academy, Amherst, NY  
Byne Christian School, Albany, GA  
Daystar School, Chicago, IL  
Delmarva Christian High School, Georgetown, DE  
Carolina Christian School, Asheville, NC  
Horizon Christian Academy, Cumming, GA  
Genoa Christian Academy, Westerville, OH  
Gjerasim D. Qiriazhi, Tirana, Albania  
Grove City Christian School, Grove City, OH  
James Caraway Christian Academy, Chickasha, OK  
Liberty Preparatory Academy, Moresville, NC  
Northwest Christian School, Phoenix, AZ  
Parkview Christian Academy, Yorkville, IL  
Sydney Centre for Innovation in Learning, Sydney, Australia  
Santiago Christian School, Santiago, Dominican Republic  
Santa Rosa Christian School, Santa Rosa, CA  
The First Academy, Orlando, FL  
Rincon Valley Christian School, Santa Rosa, CA

**It's all about HIM, especially when we receive email like this one:**

*"...thank you so much! i have loved this program so far... everybody acts like i'm some kind of movie star! ha ha... You make me feel so welcome."*

Sevenstar Student

**School administrators are also discovering what online curriculum and resources can mean to their schools...**

*"The Sevenstar partnership with The First Academy has broadened our platform of learning options that we can provide to our families. The course material, the experienced faculty, and the support team are second to none. If you are looking for online learning solutions, Sevenstar will deliver above and beyond your highest expectations!"*



Steve D. Whitaker, Ph.D.  
Headmaster

## **Summer/Fall Partner School Promotions**

**Generate More Revenue with Your **Sevenstar** Program**

**And Receive up to \$500 credit**

**By enrolling \*new students by September 30**

*Reach out to Homeschool families with AP and Dual credit courses, SAT/ACT Prep*

*Reach out to International students with our new ESL course (available NOW)!*

*Reach out to Public School families with your online Bible courses*

**Contact your Partner Representative today and let Sevenstar help you expand your ministry and increase your reach.**

\*students from outside your school

## **Is It Time for a Partnership??**

***Tight budgets? Shrinking enrollments? Competitive atmosphere?***

A partnership with Sevenstar can bring 21<sup>st</sup> Century solutions to these challenges, **and up to \$500 credit toward future enrollments** at the same time.

***Expand your curriculum*** with over 70 courses

***Offer "blended learning" web tools*** with "Classroom +

***Reach homeschoolers*** with college courses

***Reduce expenses*** with online Christian teachers

Go to [www.sevenstaracademy.org](http://www.sevenstaracademy.org) and fill out the "Contact Us" form, or, call 800-877-7040 and ask for a Sevenstar Partner Representative.

## Our New Courses

You told us, we listened, and now we have the following courses available this fall.

- ESL for Chinese, Korean, Spanish Speakers (3 courses)
- Consumer Math
- ACT Test Prep

...plus updates to 9 existing courses. Talk to your coach or representative to learn more.

## AP and Dual Credit at Sevenstar

All 12 of the Sevenstar AP Courses have been **approved by the College Board!** We are blessed to be one of the first schools in the country to have had this honor by August 2. The AP Course Ledger lists secondary school courses offered worldwide that are authorized to include the AP® designation when listed on students' transcripts. These courses were reviewed by the Advanced Placement Program® (AP) as part of the AP Course Audit.

Check out our list of AP Courses at:

<http://www.sevenstaracademy.org/default.asp?contentid=487>.

We do encourage you to consider the advantage to your students of dual credit courses (as opposed to AP Courses).

## CLASSROOM + (a new idea from Sevenstar)

Sevenstar encourages you to evaluate how "blended learning" might play a role in your school next year. Contact us to learn how our newest curriculum tool called "**CLASSROOM +**" will engage your students with the world, right from the classroom. ***We are accepting a limited number of teachers/schools for a pilot launch this fall.***

## And the Winner Will Be...

**This coming school year** invite your peers to use the "Contact Us" form on our website, or visit with us at a conference or meeting this year to sign up for this newsletter and possibly **win an iPad in 2011.**

## Sevenstar Webinars

Join us for one of our upcoming **Regional Webinars for schools**. Just click the link below and you will see a number of opportunities to learn more. Also consider forwarding this newsletter to a colleague or school you believe could benefit by learning about online curriculum solutions through one of these webinars.

