

The Advantages and Possibilities of Blended Learning and the Flipped Classroom—Part I

by Jason Haas, Ed.S.

Introduction

Education is under constant scrutiny, and those who oversee various educational departments often seek new and innovative ways to improve the education process. Despite this determination to improve, the educational setting has changed very little in over 100 years. Hess and Meeks (2010) stated, “Schooling and teaching today look remarkably like they did in 1910. One wouldn’t say that about medicine or engineering or about commercial sectors such as air travel, farming, or auto manufacturing” (p. 41). Hill and Johnston (2010) agreed with this line of thinking and added, “Critics of U.S. K-12 education often complain that the basic structure of public schools hasn’t changed in a hundred years” (p. 43). Leading educators believe that the traditional education system’s ability to adapt to the 21st century’s technology age is possible but say there is little difference from the present educational system of the early 1900s (Hess & Meeks, 2010).

Technology certainly plays an important role in education, and the value and significance of integrating technology only increases. One format of technology integration, online or virtual learning, is a withdrawal from the traditional education setting that includes buildings (brick and mortar), classrooms with desks, and teachers utilizing lecture format the majority of the time in the classroom. SETDA (2008) added, “Virtual learning provides students with the opportunity to expand their learning beyond the traditional classroom and to find the best learning environment for them” (p. 3).

Because of the advent of technology, much research suggests the *unbundling* of the entire educational process and dramatically *rethinking* and *restructuring* the complete educational structure. Hess and Meeks (2010) stated, “The irresistible push and pull of new tools, technology, and talent have created the opportunity to dramatically rethink and restructure school. These forces are dragging us into a new world – whether we desire it or not” (p. 41). Most educators that are pushing for change in the overall structure of education feel that the average school facilities and classrooms may not be reflecting change as quickly as technology is evolving; however, these same educators feel that major transformation is inevitable.

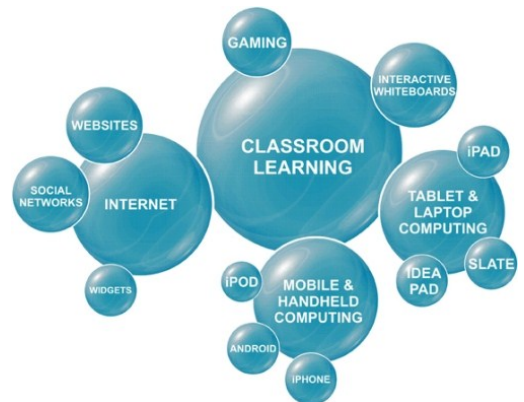
Many questions arise when educators discuss the proper migration methods of blending these dynamic technology tools and meeting the *always-connected* needs of students. Hess and Meeks (2010) added, “These dynamics are possible because new tools and technology, along with new management practices and organizational routines, permit us to unbundle the elements of K-12 schooling and to then recombine them in new ways” (p. 58).

Reasons behind the push for Blended Education

Hill and Johnston (2010) have stated that there are four main reasons why new systems of education are evolving: a) explosion of technology, b) states and localities faced with severe revenue declines, c) increased public sector innovation, and d) new public commitment to attaining standards (Hill & Johnston, 2010). Hill and Johnston continued:

At least three new forms of schooling are likely to become common enough to be recognized by teachers and parents as ‘normal’. A) Virtual schools in which teachers’ sole contact with students is by monitoring progress on technology-based courses. B) Hybrid schools that mix full-time teachers, contractors, and technology-driven instruction. C) Schools that operate as brokers of instructions services, providing some courses by hiring contractors instead of unionized classroom teachers. (Hill & Johnston, 2010, p. 44)

(continued on page 4)



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Giving Thanks

In American tradition, the Thanksgiving holiday is traced back to the fall of 1621 when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony celebrated that year's bountiful harvest with a three-day feast. Those colonists, like so many of those who followed after them, were beginning a great new nation predicated on the inherent human rights of life and liberty, particularly religious liberty. Over the centuries, the American has been blessed by God in the nation's commitment to the protection of the laws of nature and of nature's God, including the recognition that "all men are created equal" and "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among things are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." While President Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday in November 1863, his words in March of that same year, on the occasion of appointing a national day of fasting, seem to ring as especially poignant reminders of just how much for which we should be thankful.

"Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation.

And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been

preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

President Lincoln's words, written hundreds of years ago, could have been written for today. May we all remember God's "gracious hand" in every area of our lives this Thanksgiving and beyond into the Christmas season. The staff of the North Carolina Family Policy Council pray that you and your families enjoy a happy Thanksgiving, surrounded by loved ones, which are life's greatest blessings.

Majority Support Traditional Marriage

Despite the disappointing outcomes in four states that voted on the issue of marriage on November 6, a national poll conducted on Election Day found that a large majority of voters define marriage as between one man and one woman. The [poll](#), which was conducted on November 6 by the Polling Company, Inc., for the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), surveyed 800 "randomly selected people who had actually voted" (73 percent of those polled voted on Election Day, 18 percent had voted by mail or absentee ballot, and "nine percent had voted at the polls prior to election day"). It found that 60 percent of voters agreed that "marriage is between one man and one woman." Of these respondents, 51 percent strongly agreed and 10 percent somewhat strongly agreed. Nearly 34 percent of voters disagreed with that definition (23 percent strongly, 10 percent somewhat strongly). Six percent of voters said they "did not know/could not judge."

A similar poll conducted by the same polling company in September found that 57 percent of randomly selected likely voters supported the "definition of marriage as ONLY

between one man and one woman," according to NOM. In that poll, 37 percent of voters said they were opposed to that definition of marriage, and five percent did not know/could not judge.

As we previously [reported](#), narrow margins of voters in three states (Maine, Maryland, and Washington) voted in favor of legalizing same-sex "marriage" on November 6, while voters in Minnesota became the second in the nation to reject a Marriage Protection Amendment. (Arizona previously rejected an amendment, but later passed one.) This makes North Carolina the only state to vote in 2012 to preserve the definition of marriage as one man and one woman, when 61 percent of voters approved an amendment to the state constitution that reads, in part: "Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized by this State." Currently, 31 states, including North Carolina, have amended their state constitutions to preserve the institution of marriage as one man and one woman, while nine states have redefined marriage to include same-sex couples, the majority of those through judicial or legislative action.

"The outcome of the marriage votes in four very liberal states has caused some to speculate as to whether the American people have changed their views on marriage. This scientific poll shows that the answer to that is, 'no' they have not changed," said Brian Brown, NOM's president, in a [press release](#). "This survey shows that 60 percent of voters believe marriage is one man and one woman."

AACS Hurricane Sandy Relief Effort

The AACS relief effort for AACS schools that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy is now underway. It appears that our schools outside of New Jersey have escaped any direct damage, but several schools in New Jersey have been significantly affected. At least three Garden State Association of Christian Schools member schools suffered direct damage to either school buildings or homes of teachers and school families. According to one of the affected schools, five families lost their homes and almost all of their possessions in the wake of severe flooding. Churches and schools have been working hard to assist these families as they seek to rebuild their lives over the coming months. These families will need basic necessities such as clothing, food, and shelter as they repair and rebuild their homes. [If your school would like to help by sending funds to help these Christian schools and their teachers and families, you may do so through the AACS office. An immediate response is needed if we are to offer any timely help.](#) Thank you for your prayers for these people and your help with this relief effort.

Jason Haas earns Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree



Jason Haas, NCCSA Director of Programs and Services, was awarded the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in educational leadership from Liberty University on September 4, 2012. This degree, along with his previous B.S. degree in Education and M.S. degree in Educational Leadership, allows Jason to provide knowledgeable leadership and organizational direction for the programs and services of the NCCSA. We congratulate Jason for reaching this important educational milestone in his career. Currently, Jason is taking a break from his studies to have additional time for the recent addition of twin sons, Levi and

Lawson, to his family. Jason will continue his doctoral studies in the spring of 2013 and is on pace to finish his Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) by the summer of 2015.

