



What Argyll Centre achieved with Elluminate *Live!* Academic Edition

Reliable technology that doesn't get in the way of real learning

With Elluminate *Live!* participants can focus on content and interaction—rather than the enabling technology

Superior user experience that excites and motivates all participants

Elluminate's virtual classroom/conference room is easy to implement, easy to access, and easy to use—for instructors, students, and staff

Improved achievement levels, reading and oral competencies

Elluminate *Live!* enables students in all grades to increase competency and achievement levels—higher than in text-based or asynchronous learning environments

Argyll Centre Motivates Instructors, Increases Student Achievement Levels with Elluminate *Live!*

Today, families want more educational choices that address how their children learn, and for many, that includes home schooling. One of 210 schools in the Edmonton public school system, the Argyll Centre offers over 5,000 students in grades 1 through 12 a variety of programs that operate outside the traditional structure of a classroom environment.

The Challenge: Replace Unreliable Technology, Add Synchronous Content

"Our mandate is to support all forms of home-based learning," explained Ray Lautt, Technology Department Head for Argyll Centre. "That includes traditional home school where the family takes full responsibility, print-based correspondence education, blended learning where family and school share education delivery, and LearnNet, our online distance education program."

"We found that the no-cost application we were using for our online delivery didn't work well for us," Lautt continued. "There were many technical issues, and we wanted to make the material more engaging for our 550 online students. Synchronous technology better enables teachers to respond to students, and it's just a better way to teach some things."

"Some of our teachers had already experienced Elluminate *Live!*, so we had a look at it, running the two applications side by side," said Lautt. "Once we had a comprehensive demo with several people participating, it became clear that Elluminate *Live!* was superior in terms of technology, and the reliability was much better. When you set up a session, it just happens, without any technical issues getting in the way. That's when we decided to go with Elluminate *Live!*"

The Solution: Rapid Implementation, Reliable Connectivity, Multiple Uses

"We purchased a server and were up and running with Elluminate *Live!* in about a week," Lautt said. "Because some teachers had successfully used the product in the past, they were motivated. We modeled Elluminate *Live!* for the entire staff, showing how it could be used, and momentum built from there."

"Today, Elluminate *Live!* is used by instructors for scheduled classes and spontaneous one-on-one tutoring sessions, both of which they record to enable continued use," continued Lautt. "While our main campus is in Edmonton, Alberta, we have four satellite sites as well. So, we also use Elluminate *Live!* for staff and collaborative group meetings, enabling those in remote locations, who previously felt some alienation, to contribute."

"Our Instructional Leadership Team has been in operation for two years and is responsible for bringing instructional innovation to all grade levels for all curriculum areas," Lautt added. "The group meets weekly via Elluminate *Live!* to work on executing its annual plan, which includes facilitating staff collaboration, enabling professional development, and building instructional materials."



What makes Elluminate *Live!* the clear choice for live eLearning?

- Crystal-clear audio with voice over the Internet
- User-friendly, intuitive interface that's easy to use and customize
- In-sync communications, regardless of connection speed and quality
- Universal operation in Windows, Mac, and Solaris environments
- ESP (Elluminate Sensory Perception) Moderator Tool Set ensures best user experience
- Greatly reduced travel budgets
- No more costly, inconvenient conference calls
- Best-in-class return on investment, with no per-minute charges
- Accessible, responsive customer service

According to Argyll Centre Help Desk Technician Cheryl Radons, Elluminate *Live!* is also used for remote troubleshooting. "We can use the tool to remotely take over students' computers to solve problems, rather than making home visits or having them bring in their machines," she explained. "Prior to classes, we also work with the online students to help them get them familiar with Elluminate *Live!* We have a number of students in other countries, like China, and Elluminate *Live!* enabled us to get them up and running a lot quicker than in previous years."

The Result: Increased Motivation and Satisfaction, Improved Achievement Levels

"Right now all our Elluminate *Live!* usage is centrally controlled from this site, very much the "sage on the stage" instructional model," said Argyll Centre Principal Ron Bradley. "In the future, we want distance to be removed from individual interactions, with the software woven into the fabric of the organization. That way all communities use it as part of what they do, not just something we create here. We envision students initiating their own Elluminate *Live!* sessions to work collaboratively on projects and present joint results. We are also looking at the whole idea of parents meeting on Elluminate *Live!* rather than in the parking lot."

And what benefits has Elluminate *Live!* provided for the school? "From the instructor and staff side, there is a new enthusiasm for teaching over distance, and while there is a high level of motivation and satisfaction, there is also great anticipation about where we can take this next," Bradley explained. "Students are clamoring to use the tool and telling us how they can be better learners by using Elluminate *Live!*"

"Looking at the business of education, which is student achievement, we conducted two internal research projects where our staff looked at the effect of Elluminate *Live!* participation on high school and junior high student achievement levels," concluded Bradley. "Our research found that when young people are interacting on Elluminate *Live!* with an instructor or with one other, achievement goes up, higher than if students were in a text-based or asynchronous environment. And while we have not done any structured research at the elementary level, we believe that grade school students are improving reading and oral competencies with the use of Elluminate *Live!*"

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