

CIRCLE ENEWSLETTER

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A. ADVENTIST EDUCATION TOOLS ONLINE

Preliminary review of the NAD Profile '07 Survey data indicates busy teachers would like to know more about online resources, but don't have time during the school year. This summer, let this e-newsletter be your guide to discovering untapped resources just a click away:

1. **NADEducation** is the official online presence of the *North American Division Office of Education*. This website communicates guiding philosophy, administrative policy, NAD-required K-12 curriculum, marketing resources, school contact information and websites, and links to additional services it sponsors or recommends. J2E, CIRCLE and TDEC are websites sponsored by the NAD Office of Education, for specific services. <http://nadeducation.org>
2. **CIRCLE**, acronym for the *Adventist Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators*, serves as a clearinghouse for Adventist education. CIRCLE's priority is to seek out and connect uniquely Adventist-designed curriculum, instruction and education administration resources K-20. CIRCLE will link you to official curriculum documents from NAD and other divisions, as well as teacher-created articles, lessons, courses and publications from every world region. While large educational databases may easily connect NAD teachers to US public education resources, CIRCLE is your conduit to Adventist items that major web search engines will not list in the top 10-20 search returns. Linking those who have with those who need redemptive education tools at any level, in any land is CIRCLE's service. <http://circle.adventist.org>
3. **J2E**, acronym for *Journey to Excellence*, is the guiding framework for Adventist education in North America. The J2E website provides an overview of the purposes and preferred practices built on ten goals. Use this site to align school plans and curriculum development as one might adjust one's journey after consulting a compass, to ensure the desired destination is reached. Each of the ten preferred practices links to CIRCLE's database, organizing philosophical and practical documents aligned with these guidelines. Visit these four sections for an overview: the home page interactive model, Purpose:Goals, Practice:Classroom Instruction – Spiritual Resources, and Products:Key Learnings K-8. <http://www.journeytoexcellence.org>

4. **TDEC** is an acronym for NAD's K-12 *Technology and Distance Education Committee* with representatives in each union guiding recommendations for educational technology and teacher training to best utilize technology in education. TDEC's website, <http://nadtdec.org>, includes links to NAD technology policy, implementation guidelines, discounted prices for NAD education, a blog with tips to tech use and teacher continuing ed tech requirements. **Adventist Edforum** is a Google chat room for Adventist educators, for any topic, but is most often used for discussion of technology – join <http://groups.google.com/group/AdventistEdForum?hl=en>
 5. Several NAD higher education collaborative services are worth noting, not included in the Profile '07 Survey. **ADEC**, the *Adventist Digital Education Consortium*, facilitates collaboration to enhance Christian education among its 13 member institutions (NAD higher education) with the aid of digital technology. ADEC is actively working on cross-campus credits for online courses – see what's already available at <http://www.sdaedu.org>. Launched in 2007, <http://adventistcolleges.org> provides a centralized connection to all *Adventist higher education programs* in North America. **AVLN**, *Adventist Virtual Learning Network*, <http://avln.org>, facilitates collaboration through online courses in using technology in education K-20, and conferences networking Adventist educators globally.
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B. CIRCLE 101

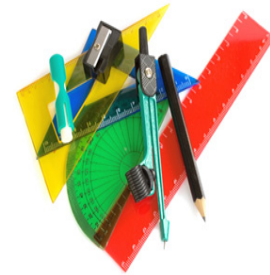
Ever tried to find a document in someone else's filing cabinet or on another computer? Understanding CIRCLE's information management system will save you time and avoid frustration. Try this 5-minute tutorial:

1. A database allows you to display resources in any number of categories. Information management seeks to organize resources in the most logical way for as many users as possible, ideally with ways to tailor the display to different groups of users. The alternative, static pages, soon become time consuming to keep updated as the number of resources increase. CIRCLE is built on robust, standards-compliant, open-source software, making it possible to serve the world of Adventist education in multiple languages, across all levels. Respecting a wide variety of access speeds internationally, graphics are used minimally.
2. Begin by viewing the Category Tree at <http://circle.adventist.org/browse/tree.phtml>. Like a site map, this interactive tree shows all subjects, topics, and crosslinks (preceded by @). The categories are dynamic, easy to update and change. System-developed curricula and administrative documents as well as teacher-created content, recommended online and published resource links build this network. It's easy to submit resources at <http://circle.adventist.org/submit/> or email them to glynisb@andrews.edu.
3. Some users prefer to browse, others search. Browsing allows you to see the contents of the CIRCLE database, structured by subject or topic. This is most useful when you are exploring and do not have a specific resource in mind. For more information, see the [browsing help page](#). Searching, on the other hand,



allows you to see a custom-generated list of resources which match your query. You can, for example, look for resources with a given author or resources which match a specific word or phrase. See the [search help page](#) for more information.

