

Hot Youth Digital Arts CyberSchool News!

There is so much happening at the Youth Digital Arts CyberSchool that we decided to send out a newsletter. Please let us know your thoughts, questions, or feedback at ydacs@thelcg.com. There are many more comments and announcements in our News forum at www.ydacs.com.

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Phenomenal feedback from our California and Colorado schools – plans for the Fall

Here are a few of the comments from this semester. All of the programs were a great success and all of the schools are planning on expanding the programs in the fall across their schools and school districts. This is a sampling of the feedback we have received this semester.

Colorado Middle School

Our student has had a difficult home life and had lost interest in school. He seemed a very depressed boy, frustrated with school and home situations. He is a bit of a loner and doesn't feel like he has many friends or much in common with kids in his class. Since starting the video game design classes through our gifted program, I have had many teachers come to me and say what a difference they see in him. He is opening up, walking taller, has more self confidence and is just generally happier. I think the classes challenge him, but in a way that he is capable of great success. He is very proud of the high scores he receives on the chapter quizzes and will be showing his finished projects

to the entire Intermediate school at the end of the year. This program has made a very positive impact in the life of this student and for that, we are all grateful!

I HAVE FINISHED VGD102. This course has been a fun and challenging experience. Thank you for accepting me in to CyberSchool.

Julian Charter School

In VGD 102 I learned how to create a platform game with things such as creating a scientist, creating enemies for the character to defeat, creating a score and life counter and how to write instructions for my video game. I really enjoyed VGD102 and can't wait to do VGD103!

Hey thank you so much for designing such an awesome class. It is truly a window into the vast world of videogame design and has given us all an awesome start. Thank you.

I've finished vgd 102!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Thank you for such an awesome class.

WOW, That was awesome! I have finished.

Wow, This course was so great. It focused more in-depth about certain points and aspects. It was SO GREAT. I am also looking forward to the Kinesis Academy series, and other great courses.

Yay!

I finished VGD102! I really liked it. The narrator was much better and made things more interesting. My favorite part was making the enemies and the boss at the end of the level. I learned sooooo much too! Thx!

By completing VGD 101 I have learned the basics of video game design including: creating a hero, controlling the hero, giving him weapons, creating a monster, using a counter, etc. I really enjoyed this course and am excited about moving on to the next one.

I have finished VGD101, enjoyed the course very much!

ive finished vgd101, yay.

I've finished vgd 101. Hehehe YAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

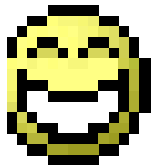
~ I really enjoyed it and it was a great introduction to digital media. 😊 The instructions were great and very specific though I must admit that the guy on the video did make me yawn a few times...other than that I really liked it!!! 😊Thanks! 😊

😄 I finished VGD101! 😄

I have finished VGD101. I have learned that video game design will be a challenge.

I have finished the game. It was lots of fun.

I liked the course a lot and I learned how to make basic video game with ammo, lives, enemies a character I can control and more. I can't for more animation classes, is their more classes?



Dehesa Charter School

1. So cool! My mom gives me computer time at home to work on my projects. I like designing video games better than playing them.
2. At first it was confusing, but only the first day. Now me and my friends are trading games. It's fun!
3. I wanted to take a video game design class last summer but it was too expensive. My mom said yes to this and I am so glad.
4. Awesome! Way cool!
5. I follow along with the instructor, then randomness takes over and my games are awesome!

Camptonville Academy

As a homeschool teacher, I am really excited about the possibilities of Video Game Design. Students really are delighted by their creations, and I like to see students from different ages and grades interacting with each other, showing their talents and abilities in ways that are not in typically educational settings. Keep it coming, folks. We really like Video Game Design.

Mark Yedinak
The Camptonville Academy
Northern California

In this course I learned how to insert characters, backdrops, and obstacles. I learned about collisions, shooting, bouncing, and counters, values, and event connections to them.

I'd also like to say how much I enjoy designing video games, **especially as a girl**, with not a lot of girl friends as interested as me. I'd like to get into the business once I'm out of school, video games, and animated theatrical movies. I want to be known someday for good, quality games with great stories and action. This is a really great class to learn about the tech of video games, and I'm going to start the next course now. 😊

thank u for making this program for people to learn how to make things we never thought we would ever be able to do. so thanks and its very very fun.

