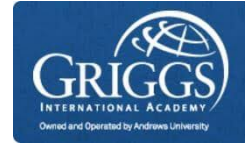


How Distance Education Supports NAD Schools and Families

By De Wilkens, MA



Distance Education offers a range of solutions to schools and individual students. If students need flexibility in time or location, Distance Education is a great option. When NAD K-8 Schools would like to offer 9th and/or 10th grades so students can stay in an SDA School close to home, Griggs International Academy can step in and help until the school can afford the staffing for a full, independent program. This means the local school can offer SDA-vetted and accredited curriculum with fully certified teachers so a funnel can be created to establish local enrollment patterns. As the school grows, they can reduce how many courses students take from Griggs as they add qualified staff. Griggs can support the school through the growth process until the school can either be entirely independent, or only reliant on Distance Education for one or two courses.

Griggs offers a variety of elective courses which can enhance local schools' curriculum. If a high school has a solid core program and would like to provide elective options, students in a single classroom can take a range of courses that appeal to their personal interests. Many of the elective courses offered have information specific to careers in a variety of fields, like photography, forensic science, culinary arts, criminology, and more. This provides the opportunity for enrichment both for schools who might not have the resources to offer a variety, or for individual students who are interested in topics not necessarily provided in core curriculum. Similarly, if a school loses a certified teacher in a particular class, their students can take a class through Griggs until the school can find a suitable local replacement.

While many schools compete for students and are concerned with enrollment numbers, Griggs is concerned with supporting schools and families with whatever their current education needs are: A full SDA curriculum, a few courses to fill in graduation requirements, a repeated class to help improve a grade, an elective to fill a schedule, or an education bridge for students who need a change of scenery or are transitioning to a different school. Distance Education with Griggs International Academy provides opportunities for schools and families to find the best solutions in a variety of situations.

