



TESSERACT SCHOOL INCORPATES PORTFOLIO PRESENTATIONS FOR UNIQUE HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS

PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA –January 22, 2009– Tesseract School, a non-profit, independent private school—preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th-grade class starting fall 2009—announced today that its ninth-grade students marked the close of their first semester with portfolio presentations, a unique and engaging assessment method.

Tesseract incorporates both examinations and high school portfolio presentations to measure and assess students' development, and their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, throughout the year. To prepare for the presentations, students choose three subjects from which they select projects that they feel illustrate their growth and progression for the semester. Students are then required to write a reflection on themselves as a student, and as a member of the community. The day of the presentation, students share the selected projects to a self-chosen panel of peers, educators and other adults for 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute question-and-answer session. Students are assessed on all three components of the portfolio process—writing, presentation and discussion.

“We chose to utilize portfolio presentations, along with exams, as a means to provide students with an authentic assessment that is driven by them in their own voices,” stated Chris LaBonte, Tesseract’s director of middle and high school. “We are teaching to the future, preparing students to excel in college and beyond. These assessments more closely reflect the assessments students will encounter in the real world, enabling them the opportunity to synthesize, analyze and present their findings to adults and peers—all skills they will need to thrive throughout their lives.”

Tesseract opened its new middle and high school campus at 40th Street and Shea Boulevard in September 2008. This opening marked the start of Tesseract’s new high school program, enabling the school to build upon the proven practices of its existing educational approach, while providing a high school program that truly resonates with students by tapping into their curiosity through connections to real-world issues with hands-on, experience-based learning. Tesseract’s innovative programs include increased focus on international and sustainability issues, and educating students to be critical and innovative thinkers, prepared to excel in college and beyond.

About Tesseract

Tesseract School is a non-profit, independent private school for students in preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th-grade class starting fall of 2009. The school's inaugural ninth-grade class started September 2008, along with the opening of its new middle and high school campus. All grades, preschool through 12, will be available fall of 2011. Tesseract School has high academic standards, thematic learning and more than two decades of academic excellence. Tesseract fosters each student’s intellect, love of learning and strength of character in an innovative and collaborative environment. It prepares students to excel in college and beyond, lead lives of purpose, and become ethical and compassionate citizens with a global perspective. Tesseract’s lower school is located at 4800 East Doubletree Ranch Road, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253. Tesseract’s middle and high school is located at 3939 East Shea Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona, 85028. For more information visit www.tesseractschool.org or call 480-991-1770.

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