



VHS
Learning

Students prepare for workforce and develop independent learning skills with online learning

Dalat International School, Malaysia

SCHOOL SUCCESS STORY

Located in Penang, Malaysia, Dalat International School provides a college-preparatory, biblical worldview education to students from 24 nations. Dalat's academic and boarding programs are well-known around the world, and the school is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) as well as the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

One of the school's primary tenets is using technology to foster the best learning environment possible for preparing students to be effective in the workforce. As part of that principle, Dalat students are required to take at least one online course during their high school career. To provide students with a suitable range of course options, Dalat International School partnered with VHS Learning in 2001.

"VHS Learning has been a huge help to Dalat International School because we cannot teach all the courses the students would like to take," said Director Karl Steinkamp. "It saves us the effort of hiring teachers for only a small group of students. Plus, VHS Learning helps to provide many AP® courses that we don't offer in school."

When students began using online courses, Steinkamp and his staff realized that while online learning can help students hone independent learning skills, engaging in the asynchronous courses required a certain level of self-discipline from the start.

Steinkamp understood that the problem lay in students' lack of organizational, prioritization, and self-monitoring skills, which resulted in their falling behind in their online studies. "Once students get behind, they are discouraged," he said. "I taught several courses at VHS Learning myself, and I remember one time at mid-term, there were eight or nine students, among 20, who were failing. No matter how much I communicated

"There is one thing unique about Dalat International School: taking at least one online course is a graduate requirement. We currently use several online course providers. I find students like elective classes from VHS Learning best."

*Karl Steinkamp
Director, Dalat International School*



Karl Steinkamp with Xuan You, Director of Global Programs and Services, VHS Learning



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with them or their site coordinators, they decided to quit because they were discouraged. That's why you provide support and structure right from the beginning."

To give students the support they need until they truly became independent learners, Dalat set up an e-lab, complete with staff, in 2009. Students went to the e-lab regularly to take VHS Learning courses. If students ran into any problems, they could quickly obtain support from an e-lab staff member. When the e-lab staff saw a potential problem brewing, they could also work as a liaison between online teachers, students and parents. "It helps to provide structure to students who are not self-directed at the start," said Steinkamp. "This approach improves students' performance a great deal."

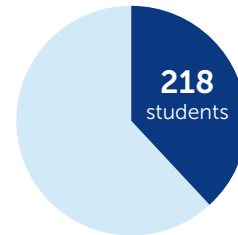
The solution has indeed proven effective. Of the 16 students taking VHS Learning courses in the 2016-2017 school year, 15 of them earned grades above 90; only one student earned 87. This is the highest overall student grade point average among all the international schools enrolling students in VHS Learning courses.

"We appreciate the way VHS Learning courses build up students' skills in self-direction," said Steinkamp. "That's just one of many reasons why we made it our graduate requirement."

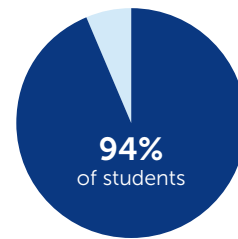
VHS Learning (VHS, Inc.) is a nonprofit, world-class leader in online learning and has been supporting schools, teachers, and students for over 20 years. Learn how at VHSLearning.org.



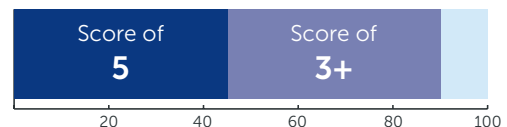
Dalat International School students in grades 9-12



% of Dalat International School students scoring 90 or higher in their VHS Learning course



Dalat International School AP[®] Exam Scores



90% of students taking the AP[®] exam received a score of 3 or higher. 45% received the top score of 5.



VHS Learning students at Dalat International School