2013-2014 NCCSA Calendars

The 2013-2014 NCCSA Calendars were emailed to each NCCSA school on November 1 to allow ministries that plan early to view NCCSA events and other deadlines. If you did not originally download these calendars, feel free to download the Master, Athletic, or Fine Arts Calendar at <http://www.nccsa.org/events/calendar-downloads/>.

New NCCSA Joint Marketing Agreement

Some member schools have already received information about a new NCCSA joint marketing partner called *myCollegeLaunch*. *myCollegeLaunch* provides flexible, affordable college credit solutions for high school students in Christian schools. Students in NCCSA member schools will be able to earn college credit by taking CLEP (College Level Examination Program®) tests through this program.

Developed by the College Board, the people behind AP and SAT, the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) has been the most widely-trusted credit-by-examination program for over 40 years and is accepted by 2,900 colleges and universities. The *myCollegeLaunch* program will prepare students to take the CLEP tests in a number of different courses. This marketing arrangement will provide a discount on the cost of the program to students in NCCSA schools.



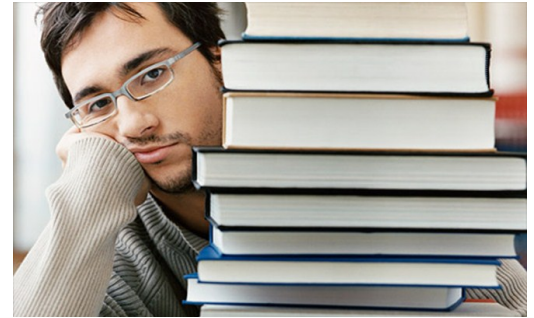
testpoint™

WEB-BASED ASSESSMENT AND COMPETITION
SOLUTIONS FOR EDUCATORS AND SCHOOLS

TestPoint™ has a new look!
**New website and testing services
coming soon.**

Possible Disadvantages of Traditional Education

The role of the teacher is to help students learn, not simply to deliver the information to the students – which is typical in traditional schooling. In a typical traditional educational setting, students sit in desks, write notes during the teacher’s lectures, read large, cumbersome textbooks, and then go home to try to master the new content. Bergmann and Sams (2012) stated, “The present model of education reflects the age in which it was designed; the industrial revolution. Students are educated in an assembly line to make their standardized education efficient” (p. 6). The weakness of this approach is that not all students learn the same way, nor do they have the same chances to learn at home as others and do not always come to class prepared to learn. Bergmann and Sams (2012) added, “Some lack adequate background for the material, are uninterested in the subject, or have simply been disenchanted with the present educational model” (p. 6).



In general, when new content is assigned as homework, students are often confused about the homework problems from the previous night. Students that grasp new material quickly and have good recall skills characteristically do very well in the traditional method; however, not all students learn the same way. Traditional education, in most instances, teaches more to the middle and does very little for the gifted students or those that need extra help.

Advantages of Blended Learning

Blended learning is a departure from traditional education and combines online learning and other virtual resources with the traditional teacher-student, brick and mortar classroom. Blackboard (2009) explained the method of blended learning and added:

Blended learning, the teaching practice that combines teaching methods from both face-to-face and online learning, is an established, rapidly growing instructional model that is proving highly effective in helping schools and districts address the challenges of student achievement, limited resources, and the expectations of 21st century learners. (p. 1)

Many of today’s parents equate any type of new learning, especially methods that are combined with technology, with academic excellence. This is a large reason that blended learning has become popular as educators see this type of technology meeting the immediate need of excellence. SETDA (2008) added, “Virtual learning can supplement the traditional brick and mortar classroom to enhance teaching and learning by creating opportunities for students and teachers to individualize instruction based upon specific learning styles” (p. 1).

