

**Sevenstar News Brief**

Online Education Email News

[www.sevenstaracademy.org](http://www.sevenstaracademy.org)

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**Sevenstar Academy News**  
**THE Online Christian Curriculum**

**Thoughts from Mark**

Many reports say that the 10 million computers added to US schools have had little educational impact. Is that true at your school or maybe even the school your child attends? I think it more the norm than the exception that for many students, months go by without touching a computer at school. This seems even truer at the middle and high school than at the elementary.

However, much is also being written and we are seeing schools/teachers implement a hybrid or blended approach to learning. One definition of this is when part of a student school day shifts to a new mode of learning or delivery that includes technology. Of course this certainly should only be done when it increases the amount of learning that occurs.

It is fun hearing and seeing schools and teachers implement change to take advantage of new tools and resources. One important change seems to be the introduction of online courses. We serve schools where 1% of the students use online courses and also schools where 100% of them are online. Either extreme or all those in between are models of blended learning. Schools are constantly seeing a change in the amount of learning through technology, and these schools, often Sevenstar Partners, are changing the educational world one student at a time.

A friend running a system of schools in Canada is Greg Bitgood. He recently did a series of 4 podcasts on this topic. If you want to learn more about this, check out [podcasts](#).

In 2010, Sevenstar will roll out new options for the traditional classroom teacher using a website to share content, have online discussions, and make their class even more valuable, fun and educational.

-- Dr. R. Mark Beadle, Head of Sevenstar Academy

Note: Some additional reading on the subject can found by connecting to the following link.

[http://www.blackboard.com/resources/k12/Bb\\_K12\\_Summary\\_BlendedLearning.pdf](http://www.blackboard.com/resources/k12/Bb_K12_Summary_BlendedLearning.pdf)

## 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.

The King's Academy, West Palm Beach FL  
Valley Christian High School, Oshkosh WI  
Tianjin International School, Tianjin, PR China  
First Assembly Christian School, Winston Salem NC  
Westbay Christian Academy, Redwood CA  
Covenant Christian School, Aurora IL  
Ben Lippen School, Columbia SC

## Welcome to Our New "Coaches"

We are also excited to announce and introduce a couple of fantastic guys that are joining our team as "Partnership Coaches." **John Pohlman and Andy Christopher** began assisting our partner schools Monday, Dec 14 with the various requirements and needs that may arise on any given day regarding the Sevenstar online curriculum experience.

John will be working with our Reps and schools in the East and can be reached at 814-356-4114.  
Andy will be working with Reps and schools in the West and can be reached at 707-677-9011.  
Each of these "Coaches" will help our partners truly implement the systems and strategies their schools. He will be the "go to" person for any needs at the school as it relates to training, equipping and preparing schools to launch online learning in their community. They're going to be a great help to all of us.

## SAT Testing

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

## Online Learning on the Rise

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

[Building a digital classroom: Online learning options are growing](#)

By tcnixon Virtual School News - <http://virtualschoolnews.com/>

For those interested in knowing where to go regarding national standards for online learning, you can use the following link. **Sevenstar Academy** supports the standard established and ensures all course material meets such standards.

<http://www.inacol.org/research/nationalstandards/>

Here's an article worth reading and passing on. It may make a difference in someone's day.

[Kindness taught in Seattle school's online class](#) - Seattle Times

Click on the link below to see how South Carolina has taken to the idea of online learning.

[South Carolina Ranked Second in Nation for Developing Online](#)

By Isabella O'Neill Columbia, SC News

### **New Courses for Fall-2010!**

The Sevenstar Academic Committee has recently announced the following information regarding the redevelopment, enhancement and creation of courses for the fall of 2010. The work required to complete these improvements and additions is expected to be done by Aug 1. Any exceptions to that will be announced as soon as it is known

#### **Completely Redeveloped Courses:**

- M/J Math 1
- M/J Math 2
- Economics
- Spanish I
- M/J US History
- AP English Language and Composition
- Algebra I
- English IV
- AP Art history
- Chemistry
- Algebra II

#### **Enhanced Versions**

- Biology
- Latin

#### **New Courses**

- Consumer Math
- ELL/ESL (tentative but expected)

#### **In the works**

- ACT Test Prep (earliest date 1/2011)

### **ACSI Partners with Sevenstar for New Partnerships!**

ACSI and Sevenstar are pleased to offer a member benefit exclusive to ACSI Member schools. For a limited time there is a special "start-up scholarship" for schools that partner with Sevenstar.

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.

As a testimony to the support and encouragement ACSI provides to all of us in Christian education, the following is from a new partner school who has recently taken advantage of the **ACSI/Sevenstar Scholarship Program**:

"I want to thank ACSI for the benefit rendered to our school from Sevenstar Academy. Oaxaca Christian School is an ACSI associate school and as such qualified for a discount in partnering with Sevenstar. Thanks for making this possible for us.

Oaxaca Christian School is a small independent school for missionary children in southern Mexico. We run K-12 classes and have less than 40 students. Our classes are in English; most of our students are thoroughly bilingual, as you might imagine. We are neither accredited nor certified by ACSI, but we are glad to have the opportunity to be an associate member.

We are staffed occasionally by parents, but mostly by dedicated and qualified missionary volunteers. We nearly always see our graduates go on to significant universities in the U.S. (both Christian and secular). We even had two grads go on to military academies. We must be doing something right!" - *School Principal*

### **Good Things Continue To Happen Through Online Christian Education**

From a student who selected our Personal Fitness and Health course:

"...Thank You Mrs. Lana for all your help in this class. This was my first year for an online class and you helped me out a lot, thank you. I am finished this class so soon because it's my favorite! I love learning about the body and how God designed our bodies. I also loved learning things about life lessons and how to make wiser choices and say no... and the best part is my faith has grown stronger through this course. I mean who knew that a computer could be a witness to Christ. I loved taking this class and thank you again...

Your Student, Cayla Lutz"

### **Monthly Webinars**

Please join us for one of our upcoming Webinars for schools for more information about partnering with Sevenstar. Register by clicking a date below:

[Thursday, January 7, 2010: 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM EST](#)

[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.

## **January Devotional Message**

**Luke 5:36 (NKJV)** Then He spoke a parable to them: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old."

Are you truly prepared for something "new?" Or are you simply starting a New Year as though it is an added patch to your existing circumstances? 2010 is an exciting opportunity to seek God from something brand new!

*Invite His creative presence into your life to do something within you that is completely new. Ask the Lord to open your heart to His redemptive action in and through you as you start this year.*

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