[Next Webinar for Schools](#)

## Opportunity for Professional Development

**Register now for iNACOL's Virtual School Symposium (VSS) Conference.**

The Virtual School Symposium (VSS 2010) is November 14 – 16, 2010 at the Glendale/Phoenix Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center in Arizona. The theme of this year's Virtual School Symposium (VSS) is: "Online and Blended Learning: The Future of Education."

iNACOL is pleased to announce that the sessions and conference agenda for the Virtual School Symposium (VSS) 2010 have just been announced. Registration for the conference is open and with an "early bird" discount for a limited time! Register online at:

<http://www.virtualschoolsymposium.org/registration.php>

## Online Learning On The Rise

**\*Educators say the 'hybrid' approach is taking off because it offers academic classes not otherwise available to many students.**

By [Michelle R. Davis](#)

It isn't a stretch to say that the 200 students at Notus Jr. Sr. High School live far away from the kinds of services many people take for granted. But even in their rural Idaho school, students' choices of classes include French and Spanish, college-level study, digital photography, and criminal justice.

That's because Principal Benjamin M. Merrill has created "Pirate Academy," a roster of online courses that students can take as part of their regular school day.

"My kids are so limited in terms of where they live, I thought it was unfair that their courses should be limited," said Mr. Merrill, who was also recently named the superintendent of the 330-student Notus School District #135 and serves as the high school football coach. "Now they get to have the same quality of education... **Sevenstar has the tools to do this for you.**

From: [http://www.edweek.org/login.html?source=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/04/28/30edtech\\_blended.h29.html&destination=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/04/28/30edtech\\_blended.h29.html&levelId=2100](http://www.edweek.org/login.html?source=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/04/28/30edtech_blended.h29.html&destination=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/04/28/30edtech_blended.h29.html&levelId=2100)

**\*With student populations** surging but budgets shrinking, higher education IT departments have been faced with a significant challenge: How to meet constituents' needs without breaking the bank. The answer is virtual labs.

Go to this link to see **how virtual labs will change the way students—and staff members—interact and learn** <http://www.niit.us/content/classroom>

**\* Teacher: Why Indiana should support online learning for students**

Indiana teacher Andrea Neal is urging support in this opinion article for the state's efforts to promote online learning as another avenue for improving student achievement and graduation rates. Neal notes that while online learning is growing at significant rates in other states, concerns that these schools will make traditional schools obsolete are unfounded. Online schools simply provide students another option for pursuing an education, she writes. [NewsAndTribune.com](http://www.newsandtribune.com) (Ind.)

**\*Report: Dual-enrollment may benefit "a wide range of students"**

Dual-enrollment programs that allow students to earn college credits while they are still in high school may benefit students who are at-risk, not just top students, according to a report commissioned by an independent group within the Blackboard education company. The researchers found that dual-enrollment courses helped a range of students make the transition from high school to college, especially when student supports such as academic tutoring and teacher guidance were offered, and recommended that policies be created to increase access to the programs. [T.H.E. Journal](http://www.t.h.e.journal) (8/2)

**\*Popularity of online learning grows, though availability may lag**

The number of high-school students enrolling in at least one online course increased from 14% to 27% from 2008 to 2009, a survey shows. The number of middle-school students taking online classes increased from 16% to 21% during the same time period. Many students who did not enroll in online courses cited lack of availability and affordability as deciding factors. [T.H.E. Journal](http://www.t.h.e.journal) (6/29)

**\*Video of the Week: Policy Experts Weigh-in on Virtual Learning** by NSSEA Policy experts Paul E. Peterson, Mike Petrilli, and Michael B. Horn discuss virtual learning policy issues that can maximize student achievement in the K-12 classroom. (Source: Education Sector). Posted in e-learning, video, ...The Education Supply Playground - <http://nssea.wordpress.com/>

**\*Hear firsthand what middle and high school students are saying** about their current educational experience, why online learning is effective for students today and how the relationship between teachers and students change with the addition of an online program. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/e/webinars/onlinelearning3.htm>



## **August Devotional** (Mark Cravens)

I Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

My oldest daughter, Jessica, was just married two weeks ago. Next to her mother, she was the most beautiful bride I have ever seen! Prior to her wedding she and I had some tearful real heart-to-heart talks as we both were trying to prepare each other for the next chapter in our lives. One day I walked out to get into my car and found a card taped to my steering wheel with "Daddy" written on the front in familiar handwriting. Inside of the card, she wrote about a snowstorm that happened when she was but a small child, and how when we went out into the snow that day I had to make tracks for her and Jacinda (her twin sister) to walk in. They were only eight at the time, and the snow was up to my knees. So, I went ahead of them making footprints in the snow and then encouraged them to follow in my footprints. For some reason she never forgot that day. But it was the following sentence that really choked me up, "Daddy, that's what you have always been doing all our lives – leaving footprints for us to follow in." I could hardly read the card through my tears as the full impact of her words struck me. But the truth is that ALL of us are leaving footprints behind. Friends, family, children, and students are watching us, and, even more sobering, are following in our footsteps. Let's make sure we are truly following Christ so that, like Paul, we can say, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

## **Your Sevenstar Newsletter Subscription**

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**THANK YOU** for your interest in Sevenstar ([www.sevenstaracademy.org](http://www.sevenstaracademy.org)).