4. If you're not finding what you need by browsing or searching, peruse the keywords lists at <http://circle.adventist.org/search/keywords.phtml> Over 11,000 keywords are indexed alphabetically, many unique to our Adventist education system, the rest aligned with ERIC and other large education/specialized databases. See the [keyword help page](#) for more information.
5. If resource lists appear cluttered or irrelevant, you'll appreciate the power of filters. For example, as CIRCLE serves Adventist educators globally, the grade-break for elementary and secondary schools varies greatly by country. Further, the majority of Adventist teachers serve in small, multi-grade settings, with any range of grade possible. Using filters, you can select a minimum and maximum grade level, and all resources shown until you cancel this setting, will be limited to your tailored window. You can set one or more filters at any time. Other useful filters include:
 - a. resource type (e.g. only articles, or software, or lesson plans),
 - b. religious origin (e.g. only Adventist-created resources),
 - c. language (will increasingly become important as the international resource base grows), or
 - d. date added (e.g. only those entered since you last visited CIRCLE).
 - e. Set filters from the tools box on the right of any browse or search page. See the [filters help page](#) for more information.
6. Knowledge gained through learning on the job is both the most valuable and most difficult type of resource to gather for Adventist education. The editorial feature (being renovated currently) facilitates collegial sharing of wisdom learned through experience, and provides place for collaboration in answering questions an isolated teacher might have – tapping into the global community of Adventist educators is our goal. *Making CIRCLE the unique place to find and share resources that put the philosophy of Adventist education into practice is our priority.* Your help is needed – just one resource submission a year each will make a huge difference! Not a writer? Not sure how to format something you're willing to share? We can help – contact us. Or have you appreciated another teacher's lessons/units/creative classroom management strategies? Send us contact information and we'll do the rest.



Still puzzled? Please contact us by email, phone, mail or a visit (info below). CIRCLE is more than a website; it's a service researching individual teacher's resource needs, connecting by whatever means works best for you. Your suggestions and questions improve CIRCLE's service. This Profile '07 response echoes others, "Keep this going! The network it provides to teachers is excellent."

40%+ of Profile '07 respondents answering the technology questions so far have never used CIRCLE or other NAD online resources. "I was unaware that these websites

existed. I will definitely check them out while I have time this summer....There is so much information available here....” *The best promotion is personal testimony.* Thank you for telling colleagues, and forwarding this to teacher-friends in other schools/regions, as not all conference superintendents or school principals are distributing CIRCLE e-newsletters. Individual subscriptions are welcome (see footer below).

C. EARN PAC CREDIT FOR CIRCLE SUBMISSIONS

Knowledge perishes. Each year, Adventist teachers create instructional materials, then move on or retire, and their investment is often lost. Much time and money could be saved if every teacher shared their ONE best personally created resource through CIRCLE each year. Imagine accessing over 60,000 new teaching tools each year, reflecting the Adventist worldview from 7,000 Adventist schools and colleges.

Have you considered sharing resources, but don't have the time? The good news is that NAD K-12 teachers can now negotiate PAC credit with their union certification registrar for personally developed resource submissions to CIRCLE. Lesson starters, lesson plans or ideas, thematic units, course outlines, school-wide master plans intentionally built on the Adventist worldview are all welcome. Submit documents online, or email them. Once approved, send the link to your union registrar, to receive PAC credit for the number of hours you negotiated.

It's not too late to share this summer!



What to submit? Profile '07 respondents so far have requested more teacher-created curriculum materials for:

1. Early elementary – Pre-K through 2nd grade
2. Special Ed – by the way, thanks to 633 NAD teachers who have completed the NAD Survey of Special Needs to date – its not too late to click that link in your email invitation – the data coming in will provide help in shaping resources for our schools!
3. Science – I've recently added many links to major online sources, but your lesson and course plans that integrate faith are missing here!
4. High school – in general, and specifically, Geography and History – I certainly agree – calling academy teachers!
5. Lesson plans – at all levels, in all subjects, uniquely Adventist, and specifically mentioned, English, History, and Bible
6. Resources for Physical Education and Health
7. Math, organized by curriculum strands – every subject and topic in CIRCLE can easily be expanded as resources are added and subdivisions make sense, so email me directly with suggestions for new categories for which you have at least 5 resources ready to share
8. Canadian teachers, your lessons and Adventist-integrating themes using Canadian government curriculum *are* valuable – to your colleagues as well as many other divisions where government curriculum must be covered from a biblically integrated Adventist framework. You'll find these listed under the Canadian Union topic as well as by appropriate subject. Contact me for details.
9. Can't find it on CIRCLE? Submit what you've developed to fill this gap, or email a request and we'll help you find it!

