



What FVDES achieved with Elluminate *Live!* Academic Edition

The same content and interaction as a traditional classroom

Elluminate *Live!* enables FVDES to mirror the activity of instructor-led courses and provide opportunities for collaboration—at a distance.

Superior user experience that excites and motivates even the youngest students

Elluminate's live eLearning environment is easy to implement, easy to access, and easy to use—alone or in conjunction with other eLearning tools.

Long-term, responsive partner with proven, state-of-the-art technology

Elluminate is committed to the concept of distance education and enhancing the learning experience—providing leading edge technology that works.

Fraser Valley Distance Education School Helps Motivate K-12 Students with Elluminate *Live!*

One of the largest distance education institutions in British Columbia, Canada, Fraser Valley Distance Education School (FVDES) is part of a nine-school consortium. FVDES provides paper-based and online distance learning for K-12 students across British Columbia and around the world. Currently, the school serves approximately 580 full-time online learners as well as 3,000 correspondence students.

The Challenge: Synchronous Content for All Students

"Since FVDES is very much a cross-platform K-12 school, we need applications that run in multiple environments," said Michael Haworth, secondary online teacher at FVDES. "I was looking for a way to reach out to distance education students, who traditionally have limited contact with teachers via mail, email, or phone. We wanted to move a lot further along, experimenting with synchronous teaching and learning opportunities. Elluminate *Live!* was selected at the consortium level to provide the synchronous content for all the schools."

"Elluminate *Live!* has a lot of tools built in, so there's lots of flexibility," said Haworth. Teachers can build presentations for the interactive whiteboard and use application sharing to teach students how to use our AppleWorks word processing and spreadsheet applications. Elluminate *Live!* also supports our need to have multiple moderators and breakout rooms."

"When we first started with the Elluminate *Live!* technology, we were not really sure how to implement it in our program," said Haworth. "So Vice Principal Graeme Wilson, who did his Masters thesis on the impact on synchronous learning on online learners, and I started out with small projects, such as application training, writing projects, and math tutorials for our 6th and 7th grade students. We learned right along with the students."

The Solution: Blended Approach With Asynchronous, Web and Synchronous Content

According to Haworth, FVDES uses Elluminate *Live!* as part of what he calls a triangular system. "We have an asynchronous application for sending email and attachments," he explained. "Our website provides curriculum support, and Elluminate *Live!* is the synchronous tool we use to support the other methods."

In the beginning, Haworth also used Elluminate *Live!* for a unit on radio theatre that's still being taught today. "We began by studying existing radio plays to teach students how to write a radio script," he said. "Then the students wrote and produced a number of original radio plays. The power of the triangle was at work. Students worked in pairs asynchronously to write and edit, sending drafts via email. They used our website to access resource material, and the students presented the shows using Elluminate *Live!* This project was exceptionally successful, really powerful. The students just loved it, and we began to see that we could use Elluminate *Live!* for some really neat things."



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 Java Desktop System 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

"In 2003, I created a "Journey to Pulsar Vela", a Space Science Unit with another grade 6 teacher," Haworth continued. "We were fortunate to have an astronaut from the Canadian Space Agency speak, so we opened up the Elluminate *Live!* session to the entire consortium. Over 90 students attended the hour-long presentation. Then a number of students participated in a star finder science experiment, presenting their findings via the virtual classroom. The kids loved it. Even the space agency was impressed and agreed to do three more programs with us in 2004 and 2005."

The Result: Live Discussion, Real Motivation, and Social Interaction for Remote Students

According to teachers Janet Delisle and Pat Gerlach, even their K-3 classes now use Elluminate *Live!* "The kids look forward to presenting on Elluminate *Live!* The motivation is really high," Delisle said. "Elluminate *Live!* is a great motivator. The students use the technology without fear because they are all equals in the program. Socially, you couldn't ask for a better tool. The students feel important and valued. It helps raise their self-esteem. The work I am seeing from them is incredible!" Gerlach agrees. "I've been really impressed how quickly friendships are made that carry over into face-to-face meetings," she said.

"I've been surprised by the importance students attach to synchronous activities," added Wilson. "Elluminate *Live!* has become a highlight in their lives, whether it's used for general sessions or ad hoc tutorials. As a distance education school, Elluminate *Live!* has helped make us more responsive and better able to meet our students' needs directly. Students are very excited about their Elluminate *Live!* time. They like being together in class even though they are physically isolated."

"We've had an exceptionally positive response from the parents as well," said Haworth. At first, they wondered if the virtual classroom was simply a toy, but when they see how it works, they are impressed. Elluminate *Live!* is a strong component in our triangle of learning tools," he concluded. "It suits the learning patterns of our students and is changing the way we teach."

Elluminate, Inc. 6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 2000, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
954-449-6200 866-388-8674

TM are trademarks of Elluminate, Inc., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, PowerPoint and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Mac and Macintosh are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. SPARC and Solaris are registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems. Other brands are trademarks of their respective holder(s).