

StudentLink in the Classroom:

St. Bonaventure School, Toronto, Ontario.

With teachers' work schedules being as busy as they are, we don't often get in-depth feedback on how our product StudentLink is being used in the classroom. That's why we were happy to take up the invitation to visit a grade seven/eight classroom at Saint Bonaventure School in Toronto, Ontario.

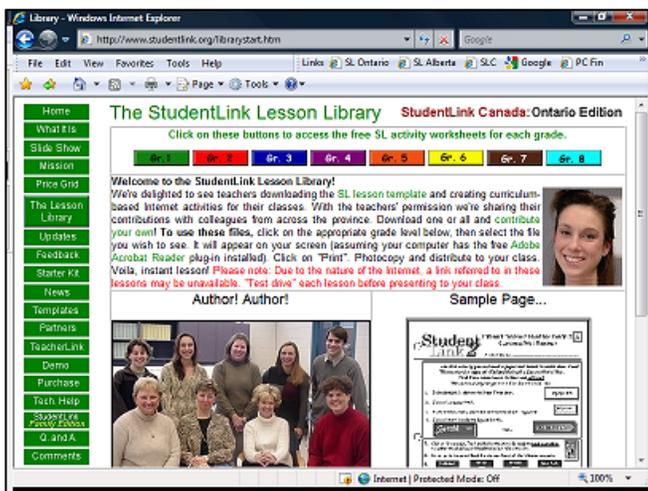
– Jim Finan, Director, StudentLink Canada Ltd.

Teacher and School Librarian Marla Zupan explains:

"Ontario elementary teachers are finding innovative and creative ways to integrate technology into their classroom environments. One successful way of connecting classroom learning with computers is through the introduction and use of Studentlink. This teacher-developed menu system provides easy access to grade-specific, curriculum-based web links which are all carefully categorized according to subject."



Marla downloaded, printed, photocopied and distributed one of the over two hundred teacher-submitted StudentLink Lesson Activities from the StudentLink Lesson Library (left).



"To support and encourage independent research and thought, teacher-designed worksheets for a variety of websites are also freely available for downloading. Working individually or in pairs, students of all ages can navigate new websites by following instructions and responding to questions focusing on critical and media literacy skills."

"Studentlink is the perfect cyber-environment where students from Grades 1 through 8 can safely surf to a plethora of websites in order to locate information, resources, statistics and data. From writing sites to interactive math games, Studentlink connects elementary students instantly with hundreds of web links to assist with and enhance their learning in the school classroom, computer lab and library. As a bonus, there's TeacherLink: another 1,000 links available to help the instructor."





In my teaching assignments this year (Grade 7/8 teacher and teacher librarian), Studentlink has proven to be a central part of teaching online research skills successfully. This year my students quickly learned to appreciate this resource which can be easily accessed on home computers as well*. "It's so useful because we don't have to waste time to find sites" Alex explains. Another Grade 7 student agrees, declaring that "project ideas are easy to find because the grade-level doors are right there".



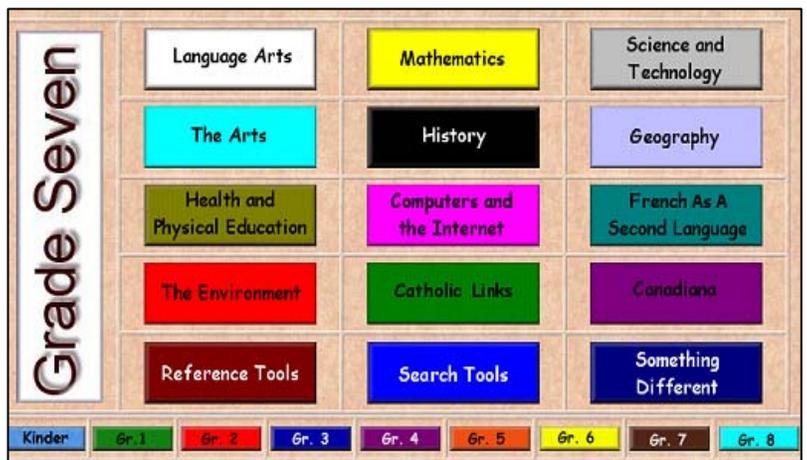
From a Grade 8 perspective, Julia (right) enjoys literacy-based web links as they "help students to write good literature". She along with other students praises the quality of the selected websites along with Studentlink's colourful organization and layout.



Julia (above) completes the two page activity sheet using StudentLink embedded Internet links and returns it to her teacher.



For teachers, Studentlink is one-stop virtual shopping! It provides a safe haven for students to ensure that precious class time is spent efficiently on the search for truthful, current information. Truly, for teachers who struggle to marry their curricula effectively with technology, StudentLink is a brilliant way to develop exciting new communities of cyber-learners!



* With an optional StudentLink Home Use License.