D. MAKE A SPIRITUAL IMPACT ON CAMPUS

Andrews University offers the *Graduate Certificate in Campus Spiritual Leadership* which equips individuals for making the most of ministry opportunities. With specialty tracks for the public campus and the Christian campus, it is perfectly suited to your desire to reach students and staff, enhancing your Christian discipleship skills. Don't miss your potential to make a Christian impact on campus! Church members, teachers, chaplains, ministry professionals, faculty, pastors, parents, professors, graduate students... ALL who share this passion are invited to apply. To learn more, visit http://www.andrews.edu/sem/reled/programs/campus_leadership.pdf, email reled@andrews.edu or call 269-471-8618.

E. MARKET YOUR SCHOOL ON STAMPS

Create stamps with photos of school activities, using <http://photostamps.com> and turn routine mailings (monthly statements, report cards, school newsletters, fundraising letters to church/alumni) into marketing tools! Sell the stamps ready printed to parents and church members to increase the personalized promotion.

F. AVLN TECHNOLOGY CLASS STILL OPEN

You can still take a technology class this summer with AVLN. *Integrating Technology through Service*, will be offered July 9 - Aug. 3, by instructor Shelley Bacon, if at least 7 participants register. Convenient & affordable. More info at <http://www.avln.org/article.php?id=26> and <http://www.avln.org/site/1/docs/07techflyer.pdf>

G. THIS MONTH'S FEATURED RESOURCES

Through CIRCLE, you can connect to resources from every NAD union and other divisions. Here's a big-picture sampling to tour:

1. Atlantic Union's Teacher Bulletin, <http://www.teacherbulletin.org/>, provides excellent ready-to-use K-8 materials
2. Florida Conference's Adventist Education for the 21st Century, <http://www.ae21.org/>
3. Southern Union's Adventist Edge, <http://www.adventistedge.org/>
4. Lake Union's Pathways of the Pioneers, <http://www.whiteestate.org/pathways/pioneers.asp>
5. Access full EGW writings and new resources for kids from <http://www.whiteestate.org/>
6. Download Ohio Conference's Social Studies <http://circle.adventist.org/download/SoSMART.pdf> and Science <http://circle.adventist.org/download/SMART.pdf> Management Tools for small elementary schools
7. Network with Canadian teachers, <http://catnet.sdacc.org/> - online SDA teacher talk can happen!
8. North Pacific Union's K-8 Key Learnings, <http://www.npuc.org/article.php?id=88#Key%20Learnings>
9. Pacific Union's Early Childhood Education website, <http://paucearlychildhood.netadventist.org/>

10. Geoscience Institute powerpoints for High School Science, <http://grisda.org/teachers/>
11. Southwestern Adventist University Online Fossil Museum, <http://geology.swau.edu/fossil/>
12. South Pacific's curriculum frameworks, each a resource bank of ideas for subject planning relating to values and skills of thinking and learning. <http://circle.adventist.org/browse/resource.phtml?leaf=2731> (Wait for the long link to resolve even if an error shows at first.)
13. Southern Asia's Christ-centered values education tools, REBIRTH and handbooks K-12, <http://www.ssd.org/REBIRTH/>
14. Add this link to your school website to share what Adventist education is all about, http://circle.adventist.org/services/info/?topic=adventist_ed
15. Templates for teachers, students and administrators - http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=344 – add yours here!
16. Visit <http://www.cognitivegenesis.org/> for testing info and downloads, including preliminary 2006 research test results
17. Dialogue, an international journal of faith, thought and action, provides great insights for discussion with young Christians, all essays online at <http://dialogue.adventist.org/>
18. This South Pacific Division Bible K-8 curriculum, based on Uncle Arthur's Bible stories set, is a concise, understandable, multiple-intelligence based, and multi-grade/family friendly resource. Download a copy for use in schools, or as a spiritual formation tool pastors and parents interested in intentional, sequenced religious education for children and youth not attending Adventist schools might appreciate <http://circle.adventist.org/browse/resource.phtml?leaf=6910>
19. Check <http://www.journeytoexcellence.org/>'s homepage for new links to the PowerPoint and DVD presentations as well as the original document in PDF and word (for easy copying into your school's plans!)
20. And a comprehensive collection of Adventist and other Bible reference tools, http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=154



CIRCLE is the North American Division (NAD) sponsored curriculum and instruction resource center linking Adventist educators. Visit circle.adventist.org today to find or share resources, or contact us with questions or suggestions: email webmaster@circle.adventist.org, call US 269.471.3432, fax US 269.471.6374 or mail CIRCLE, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0118, USA.

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