



Monday, March 14, 2005

Catholic Cyber School offers unique programming

Saskatoon Catholic Cyber School is Saskatchewan largest virtual school and the only one offering high school classes, elementary lessons plans, teacher resources, an online chapel with a chaplain and a secure online student lounge with a guidance counsellor.

Cyber School is hosting a media open house on **Tuesday, March 15 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Tour the facility, explore the virtual student lounge and chapel, meet staff and students at **2701 Porter Street (south side entrance at Holy Cross High School).**

Cyber School began in 2000 with three high school classes and 101 students. The school has expanded its high school program offerings to 23 grade 9 to 12 subjects and this year has more than 1,400 students taking classes, with students from as far away as Hong Kong. In its five years of operation, almost 4,500 high school students have studied with the Cyber School. Parents of high school students also have an opportunity to upgrade their computer skills and get information on their child's marks and progress through a parental portal.

In 2002, enhanced online learning resources for elementary students and teachers were added to Cyber School. Recently launched are elementary lessons and resources for grade 4, 5 and 6 technology as well as math resources for grades 7 and 8. The grade 4 and 5 lessons and resources, secure e-mail, chat rooms and bulletin boards are also available to home schooling parents.

Another recent innovation is online Learning Communities for teachers, which provides a collection of learning resources for kindergarten to grade 12 and encompasses all subjects from physical education to First Nations education. These resources can be used online or in the classroom.

Cyber School has received 28 web awards for its website and programs including the international edublog award for Best Technology meets Pedagogy for Teaching and Developing Online Blog. Visit the school online at <http://www.scs.sk.ca/cyber/>

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