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Registration opens for NKU kids' classes

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HIGHLAND HEIGHTS -- Northern Kentucky University's student population will get younger this spring.

Norse Kids, an academic enrichment program, will bring children from kindergarten to 12th grade to the Highland Heights campus. The classes are sponsored by NKU's Community Connections.

"We introduced Norse Kids in March 2007, so we are in our second full year," said Linda Nesbitt, director of Community Connections. "Students and parents have found the classes fun and educational, and we have a lot of repeat business as well as multiple children from a family attending different classes.

A class catalog can be found at <http://nkuconnections.nku.edu>. Classes begin Feb. 23.

"We expect the Spanish class that students and parents take together to be very popular," said Nesbitt. "The classes in academic success skills also draw very well, and we expect strong enrollment in the mathematics classes."

Teaching children with and about technology is the focus of several classes.

"We are really excited about a class we call 'Sharing Our Stories,' which pairs students and a parent in creating a digital storybook," said Nesbitt. "We think it is a great opportunity to create a new family keepsake, and promises to be lots of fun. Two new Life on the Internet classes focus on social networking, online communities, and other Web resources for learning and entertainment. One class is for middle-schoolers and a parent, while the second is designed for high school students."

The classes will be taught by NKU faculty and staff. Nesbitt said the classes benefit NKU as well as the students.

"Programs like Norse Kids extend university resources throughout the region as an extension of campus, providing the opportunity to reach and interact with other segments of the community and, thus, enrich the entire teaching/learning experience," Nesbitt said.

Although, their primary focus is still on the students.

"It is our hope, ultimately, to boost student achievement and academic preparation, and prompt students and parents to think about attending college at earlier and earlier ages," Nesbitt said.

Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis and can be done either through the Web site or by calling Community Connections at 859-572-5600.

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