Blended learning offers the advantage of personalization and allows individualized attention from highly-qualified instructors to deliver material through the Internet (NACOL, 2012). Blended learning can be implemented in a variety of ways ranging from online with face-to-face interaction to face-to-face instruction integrated with online resources. Many schools utilize blended learning for advanced placement courses or for credit recovery. NACOL (2012) added:

Blended learning represents a shift in instructional strategy just as online learning represents a fundamental shift in the delivery and instructional model of distance learning. Blended learning offers the possibility to significantly change how teachers and administrators view online learning in the face-to-face setting. (p. 6)

Blended learning has brought many other advantages to education that include evolving pedagogical methods, student mentoring and differentiated instruction, increased flexibility in a student’s overall curriculum, and strategic uses of technology that can utilize the power of today’s Internet. Blackboard (2009) added, “Educators support [blended] learning because of its unique abilities to provide students with enriched learning experiences, to extend learning beyond the school day, and to support more successful differentiated learning strategies that personalize students’ educational experiences” (p. 1).

Stanford Achievement Testing



Annual achievement testing is one of the best things you can do for your school, teachers, and students. It is a vital tool in the continual process of assessing the needs of your students and the best approaches to meeting those needs. The NCCSA hopes each school is planning to participate in the SAT 10 testing program that the AACS puts together each year to assist member schools.

Reduced scoring costs have been negotiated for 2013, and Pearson Education will provide the AACS order forms by the first of January. The NCCSA State Office will email each school when these order forms are available. All member schools will receive an email and a password for accessing the forms. This should significantly streamline the process of receiving your forms. There will not be a mechanism for ordering online, but you will be able to print order forms and return them to Pearson by mail or fax at the date given on the AACS email in a few months.

RightPath Retirement Plan

January 1, 2009, brought about many changes for 403(b) retirement plans. Prior to this time, the AACS began the research to reposition its retirement plan to be in compliance with the new regulations. As a part of the changes, the program got a new name – **RightPath** and a third-party administrator to administer the plan and keep it compliant – **PenServ Plan Service**. The new financial advisory team is led by **Jeff Beach** who is employed by Merrill Lynch. The final changes involved dividing the plan into member and non-member groups and changing the investment menus to provide more diversity. All of these changes have been very successful, and the plan is stronger than ever.



[Click here](#) to download the current RightPath flyer and [click here](#) to download the new RightPath brochure. Since the plan can accommodate non-member ministries, feel free to forward this information to other schools, churches, camps, colleges, missionaries, or others who you think might be interested.

The NCCSA encourages NCCSA ministries to contact Jeff Beach, the RightPath financial advisor with any questions or to set up a visit to your ministry. You can reach Mr. Beach by phone at 877-517-2227 or email at jeff_beach@ml.com. ***If you already have a retirement program in place, you can have Mr. Beach put together an evaluation and comparison to be sure you are able to offer the best program to your ministry.***

2013 NCCSA Capital Conference

March 4-5, 2013—Clarion Hotel State Capital—Raleigh, N.C.

2012 All-State Music Clinic—Meymandi Concert Hall



Nearly 350 student-musicians descended upon Raleigh, North Carolina, for the 30th annual NCCSA All-State Music Clinic on November 8-10, 2012. Students from 19 different schools in North and South Carolina joined together for three days of rehearsals, performances, and fellowship with like-minded musicians.

The band clinicians for the event were as follows: Scott Brier, Concert Band; Jim Bishop, Symphonic Band; and David Hartkopf, Honors Band. New to the clinic this year was the addition of an All-State Choir, under the direction of Dr. Eliezer Yanson Jr.

After two days of intensive rehearsals, final performances from all three bands and the all-state choir took place at the Meymandi Concert Hall in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, November 10.