I finished VGD101. It was fantastic!!! 😊😊😊

Thank you for doing The video game class! I really like it!!!! 😊

Thank you 101! My game is doing great and you guys are **AWSOME!**

Thank you very much VDG 101 and 102! thanks to you I am making a game with over 8 levels! I did not have any problems with it at all, and now I can do stuff almost effortlessly.

My name is _____ I have finished VGD101 I have had a good time creating my video game and I am ready to move on to the next level of video game design. 😊

Clonlara School Compuhigh

I finished the course **AND IT WAS AWSOME.** I Learned alot of new things and my game was really fun!!!!!! my favorite part was giving the hero his powers and in the end of the game he could cast spells to walk up walls and shoot ice balls!

YDACS offices are relocating to the Los Angeles / San Diego area

YDACS offices are **relocating to the Los Angeles / San Diego area** and will be providing local workshops, support, and conferences in Video Game Design and Youth Digital Arts. Many of our California schools have asked us to provide workshops over the summer and prior to the start of the school year in the Fall. Please let us know if your school is interested by emailing us at ydacs@thelcg.com.

Phenomenal feedback from our homeschoolers across the country

Virginia

Greetings fellow educators at home!

My son, Ronald (age 13), has successfully completed the first two courses of video game designing with Youth Digital Arts and he really loves it! Your child (or even you!) could be designing new games that teach or reinforce concepts that you want them to learn. My son plans to create a game based on our Latin classes for extra review. All subjects could be made into a video game using what you learn in these courses along with the award winning software.

I had hesitated to even explore getting this type of instruction for my son because I thought that it would be cost prohibitive....I was amazed to find it quite reasonable and less than music classes (which Ronald was quite content to let his brothers take!) Another plus is that the choice of characters ranges from benign to mildly "scary" and with almost a thousand to choose from each family's comfort level can be honored.

If your child has any interest in video game designing either for education or just plain fun, they will benefit greatly from this course!

Blessings, Leona VanGee

California

I learned how to insert active and backdrop objects, create boundaries, make the character shoot at enemies, make the enemies fight back, add a score and a life counter, create [frames](#) for when you win or lose the game, have a continuous supply of enemies, and how to give enemies life settings. I know there's something I learned that forgot to mention.....

Connecticut

I have finished the VGD101 course and it was great! The course was very clear and easy to understand. I'm going to try and make a game on my own now.

Thanks again!

South Carolina

VGD101

I'm finished! I thought that probably my most favorite part is the fact that you can drain a persons' lives at certain events, and the fact that you can add points to a persons' score at certain events.

VGD102

I'm done!!! I think my favorite part is probably the fact that you can make the character change color when he gets a power-up.

VGD103

I'm finished! My favorite part is the fact that you can make any animation you want, and export it into multimedia fusion. That's so cool!

Virginia Homeschool Students

Great course-I learned a lot. It was challenging and worth my time. I am looking forward to starting 102 next week

Harry! I completed the VGD101 course!

It was a very good course, I learned alot about how to make one of my favorite types of games (Side-Scroller) very good and easy to learn!

Thanks

I'm glad I'm finished now. It got easier as we went along. Now I'm going to go over and do it again my own way. Thank you!

I finished VGD102! I'm glad I took this class. I like the platform game a lot. I think I can make a game on my own now. Thank you!!

Visit us at the Annual Homeschool Fair in Ontario California on May 29th, Memorial Day

Please come and visit us at the Annual Homeschool Fair in Ontario California on May 29th, Memorial Day - <http://www.homeschoolfair.com>. We will be providing three Youth Digital Arts clinics/workshops:

- Session 1 - Video Game Design Basics, 3rd Grade & Up
- Session 2 - Advanced Video Game Design
- Session 3 - Music, Comics, Anime, Painting & Photography

Great feedback from leading Innovative Libraries

We've had a lot of success in using this curriculum in our after-school activities. In fact, I just received a nice thank you note from a parent that praised us for how we have engaged her son in games, game design, etc. We plan to use it more in the next several months. The beauty of using the service is that you don't have to know how to use the software to offer it. You can learn and that would probably be recommended, but it is not a must in offering it to youth as an educational service.

