

PANORAMA of EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS

An Old Educator's Views on Adventist Education
January 2011

Christian Education:

The book, *EDUCATION* tells us, "True education means more than pursuing a certain course of study. It has to do with the whole person, and with the whole period of existence possible to human beings. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers."

This month our pursuit of excellence in education brings us to the subject of educational videos and a website designed to help kids, teachers, and parents collect and organize educational videos. Larry Sanger, a co-founder of Wikipedia, and a team of editors, programmers, and assistants have developed www.watchknow.org Rosa Ponti, a teacher at Harrisburg Adventist School, brought this site to our attention.

What is WatchKnow.org? Imagine hundreds of thousands of great short videos, and other media, explaining every topic taught to school kids. Then imagine them rated and sorted into a giant directory, making them simple to find. WatchKnow.org—as in, "You watch, you know"—is a non-profit online community devoted to this goal.

Over **22,000** free teaching videos are available on www.watchknow.org The videos cover nearly every educational topic and are easy to find with the intuitive directory and search feature. All major subject areas are covered as well as staff development sections. There is even a humorous videos section: www.watchknow.org/SearchResults.aspx?SearchText=satire

Create Your Own Class Video Site

You can create your own classroom subdomain where you can collect and place your favorite videos in a branded classroom. You can easily assign student accounts and track viewing. This feature is unique in that you set it up so only **your** students can view the videos. Did I mention it was all **FREE**?

The Videos May be Filter Free

This may be even bigger news. Videos placed on www.watchknow.org are acceptable to most district filters. This could mean that videos that have been linked on WatchKnow.org to other sources could be shown in your classroom. This includes videos from YouTube, among others. Give it a try. Go to your school computer and search www.watchknow.org a range of videos that you know may have been blocked from other sources. Chances are you'll be able to see it.

Differentiate and Remediate

WatchKnow.org is a non-profit site which means that there aren't any charges. It offers you the opportunity to individualize your lessons without cost and add depth to lessons for those students who learn quickly, need remediation or benefit from visual presentations.

Easy to use Search Engine

Within a minute you can quickly see what videos are in your area of need, find out its rating by others teachers, and even narrow your search by age level. No need to spend time wading through a bunch of so-so videos. Teachers are adding videos daily so you may want to check back as your lessons progress. We even plan on connecting videos to standards in the future to make it even better for finding relevant content that matches your curriculum.

What Others Say

Teachers, parents, and students love the site. But, don't take my word for it. Check out the evaluations of the site from users at www.watchknow.org/raves.aspx

Check it Out

Become a member and spend a couple of minutes on the site. See if it fits your needs. If you want to add a video please do. Remember that www.watchknow.org is a teachers' site supported by teachers for teachers. It is **not** a for profit site.

The PA Video Contest

If you are interested in learning about the PA Video Contest, send a message to vj3_poe@yahoo.com PA schools are encouraged to submit videos. Others may want to plan such a contest for their Conference or for their school. The idea is to think beyond a certain course of study and begin the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers open before us.

THE END That's it for the **January PET** newsletter. I hope you found something you wanted to read, download, and/or use. If you have any questions, comments, or complaints, send them to: vj3_poe@yahoo.com Remember, Circle.Adventist.org has all of the back issues of PET Newsletter.

Vaughn Ferris III



Find them at: http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=691

I pray you continue to realize the blessings God has for you as you minister to His kids,

(Note: Links above are live. You can click on them to go to the site.)