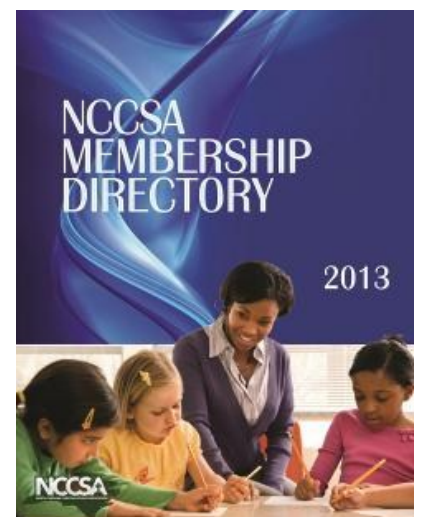
Wake Christian Academy graciously hosted the rehearsals and served lunch for hundreds of students during the clinic. We are grateful for the hospitality and service of Wake Christian and its dedicated staff who ensured that this year's rehearsals ran smoothly.

One of the traditions of this clinic is to present the ***W. Forrest Robertson Jr. Christian Music Leadership Award*** to an Honors Band participant who has been nominated by his school's band director for recognition of his/her leadership and character qualities. Each nominee must have recommendation letters from his pastor or youth pastor, band director, and an academic teacher. Each nominee submitted a personal salvation testimony and must be involved in church and community volunteer ministry, which will help in future Christian ministry. We are very proud of this year's finalists: Abby Farren from Raleigh Christian Academy, Kristin Hood from Wake Christian Academy, and Brittany Travis from Falls Road Baptist Church School. Congratulations to Kristin Hood from Wake Christian Academy for being selected as this year's award recipient.

The NCCSA is extremely grateful for the All-State Music Clinic Leadership Team who helped coordinate and supervise this event: Mr. Kevin Elston, Band Chairman; Mr. Brent Brondyke, Band Auditions Chairman; Mr. Yoshi Nakamura, Assistant Band Chairman, and Mr. Josh Baer, Choir Chairman.

A professional photographer was on site for this event, and the information about ordering photographs is available at www.nccsa.org/all-state-band-clinic.

The 2013 NCCSA Membership Directories and password to view and/or download these directories have been emailed to each NCCSA school. If you do not have the password, please refer to the "NCCSA Membership Directory" email dated November 5, 2012.



ATHLETIC NEWS



Thanks to all of the schools and students who participated in the recent NCCSA Soccer/Volleyball Tournaments. Special thanks to Sheets Memorial Christian School and Wilson Christian Academy for hosting the state tournaments. The NCCSA is grateful for State Athletic Commissioner Bob LaTour and the assistant divisional commissioners for making sure that the soccer/volleyball season and tournaments ran smoothly. Below are the results from the recent State Soccer/Volleyball Tournaments.

Single A

Soccer

- 1st - Cornerstone (Fayetteville)
- 2nd - Bible Baptist
- 3rd - Calvary (King)

Volleyball

- 1st - Tri-City
- 2nd - Rockwell
- 3rd - Fayetteville Street

Double A

Soccer

- 1st - Vandalia
- 2nd - Wilmington
- 3rd - Wilson

Volleyball

- 1st - Wilson
- 2nd - Greenville
- 3rd - Wilmington

CROSS COUNTRY

The 2012 NCCSA Cross Country Meet was held on November 3 at Hagan-Stone Park near Greensboro, North Carolina. This year's state meet included nearly 200 students from 14 different schools. Now in its fifth year, the NCCSA Cross Country program continues to be an exciting part of NCCSA Athletics. The NCCSA would like to thank Mark Weatherford from Vandalia Christian School for his supervision in this sport during the past two years.

The complete results are available online [here](#).

