



# **VIDEOCONFERENCES IN SCHOOLS**

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## WHAT IS A VIDEOCONFERENCE /VC/?

- for people who are thousands of kilometres far away from each other to have meetings or teachings at the same moment
- students can see or hear each other and communicate that way in real time with the use of videocameras, monitors or projectors, microphones and speakers
- VCs are used in all areas
- One of the most important areas in which it has more and more important role is **the area of education.**

/from [www.carnet.hr/](http://www.carnet.hr/)



## **WHY VIDEOCONFERENCES IN SCHOOL?**

- **no need for travelling**
- **no additional expenses**
- **there is visual communication**
- **lots of ideas and knowledge**
- **involvement in mutual projects**
- **development of communication skills**
- **development of organizational skills**
- **simple access to knowledge**
- **meeting other students, countries and cultures**
- **gaining long-term friendships**

**ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.**



## **WHAT DO WE NEED TO MAKE A VC?**

- **A PARTNER SCHOOL**
- **A COMPUTER (WEB CAMERA, MICROPHONE, SPEAKERS)**
- **INTERNET ACCESS**
- **SKYPE, MSN...**
- **POLYCOM STATION (THE BEST OPTION)**

**and of course...**

- **INTERESTED STUDENTS!**



**TEACHERS AND STUDENTS NEED TO BE  
WELL PREPARED FOR EVERY VC.  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

- **TO CHOOSE A THEME OF A VIDEOCONFERENCE  
(EXAMPLES: NEW YEAR IN OUR COUNTRY,  
WORLD WATER DAY, OUR SCHOOL...)**
- **A TEACHER NEEDS TO PREPARE A DETAILED  
COURSE OF A VIDEOCONFERENCE  
(I will show you a couple of examples at the end)**
- **IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE A TEST A COUPLE  
OF DAYS BEFORE, SO WE COULD BE CERTAIN  
THAT ON THE DAY OF THE VIDEOCONFERENCE  
INTERNET CONNECTION WOULD BE FINE**



## 1. example:

### **PROJECT VIDEOCONFERENCES BETWEEN TWO CLASSES**

DURATION: 2009/2010. 7 VIDEOCONFERENCES

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HORVATI, ZAGREB



ECOLE DE SAINT  
GAUDENT,  
SAINT GAUDENT

Videoconferences had 2 main goals :

- *To improve English language skills of both classes.*
- *To discover and learn about Croatian and French cultures, and specially life of a foreign child.*

#### **Video conferences mainlines :**

- *Link 2 classes of 21 pupils.*
- *Last 30-45 minutes every month (until June 2010).*
- *Follow a precisely prepared script.*
- *Contain repeated rituals.*
- *Focus on a specific theme/issue, different each time.*
- *Students need to work hard on the preparations.*



## 2. example:

### VIDEOCONFERENCE BETWEEN TWO CLASSES

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HORVATI, ZAGREB



CENTER FOR EARLY  
EDUCATION,  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
LOS ANGELES, USA

-How old are you?

-Do you have a brother or a sister?

-Do you have a pet?

-Who is your favorite actor?

-Note: VC lasted longer than predicted because students were in the mood for talk!!



#### 4. example:

### **TWO VIDEOCONFERENCES WITH A SPECIAL THEME**

#### 1. NEW YEAR IN MY COUNTRY

#### 2. MY SCHOOL

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HORVATI, ZAGREB



PO LEUNG KUK  
LUK HING TOO  
PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
HONK KONG, CHINA

We held first videoconferences with Hong Kong in the end of 2008. Let's see how it looked. Students of the 7th grade were involved.

