



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – VUNG TAU, VIETNAM SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – SAIGON SOUTH, VIETNAM

MC Online Brings Joy To Learning

3. INTEGRATING MC ONLINE'S LEARNING PORTAL INTO LESSONS

With the integration of MC Online's Learning Portal into the schools' curriculum, 5 teachers from SIS @ Vung Tau and 7 teachers from SIS @ Saigon South received basic training from an Infocomm Technology (ICT) Instructor before introducing the Learning Portal to their students. The teachers enjoy the flexibility of the Learning Portal's curriculum and use the online lessons and resources in various ways and situations.

Dudley Schroeder, mathematics teacher of Year 2 and 3 students at SIS @ Vung Tau remarked, "I use the Portal to assign additional exercises for students and in test and exam preparation. I can also use it to assign homework to students or as an interactive tool in classroom instruction."

1. BACKGROUND

With a strong track record in Singapore already in place, Marshall Cavendish Online (MC Online) has expanded its international presence in countries all around the world.

In Vietnam, the KinderWorld group, with 14 campuses spread across the country, has seen positive results for students after using MC Online's Learning Portal. Two of its international schools – Singapore International School @ Vung Tau (SIS @ Vung Tau) and Singapore International School @ Saigon South (SIS @ SS) have been invited to share their thoughts and views on the successful engagement of their students with MC Online's digital learning experience in this special feature.

2. PROFILE

SIS @ Vung Tau is located at Dai An Residential Area in Vung Tau City and currently has Year 2 – 8 students using the Learning Portal. SIS @ Saigon South is located at Trung Son Residential Area in Ho Chi Minh City and has students from a mix of Years 1 – 9 and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Yr 1 and Yr 2 cohorts using the portal. Both schools have been using the Learning Portal since August 2011.

Organisation

KinderWorld Group: Singapore International School (SIS) – Vung Tau and Saigon South

Solution

Marshall Cavendish Online Learning Portal

Users

SIS @ Vung Tau: Year 2 – 8 students
SIS @ Saigon South: Year 1 – 9 and IGCSE 1 and 2 students

Outcome

Increased student motivation and achievement, and the cultivation of independent learners

Date

August 2011

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4. RESULTS

With a multitude of fun and enriching activities available on MC Online’s digital platform, teachers have found that their students are visibly more engaged when using the Learning Portal during lessons.

Additionally, the web-based framework has increased students’ ability to work on their own and revise concepts independently.

4.1. EXCITING YOUNG LEARNERS

“There is a noticeable change in the students. Their interest has increased when they know they are going to the ICT laboratory instead of the normal classroom,” noted Andrew Chan, a Year 8 teacher at SIS @ Saigon South. His colleague, Michelle Meredith, a Year 3 International Form Teacher added, “They say they like using it and it helps them to remember.”

By capturing and holding students’ attention effectively, the Learning Portal helps students stay more focused on the subjects being studied and understand the theories and concepts better.

“Before using MC Online, I felt quite lazy doing all the writing and was bored with having to look at pictures and stories that didn’t move,” said Sug Min, a Year 7 International student at SIS @ Saigon South. “With MC Online, I now enjoy doing work at home since I can use computers. I like the animations in the programmes too - they even read the story for us!”

Fellow schoolmate, Ngoc Ah added that her knowledge and understanding have been deepened with the portal, enthusing, “The portal really helps me to learn more about things that I’m not sure about or don’t know!”

“It’s totally convenient and easy for us to review lessons because instead of just having exercises, MC Online also includes animations and funny drawings in order to make it more interesting to learn,” said Nha Uyen, a Year 8 International student at SIS @ Saigon South.

The increased engagement in their work has enabled students to gain a deeper understanding of concepts, resulting in improvements. Teachers have commented particularly on the noticeable improvements in students’ reading comprehension skills and overall knowledge base. MC Online’s Learning Portal has indeed driven students to think at higher levels and strive harder for academic excellence.

4.2. ENCOURAGING LEARNING BEYOND CLASSROOMS

Being an online curriculum, MC Online’s Learning Portal has gone beyond the four-walled classroom, bringing learning beyond the physical boundaries of school. With a broad spectrum of user-friendly and engaging programmes available at their fingertips, students are easily motivated to access the secure portal whenever they want and self-manage their learning progress.

