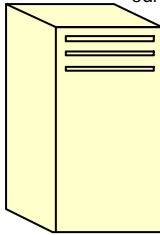




### *Beware of the technology trap*

Each year, well-meaning parents suggest that we need to bump up our technology program at DCS in order to help our students be prepared with "21<sup>st</sup>-century skills." Proposals range from expanding our computer program offerings, starting computer education in kindergarten, and encouraging student use of laptops in the classrooms. The sense is, if our students are not exposed to these wonderful tools at an early and regular basis, they will somehow be left behind when it comes time for them to enter higher education and/or the work place. Is that true?



Recent research and studies show a much different story. In an article entitled, "Turned On, Plugged In, Online, & Dumb: Student Failure Despite the Techno Revolution", author Mark Bauerlein, clearly shows that increased exposure to state-of-the-art technology has little, if any, relationship to improved academic preparation. According to Bauerlein, "In 2000, for instance, Kirk Johnson of the Heritage Foundation analyzed the National Assessment of Educational Progress – NAEP data and computers in classrooms and concluded, 'Students with at least weekly computer instruction by well-prepared teachers do not perform any better on the NAEP reading test than do students who have less or no computer instruction.'"

He goes on to say that economists at the University of Munich analyzed international scores (including the U.S.) and determined, "computer availability at home shows a strong statistically *negative relationship* to math and reading performance, and computer availability is *unrelated* to performance."

Mr. Bauerlein states, the *New York Times* reported about a trend in schools and districts to eliminate digital learning. A Richmond, VA, high school "...dropped a 5-year -old laptop program 'after concluding that students had failed to show any academic gains compared with those in schools without laptops.'"

It is not just reading, writing, and math scores that show little or no improvement, but other core subjects as well. According to Bauerlein, "In content areas, we see abysmal outcomes." On the 2001 U.S. history exam by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (the "Nation's Report Card"), students were unable to answer correctly basic questions related to World War II. Other tests show students consistently failing to in basic literacy, civics, and history tests. Current state-of-the-art computer-assisted learning has not enabled these students to pass fundamental academic expectations.

Is that to say that any exposure to computers and computer-related learning stifles and inhibits a child's educational process. Definitely not. We all recognize that our current students and those to follow are and need to be technologically savvy. Computers play an ever-increasing role in our society. Our students need to receive instruction in their operation and uses. Because of that, we upgrade our computer lab machines on a regular and rotating basis. We offer students cutting-edge programs and applications that are daily used in the working world. Our students are given real-world assignments that relate to what they will face when they enter the work force.

It is true we have cut back our elementary computer classes because of the tremendous out-of-class time commitment and the inevitable changes which will render current technology obsolete within months and years. We felt that time could be better spent in focusing on the core academic subjects (math, language arts, history, Bible, etc.) while enriching this experience with a more limited, realistic approach to technology.

What about students who have graduated from DCHS and gone on to universities or have entered directly in to the work force – were they at a technology disadvantage? From all reports, absolutely not. Because of their strong academic base, they were able to move directly to advanced courses without having to backtrack to remedial classes – higher education's equivalent of industry's recall programs due to faulty construction or poor engineering. It is estimated that current poor academic preparation by most schools costs corporate America \$3.1 billion per year and state governments \$250 million per year. We strive for a more balanced approach focusing on the core academic disciplines enriched by technology.

Will we continue to investigate the latest in technology and implement it, when appropriate, within our curriculum? Absolutely, as resources and time permits. Our goal is to see our graduates leave DCS with a strong, well-balanced spiritual and intellectual foundation coupled with training in the emotional, social and physical areas. We do not want to fall in to the trap of thinking that saturation with technology will better equip our students to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. History and experience show that a focus on the intellectual and spiritual basics prepares our students to move forward in a technologically-oriented world.



Inside this issue:	
Winter weather and school	2
DCHS grad ~ Amy Thompson	2
Cheer clinic coming	2
Financial Peace University	2

## Winter weather and school

## DCHS grad named as Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete



So much for "Global Warming"!

We have just come through one of the worst winter storms on record and all seems to be intact. Good job in checking on school closures the week of December 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition to watching/listening to one of the local TV or radio stations to see if DCS is open or closed, you may also receive that information as soon as it is posted via your email or cell phone. It is a free service. You simply go to [www.flahsalert.net](http://www.flahsalert.net) and click on the link on the left that says, "Subscribe to receive news from participating organizations." Once you have

created your account, you will receive any school information regarding closure or delayed openings through your email or cell phone. We would encourage each of you to sign up for this free service.

Due to the loss of four and a half days of school, we will be making up two of those on **Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day, and Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – Presidents' Day.** Please be sure to make note of this calendar change.



We have been informed that **Amy Thompson**, daughter of **Gary** and DCS first grade teacher **Carol Thompson**, has been awarded the *Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete* award. Amy, a junior at Corban College, received this coveted honor based upon her skills on the volleyball court as well as her aptitude in the classroom. Nominated by her head coach, a student-athlete must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and have achieved junior academic status to qualify.

# Award!

Congratulations, Amy!

## Cheer clinic coming soon!

The DCS cheerleaders will be hosting their annual Cheer Clinic on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Participants will enjoy a morning of learning cheers, jumps, and a halftime routine that they will be able to perform at a varsity basketball game. This year's Clinic will be open to preschool and elementary boys and girls and grades 6-8 girls. More information and registration sheets will

be coming home with your student this week.

Hope to see your children at the Cheer Clinic. *Go Eagles!*



## Financial Peace University starts February 1<sup>st</sup>



DCC will be hosting Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* starting Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. This 13-week course, taught via DVD, will teach how to manage your money, get out of debt, and meet your financial goals. It is a very practical, doable, empowering

course that can literally make the difference of getting by (or falling further in debt) and thriving, financially.

The cost for this life-changing course is \$99 per family and includes supplemental materials and a lifetime membership to FPU. Registration can be handled online

at [www.daveramsey.com/fpu](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu) We strongly recommend this Biblically-based, workable program that can help you be better stewards of what the Lord has entrusted to you. Who wouldn't want that in these tough economic times?