If anyone is interested in trying to offer a more active and creative spin on their gaming activity they should attend this session and give it some serious thought. I'd be more than happy to discuss this with anyone that is interested.

Cheers,

Matt Gullett
IT Services Mgr.
Bloomington Public Library
Bloomington, IL

309-828-6091 x236

Game On: Games in Libraries Blog

<http://libgaming.blogspot.com/2006/04/youth-digital-arts-cyberschool-and.html>

Library Journal's Tech Blog

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/blog/670000067/post/1980002998.html>

Metrowest MA Regional Library System

http://metrowestnews.blog-city.com/schools_libraries_and_community_technology_centers_go_to_the.htm

Free upgrades to Multimedia Fusion Version 2 for our current schools and libraries!

All of our current schools and libraries can receive a free upgrade of their Multimedia Fusion video game design software! For more information please email us at ydacs@thelcg.com.

Free upgrades to Multimedia Fusion Version 2 home students since January 2006!

All of our homeschool students since January 2006 can receive a free upgrade of their Multimedia Fusion video game design software! For more information please email us at ydacs@thelcg.com.

New Advanced Video Game Design course and versions of VGD101 and VGD102

Many students and teachers have asked us for an advanced and more open-ended video game design opportunity. To satisfy this request we have created Kinesis Fusion Academy Series. This is an advanced synthesis of a professional video game and a learning environment where students are given the code to the game and assistance in hacking it, customizing it, and making their own versions of the game Kinesis. To watch a cool video trailer and learn more about this innovative opportunity please click here:

<http://www.dev-lcg.com/cyberschool/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=205>

We are also in the process of creating new versions of VGD101 and VGD102 so they reflect Multimedia Fusion Version 2.

New Digital Arts courses to be released by June in time for summer students: [Manga/Anime](#) and [Digital Painting onto Artist's Canvas](#)

We are VERY excited to announce the development of two new courses in Manga/Anime and Digital Painting onto Artist's Canvas that will be available in June in time for summer courses. Students from across the country have asked us for courses in Manga/Anime and our course will teach anyone interested in Manga/Anime how to create great comics!

Our Digital Painting course has also been widely requested by teachers, students, and parents. When teachers, students, librarians, homeschool parents, and gallery owners see our canvases they are amazed and think we actually know how to paint! Well, we don't know how to paint but we do know how to take digital photos and use inexpensive software to turn them into beautiful paintings and then print them onto artist's canvases. We are going to start selling our canvases in galleries and our course will teach students, from 3rd grade to adult, how they can be digital artists. We will also be offering low cost options for printing onto canvas.

Summer courses! Schools include our summer course announcement in their newsletters.

Many of our schools, homeschool parents, and libraries across the country have included the following blurb about our summer courses in their school newsletters. Our courses are great for kids during the summer because they are inexpensive and self-paced. Please let your school and community know about this exciting opportunity. Please let us know if you would also like to include a flier by emailing us at ydacs@thelcg.com.

Youth Digital Arts Classes on the Internet for 4th grade through High School

Students from Middle School through High School have learned how to design, create, and program their own video games and animations by taking classes at the Youth Digital Arts CyberSchool, www.ydacs.com. You can check out the great feedback in the YDACS News Forum! These courses and two new courses in Manga/Anime and Digital Painting onto artist's canvas will be available for summer courses. You can take the courses from home or from your library, community center, or camp if they sponsor the program. For more information please email ydacs@thelcg.com.

YDACS at Harvard

We have been speaking at conferences across the country but wanted to highlight our Harvard session in June. We will be speaking at the Neighborhood Networks Regional Conference: Uniting Neighbors – Strengthening Communities. Our session is titled: From Pac-Man to Hip-Hop — All at Your Own Pace. We will be demonstrating our courses and discussing how Community Technology Centers can implement the YDACS. More information is available at:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/nnw/2006rtawbrochure.pdf>