Team Results—Boys

- 1. Alamance Christian School
- 2. Wilmington Christian Academy
- 3. Wilson Christian Academy
- 4. Berean Baptist Academy
- 5. Vandalia Christian School

Individual Results—Boys

- 1. Brenden Sherrill, Tri-City, 18:14
- 2. Noah Russ, Alamance, 18:23
- 3. Nich Rose, Wilson, 19:11
- 4. Daniel Talley, Alamance, 19:24
- 5. Zane Eaton, White Plains, 19:29

Team Results—Girls

- 1. Wilson Christian Academy
- 2. Faith Christian School
- 3. Vandalia Christian School
- 4. Wilmington Christian Academy
- 5. Tri-City Christian School

Individual Results—Girls

- 1. Ashley Avelino, Faith, 22:21
- 2. Ava Hill, Wilson, 22:43
- 3. Hannah Freitag, Tri-City, 23:18
- 4. Erin Pichey, Wilson, 23:33
- 5. Sarah McLanahan, Faith, 23:45



NCCSA UPDATE

November/December

Vol. 22, Issue 3

Joe Haas, Ed.D.—Executive Director
Jason Haas, Ed.S.—Director of Programs/
Services, NCCSA UPDATE Editor

The NCCSA UPDATE is published bi-monthly by the North Carolina Christian School Association. The NCCSA UPDATE is designed for Christian educators, pastors, and parents. All published material included in the NCCSA UPDATE is Copyright © 2012 by NCCSA UPDATE and is subject to U.S. copyright laws. Permission to reproduce may be requested by contacting the NCCSA State Office.

Articles pertaining to education may be submitted to NCCSA, P.O. Box 231, Goldsboro, NC 27533. The staff reserves the right to correct grammar and spelling, clarify and modify content, adapt to style, and adjust to fit available space.



News of Interest

1. In the latest September/October NCCSA UPDATE, information was given on the new North Carolina Graduation requirements. [Click here](#) if you did not review these requirements.
2. If you missed the review of the 2012 Southeast Christian School convention, [click here](#) to read the review by Bob Hodges, administrator at Alamance Christian School.
3. Information regarding the **2013 NCCSA Academic Testing Competition** was listed in the [September/October](#) NCCSA Update. Additional information will be emailed to schools in the coming weeks.
4. The **2013 NCCSA Science Faculty Seminar** will be at Wake Christian Academy on June 25-26, 2013. The theme has not been decided yet, and integrating and elementary track with the existing seminar is currently being researched. More information will be available in the near future.

Spotlight on Grace Baptist School—Jacksonville

Grace Baptist School in Jacksonville, North Carolina, was started in August of 1976 under the leadership of Pastor Rodney Piedot. Pastor Piedot worked steadfastly for thirty years with the goal of seeing children come to know Christ and be trained in a godly environment. One of the most important qualities about GBS is that it was established as and remains to be a ministry of Grace Baptist Church.

Pastor Randy Roberts, who has been the pastor of GBC for almost eight years and serves as the chief administrator of the school, has continued to pass on to the future generation the importance of the local church and its ministries. The primary administrator, Bro. Curtis Bobo, has been principal of

GBS for almost three years while also serving as assistant pastor, youth director of the T.E.E.N. department, and music director of Grace Baptist Church.

The purpose of GBS is to assist parents in their God-given responsibility of educating their children. In Ecclesiastes 4:12, Solomon spoke of a threefold cord not being quickly broken, and the threefold cord of today is the Christian home, church, and school. When all three work together, the child will grow up with consistency and have better opportunities for success. At Grace Baptist School, the students are taught not only how to make a living, but more importantly, how to live for Christ! Grace Baptist School provides a high-quality spiritual and academic program while encouraging children

to live obedient, Christ-centered lives. Students are offered a challenging Bible-based academic environment utilizing the ABeka curriculum from K-5 through the 12th grade and are taught Baptist History in the junior and senior high. They are tested yearly using the Stanford Achievement Tests. GBS is active in the fine arts program where its students excel in academics and music, having several go on to the national competition. Grace Baptist School is also an active member of the North Carolina Christian School Association and the American Association of Christian Schools.

Grace Baptist School is excited to continue the Lord's work in Jacksonville and see souls saved while growing in His grace!