



JEI
EDUCATION NEWSLETTER
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The Virtual School is Coming

With the growth of internet use and online learning, there is one question that parents and educators throughout the U.S. are asking most: Will kids learn virtually in the future? Judging by the success that college-level online learning has seen, the logical progression is for elementary-, middle-, and high school students to participate in online classes as well. While there are sure to be some fully-online schools, it is highly unlikely that schools as we know them will disappear altogether.

For various reasons, many parents prefer the virtual classroom over the brick-and-mortar kind. Unlike in a typical classroom, online curricula can be customized, allowing students to progress at a pace that best serves their individual learning styles. And the learning experience still involves face-to-face interaction via the use of webcams. There are still quizzes, reading and writing assignments, and physical

textbooks sent through the mail. And though technology glitches can present some problems, the software is getting better.

There are already a few accredited online K-through-12 programs, such as the Laurel Springs School, based out of Ojai, California, and Global Virtual Classroom, which serves students in many countries. But prior to enrolling a child in a virtual classroom, parents need to arm themselves with the right information, asking such questions as "What is the student-teacher ratio?", "How will my child be assessed?", and "What type of curriculum will my child be taught?"

As students transition into the virtual classroom, the adjustment period can be lengthy and demanding. Students at a younger age will need to adjust to a college-level type of environment, where taking responsibility for one's own learning is imperative. These requisite organizational skills place more of

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JEI Math Olympiad 2014

Sign up and save your spot!

JEI MATH OLYMPIAD
 (For grades 1 through 8)

Saturday, March 15, 2014
 (Registration deadline: March 8)
 Entry Fee: \$20 for members / \$30 for non-members
 Event Time: 9:30AM - 11:00AM / Parent Seminar: 10:10AM

PRIZES
 Grand Prize: \$1,000 College Scholarship
 • Samsung Galaxy Tab
 1st Place Prizes (8): Samsung Galaxy Tab
 2nd Place Prizes (8): Lenovo IdeaTab
 3rd Place Prizes (8): Apple iPod shuffle
 Gift bags for all participants!

COMPETITION VENUES
 • Queensborough Community College
 222-85 56th Ave.
 Bayside, NY 11354
 • Linwood Middle School
 25 Linwood Place
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902
 • John F. DiMuzio Middle School
 230 Tryon Ave.
 Englewood, NJ 07631

JEI Learning Centers

For more info, please check our website
www.jeilearning.com

Read about the 2014
 JEI Math Olympiad on page 4.

The State of Education: Why Reading Matters

By Julie Cline

Kids ask a lot of questions: “What does that sign say?” “What does that mean?” “Why?” Maybe it’s the reason you’ve stopped taking road trips. But curiosity is a good thing. It’s the most effective way for anyone to grow.

Last week, in President Obama’s State of the Union Address, he said, “One of best investments we can make in a child’s life is high-quality early education.” Every child has the potential to get ahead if given extra help—help beyond the hours spent in school. The simplest way we can do our part is to read aloud to our children, and with our children, and then encourage them to read on their own. And the earlier the better. It’s important, then, to set aside time for reading, whether it’s in the evenings or before sending them off to school, pre-school, or even day care. Then, when your kids are a little older, it couldn’t hurt to read newspaper stories with them, or listen to speeches like the president’s.

And at every step of the way, it’s important to talk with your kids. It is not just an educator’s responsibility to keep up with the curriculum for every grade. Engaging your children in daily conversations about what they’re doing in class will help them remember the material and put it into practice. In the 4th grade, for instance, your child will be taught that a simile is a statement using “like” or “as” to compare two unrelated ideas or things, and that a metaphor uses the word “is” to do the same. (“My love is like a long-stemmed rose—simile; “My love is a rose”—metaphor.) That may sound like trivia, something useful only for tests, but we actually use metaphors and similes every day. It’s surely a concept that will benefit your child well beyond the 4th and 5th grades.

In his speech, President Obama called for more rigorous curricula in “problem solving, critical thinking, science, technology, engineering, and math.” This will mean more tests comprised of essay questions, and more in-depth reading and writing assignments in the



Julie Cline, R&D Coordinator at JEI Learning Centers

language arts. The ability to compose clear, persuasive essays requires a high level of engagement, and that’s not easy to manage these days. At any given crosswalk in America, you’ll find a group of kids gripping their phones, texting and bumping into one another. Although it would be no less risky, were they to have their noses in books (or e-readers) they would at least be better positioned to get into college. That’s because reading so strengthens our analytical skills and deepens our understanding of humanity, that it is fundamental to virtually every field of study.

Change is hard. But if we keep answering children’s questions, and asking more of our own, little-by-little we will get there. So talk to your child. Have those conversations.

**Math
English
Reading**

www.jeilearning.com



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Franchise Opportunities

Briefs

Kids Know Difference Between Reality and Imagination

Children understand magic and the difference between fiction and fantasy. They recognize that the imaginary friend is not real and that the monster in the closet doesn't exist. Kids do however spend more time than we do in imaginary play. That doesn't mean they believe the fantasy world is real; they just prefer to hang out there.