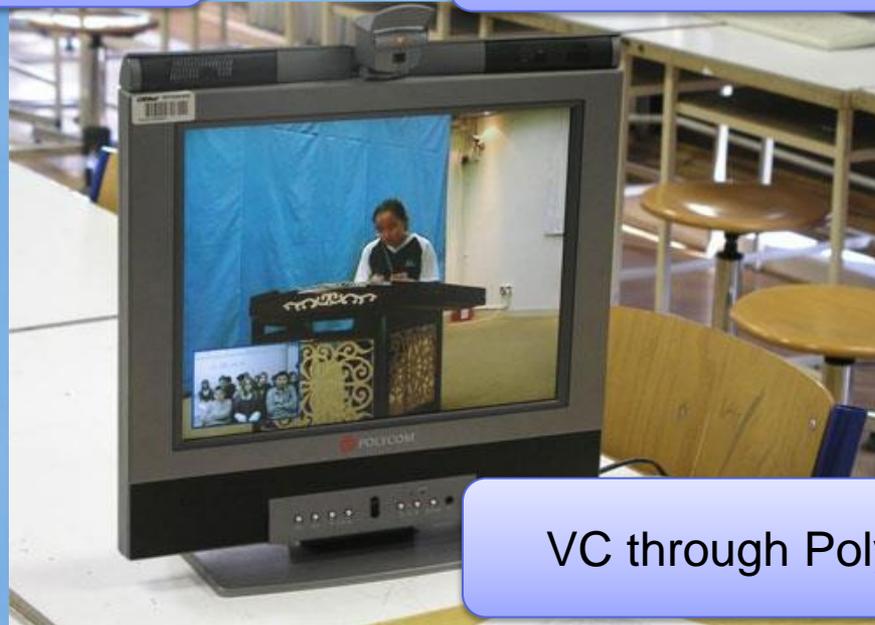




A movie about Zagreb



We learn Mandarin



VC through Polycom station



### **A step by step guide to videoconferencing:**

#### **How the teacher prepares:**

Before each videoconference a detailed script must be drawn up which includes:

- - The topic of the videoconference
- - Date
- - Duration
- - Participants (school, class, pupils)
- - Teachers/moderators
- - Detailed plan/script: includes the order in which the students will be speaking, introduction, how the conference will be run, and conclusion

## Videoconferences in teaching

# A step by step guide to videoconferencing:

SCRIPT	n°4	MONDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> MARCH	START	CET : 10H30	END	CET : 11H00
			VIDEOCONFERENCE SAINT GAUDENT (STG) HORVATI (HV) SCHOOLS			

	Talk slowly and articulate	Speaker	Text
			NB : check questions can be answered by all pupils (raise hand/choose by teacher)
1	Introduction	HV Maria	<p>Hello and Welcome to the fourth videoconference between Horvati and St Gaudent schools.</p> <p>Dear friends nice to see you again. I am Maria and here is Matija. We are speakers for our school today.</p> <p>We have special day in the world and also in our school.</p> <p>Today is World water day so we have many events in our school like workshops, presentations, movies and so on. We also have some guest in our classroom today.</p>
2	Check question n°1	HV Matija	Listen to the first CHECK QUESTION ! What day is today : a) World tree day b) World water day c) Earth day
3	Check answer n°1	STG group	Answer. B)
4	Introduction	Anastasia Lucas R	<p>Hello dear friends. We are very happy to see you again. I am Anastasia, and I am today the speaker for Primary School St Gaudent with my friend Ophélie.</p> <p>Today is Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of march. It is half past ten in the morning.</p>
5	Weather presentation	HV Maria	<p>Today, the weather in Horvati is..... The temperature is .....</p> <p>What is the weather like in St Gaudent ?</p>
6	Weather presentation	Gwendoline	<p>Today, the weather in St Gaudent is..... The temperature is .....</p>

### **A step by step guide to videoconferencing:**

#### **How the students prepare:**

- The extent of the preparation depends on the **age of the participants and experience in using videoconferencing as a method**
- **Younger students need to prepare in greater detail** because it is harder for them to adapt to possible deviations from the script
- **Older students adapt more quickly** so they find it easier to get used to communicating this way
- Students need to **explore, discover and critically reflect** on the topic of the videoconference **together with their teacher**

## A step by step guide to videoconferencing:

### Dissemination:

Can/should/must be carried out in the following ways:

- Create posters, glogsters, etc. & display these in school corridors
- School website
- Blog about it
- Write an article for an online publication
- Present your project at a conference, webinar or a TeachMeet or StudentsMeet



The videoconference itself and talking “**live**” is an extraordinary event for the children.

Our experience tells us that it leads to even stronger connection between pupils from both sides of the wire.

It often leads to **mutual projects**, **visits** and even **years-long friendships** after pupils have already left the school.

Only with the use of IC technology we can accomplish all of the above mentioned goals without the expenses of travel and accommodation.

