

## Sevenstar News

The Online Christian Curriculum

### Learning in the 21st Century: 2010 Trends Update



Today's students are ready now to seize and shape the future by leveraging technology tools to implement their personalized vision for 21st century education. Online learning is at the heart of this momentum as it satisfies the three essential elements of this new student vision: learning that is socially-based, un-tethered and digitally-rich. But with the demand for online learning projected to grow each year, are our schools and educators ready and able to fully meet the challenge? This latest installment in a series of focused reports on online learning provides new insights into both the demand and supply side of this challenge with interesting new trends in the preparation of new teachers and the role of parents in influencing student views on online learning.

Key trends highlighted in the report include:

- The number of high school students who are taking online classes for school credit has almost doubled since Speak Up 2008.
- While the number of teachers who have taught online classes has tripled since Speak Up 2008, we still have more work to do to help teachers learn how to effectively leverage online learning to drive student achievement and increase their own productivity.
- Even as aspiring teachers are gaining experience with online classes and online professional learning communities as part of their teacher preparation programs, only 4 percent report that they are learning how to teach online classes in their instructional methods courses.
- Administrators are beginning to shift their focus on online learning from professional development for teachers to online classes for students.
- Thirty-three percent of parents report they have taken an online class for their own professional needs or personal interests. Parents' personal experiences with online learning are affecting how their children view the benefits of online learning as well.

[Download Now](#) \*(From the Speak Up National Research Project associated with Project Tomorrow and Blackboard Inc.)

Sevenstar is excited to be part of this growing trend toward personalized learning. We want Christian schools everywhere to see the value of adding this technology to their ministry, and we stand ready to assist as partners in that effort.

Dr. Mark Beadle

Head of School

## **Our Newest School Partners**

We are praying for each of these schools who recently chose to make online learning part of their ministry.

Aberdeen Christian School, Aberdeen, SD  
American Christian Academy, Ibedan, Nigeria  
Apple Valley Christian School, Apple Valley, CA  
Bethlehem Christian School, Bethlehem, PA  
Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, KY  
Calvary Chapel Christian School, Idaho Falls, ID  
Christian Heritage School, Edwall, WA  
Cornerstone Christian School, New City, NY  
Cumberland Christian School, Vineland, NJ  
Decatur Christian School, Forsyth, IL  
Desert Christian Schools, Lancaster, CA  
Franklin Christian Academy, Franklin, TN  
Front Range Christian School, Littleton, CO  
Fulton County Community Christian School, Needmore, PA  
Heritage Christian Academy, Falmouth, MA  
Jackson Christian School, Jackson, MI  
Mount Zion Christian Schools, Manchester, NH  
Praise, Power and Prayer Christian School, Windsor, CT  
Santiam Christian School, Corvallis, OR  
Saddleback Valley Christian Schools, San Juan Capistrano, CA  
Statesville Christian School, Statesville, NC  
Tri-City Christian School, Vista, CA  
Trinity Christian Academy, Barnstable, MA

### **Here is how one student expressed her experience with Sevenstar:**

*"My name is Jessica, and I received a 5 on the AP US history exam this year. The course I took with Sevenstar really helped me learn the information necessary to do well on the test. The textbook reading and lessons really enhanced my understanding of United States history and taught me the essentials for writing a good, noteworthy essay in order to score a 5 on the exam. I am really glad I took this challenging course, and I know it will be rewarding in the future."*

Jessica, Miami Valley Christian Academy, OH

**School administrators are also finding Sevenstar courses expand the curriculum options for their students:**

*"Our school could not always meet the upper level academic demands of some parents and students. The Sevenstar Partnership and courses meant we can offer more AP courses, keep students challenged and parents happy."*

Barbara Foster

Student Services Director

Shenyang International School (Asia)

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

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

**Receive up to**

**\$500 credit**

**By enrolling \*new students in your online program 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 August 1, 2010)!*

*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 the value of your online learning program**

\*students from outside your school

**\* Attention Non-Partner Schools \***

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

Consider a **partnership with Sevenstar** to bring 21<sup>st</sup> Century solutions to these challenges, **and receive 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.

## **New Courses Launching August 1**

We are excited to be able to continue to expand our curriculum based on what you tell us is needed. We believe the following courses present some exciting material and opportunities for student to expand their horizons.

- ESL for Chinese, Korean, Spanish Speakers (3 courses)
- ESL (all these include a live tutor and teacher)
- Consumer Math
- ACT Test Prep

## **And the Winner Will Be...**

**This coming school year** we will continue to look for educators wanting to know how Sevenstar can partner with them to bring online learning to their classrooms. Invite your peers to use the "Contact Us" form on our website, or visit with us at conference and meetings 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 during the month of July. You can also forward 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." Come learn about online and blended solutions in K-12 education using new instructional models, digital content approaches and technology tools for next generation learning. Register online at: <http://www.virtualschoolsymposium.org/registration.php>.

### Classroom +

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.***

## Online Learning On The Rise

### ASU is offering online certificate program in Web-based teaching

Arizona State University's first completely online graduate certificate program will offer educators training in the teaching of online K-12 courses. The program is designed for teachers who want to develop, implement and assess Web-based or hybrid online programs at their schools, and it will include classes in policies, theories, course development and field applications of Internet-based instruction. [T.H.E. Journal](#) (6/21)

### Online summer school helps students master concepts

Online summer-school courses are helping students in one Iowa school district master key skills and concepts they may have missed last school year and get a head start on a new year of school. Students can work at their own pace in the online courses, which are on-site at three district schools, and teachers can offer one-on-one support. "At first I didn't want to come, but now I see that it's really helping me," one student said. [Waterloo Courier \(Iowa\)](#)

### Teachers report students are learning more with technology

Teachers who often use technology in the classroom believe their students are learning more, according to a survey of more than 1,000 educators. The data, collected by researchers at Walden University, also found that newer teachers were just as likely as veteran teachers to utilize classroom technology, and that many teachers said they lack training in classroom technology. Researchers said teachers' skill level when using the technology is the most prominent factor in how much students benefit. [T.H.E. Journal](#) (6/28) , [Education Week/Digital Education blog](#) (6/28)

## 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](#) (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>

## **July Devotional** (Mark Cravens)



**Galatians 6:9** “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Jean Giono, a French author, while climbing the French Alps in 1913, was dismayed to discover how barren the mountains had become due to careless deforestation. One day he happened upon a shepherd’s cottage where he was graciously invited to spend the night. That evening he witnessed this poor shepherd sorting through piles of acorns analyzing each one to see it was suitable for planting. To his amazement, he discovered that this shepherd had already planted over 100,000 acorns over the past three years, and that nearly a fifth of those seeds had sprouted into oak trees. Many years later, Giono returned to the same area and was shocked to see a vast forest emerging where devastation had once been. For by faithfully planting these acorns, the shepherd had slowly brought the forest back to life. We too are in the “seed planting” business. Each day, and in ways we sometimes don’t even realize, we are planting seeds. Not all of them may sprout or ever reach maturity, but as Paul stated, “we shall reap in due season if we faint not.” So, let’s keep planting the seeds!



### **Your Sevenstar Newsletter Subscription**

To view and print past newsletters, please visit the [News Page](#) on our website. You received this email because you subscribed to Sevenstar's free e-newsletter. To unsubscribe, please write us at [Unsubscribe](#).

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