“Whenever there’s any new lesson that I’ve just learnt and which I don’t understand very well, I’ve to go around and ask people for help. Now, with MC Online, it’s much more convenient and faster to review lessons. Instead of asking everyone how to do the problems, I can click on the tutorial on the Learning Portal and review the lesson myself. It has made me become more independent,” said Nha Uyen.

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Sarah Jisun Yoo, a Year 7 International student at SIS @ Saigon South added, “I like that we can study online by ourselves and that we don’t need heavy textbooks. I can easily look up what I have learnt and will learn. It is fantastic that I can do all this in my own home!”

Overall, students’ ability to work independently has improved, leading to a more competitive atmosphere in class that helps drive the class’ average grade up. With more students engaging in self-directed learning outside school, students’ mathematics scores have seen a rise as many of them now form the habit of studying more at home using the portal.

4.3. ENHANCING TEACHING

For teachers, with the abundance of teaching tools and comprehensive lesson resources available on the portal, organizing lesson plans and preparing learning materials have never been simpler.

“It’s convenient and time-saving. The portal is rich in content and interesting too! I think it is easy to use and very useful to me,” said Xi Zhimei, teacher of K2 to Year 8 students at SIS @ Vung Tau. Andrew Chan added, “It lessens the pressure on the teacher having to source extra material for teaching and the teacher talks less when teaching through MC Online.”

The rich multimedia content is particularly useful in the classroom – students are more engaged when there are animated lesson activities to supplement classroom instruction and are also likelier to revise classroom-learnt concepts at home if they are supported with fun animations.

“Studying and learning were hard for me before using the Learning Portal. With MC Online’s digital curriculum, it’s much easier for me to learn – I use MC Online everyday now to revise mathematics, English and science,” said Chau Ga Luong, a Year 8 student at SIS @ Saigon South.

Kaye Tamarua, a teacher at SIS @ Saigon South followed up with, “It is a great teaching tool within the classroom that facilitates follow-up on subjects and allows concepts to be revised both at school and at home.”

MC Online’s Learning Portal also enables the tracking of students’ assignments, allowing teachers to monitor their pupils’ progress and encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning.

“It’s easy to track who has completed their assignments and who has not,” said Patrick Hughes, a Year 7 (International) and Year 8 (Science) teacher at SIS @ Saigon South.

“It allows me to see if students can work without teacher guidance and apply knowledge gleaned from classroom lessons,” noted Ms Anna, a Year 4 and 5 teacher at SIS @ Vung Tau.

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4.4. LEARNING AT ITS BEST

Parents believe that MC Online’s Learning Portal is an excellent accompaniment to today’s school curriculum. They feel that with its digital approach, the portal’s comprehensive multimedia contents can cogently capture their children’s attention, motivating them to study and properly understand concepts rather than blindly memorising them from normal textbooks.

“MC Online has helped her to understand and not just memorise the concepts learnt, exposing her understanding beyond the limited scope in school textbooks and workbooks. The additional practices allow my child to review her lessons at her own pace and prepare her better for tests and exams. She has shown faster progress because of this,” said the parents of Vy Vy, a Year 3 International student at SIS @ Saigon South.

“I’m happy to see that my child doesn’t fall asleep like she used to when she studies. She also started to find more mathematics exercises to do which is a thing that she rarely did before. With MC Online’s fun, animated lessons, she studies harder now,” remarked Nha Uyen’s satisfied parents.

A perfect balance of pedagogically sound curriculum and stimulating multimedia activities, MC Online’s Learning Portal has indeed transformed the meaning of education and re-ignited students’ passion for learning.



A diligent student using interactive tools on the Learning Portal to study mathematical concepts



Students exploring the mathematics activities on the portal together and collaborating on an exercise problem

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A student eagerly attempting the fun and engaging multimedia practices on the portal



An excited Year 1 student proudly shows off her completed assignment



A young boy enjoying his science lesson looks forward to completing his next online tutorial