(www.educationnews.org, 01/2014)

Give Your Child the Music Advantage

In the past twenty years, scientific research has demonstrated advantages for any child who learns music. Music affects us from the womb onward. Babies recognize tunes, even up to three months before birth, and kids who are given musical training have better verbal memories than those who have not had lessons.

(www.parents.com 01/2014)

Parents Want Student Data Safeguarded

Research shows that to protect students and their data, American parents overwhelmingly believe that students' information should be more heavily safeguarded, and a majority even wonder how schools are able to access and gather such sensitive data. Greater transparency, tighter security, and restrictions on third parties are in demand by most U.S. parents to protect data collected in schools. 89% of those surveyed said they are 'very' or 'somewhat' concerned about advertisers using kids' personal data for marketing purposes, but six in ten said they were in the dark over how their local schools collect and store such data online or whether private companies were involved. Services including Google should face restrictions on building data profiles and demographics based on students' email searches and web history.

(www.educationnews.org, 01/2014)

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 an onus on the child, rather than on a teacher or parent, to get their work done.

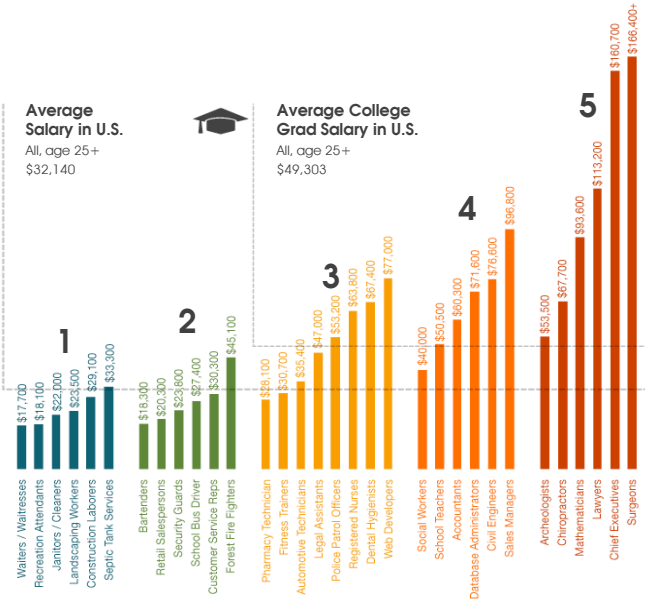
Further, although much interaction exists between students and teachers online, maintaining a true interpersonal connection is likely not possible. As an article on Global Post states, "To build and maintain personal and professional relationships," traditional classrooms "offer greater personal contact with other students." A lack of socialization outside of the classroom may produce deficits in a child's lifelong development.

On the plus side, teachers in a virtual classroom may interact with a student for longer time spans than a teacher leading upwards of 35 students in a typical class. And online teachers will be able to focus more on teaching rather than classroom management. Also, unlike in a brick-and-mortar class, students will have the opportunity to pose questions as they arise.

As of 2011, the U.S. Department of Education has conducted 51 major studies on virtual education, but only seven of these have concentrated on elementary grades. The results have been mixed: while some studies have reported scores from online classes as being lower in math and reading, other studies suggest that elementary reading and math scores have matched or exceeded those of traditional schools.

For now, as traditional classrooms continue to incorporate elements of online learning, educators will need to further develop the skills for teaching in such a setting. Parents, too, must educate themselves in order to prepare children for the new experience.

EDUCATION'S EFFECT ON INCOME



Zone 1

Some of these jobs may require a high school diploma or GED certificate.

Zone 2

Most of these jobs usually require a high school diploma.

Zone 3

These jobs require training in vocational schools or an associate's degree.

Zone 4

Most of these jobs require a four-year bachelor's degree, but some do not.

Zone 5

These jobs require graduate school (a master's degree, Ph.D., M.D., or law degree).

JEI Math Olympiad 2014 – March 15

JEI is proud to announce the JEI Math Olympiad, to be held on Saturday, **March 15, 2014**. The competition will provide JEI members and non-members in grades 1 through 8 with the opportunity to test their mathematical and problem-solving skills.

The contest will take place at four major locations on the West

Coast, and four major locations on the East Coast, including Canada. During the competition, parents are welcome to join the JEI Parent Seminar.

The nationwide Grand Prize winner will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be given for each grade level in each of the two regions. At the end of the event,

every participant will receive a special JEI gift bag – just for joining in!

For details, please contact your local JEI Learning Center. Interested students should register by March 8, 2014. Space availability is limited, so save your spot right away!

Math Olympiad Information

Date & Time Entry Fee

Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 9:30AM
\$20 for JEI members, \$30 for non-JEI members

Competition Venues

- Northern California (Union City)
- Southern California (Los Angeles, San Diego)
- Northern New Jersey (Englewood)
- Central New Jersey (North Brunswick)
- New York (Bayside)
- Canada (Toronto, Vancouver)

To Register JEI Parent Seminar

Please contact your local JEI Learning Center. Seminar meets during the competition.

Prizes



Grand Prize: \$1,000 College Scholarship (1)
1st Place: Samsung Galaxy Tabs (16)
2nd Place: Lenovo IdeaPads (16)
3rd Place: iPod shuffles (16)



Gift bags for all participants!

Updates to be announced at www.jeilearning.com

www.jeilearning.com

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