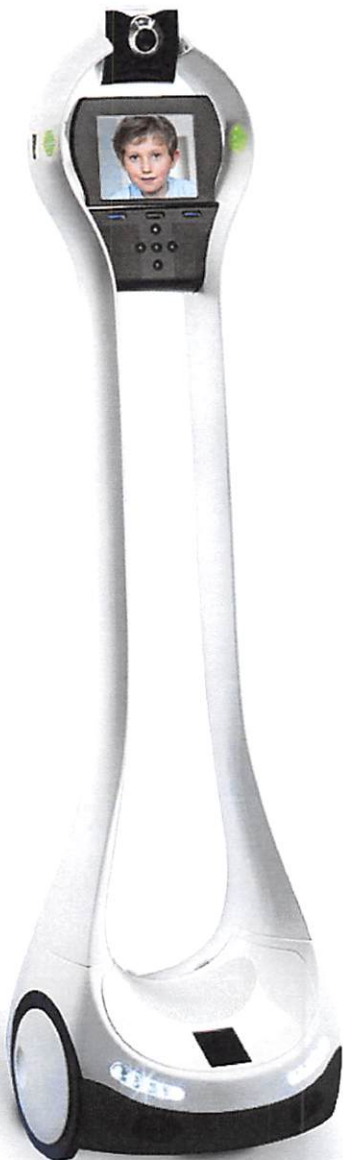




School's Now in Session – For Everyone



How VGo Enables Your Students With Special Health Needs To Attend School

VGo removes the barriers of distance by enabling home and hospital bound students to:

- Develop strong teacher and peer relationships
- Participate in class discussions and school assemblies
- Stay socially connected
- Boost their morale, providing tangible health benefits

“A kid going to school on a robot? That’s crazy talk!”

Yes, we hear that all the time. VGo is new, and we’re all still learning about its applications. In time, academic papers will be published. Until then, this paper is a collection of our experience that will attempt to provide you with most of the information necessary to grasp the reality of a home or hospital bound student going to school on a robot. (Every photo is of VGo’s in use by homebound students – thanks everyone!)

We’ll address issues such as:

- *Why should a school and parents consider VGo*
- *How is VGo different from other alternatives such as Skype*
- *How does it work*
- *What’s it like for a kid going to school on VGo*
- *How do educators first react to the concept*
- *How do other students react to “the robot kid”*
- *How does the homebound student use VGo and what do they need*
- *How must a school prepare for a student using VGo*
- *Who pays for it*
- *What are the steps to get VGo-ing*



Why people consider VGo – The Benefits

"VGo is absolutely amazing. I would have never thought when I was sick that I would ever have any interaction, much less this kind. It is just like I am there in the classroom."

-Lyndon Baty, highschooler, Knox City, Texas



For some students, attending school just isn't possible. Injuries, extended illnesses, immune deficiencies and other physical challenges prevent a student from physically being able to attend school. School districts try to accommodate these special needs by providing on-line courses, in-home tutors, special busing, videoconferencing and more. But these are expensive and very limiting since students – particularly in middle school and high school – miss out on the classroom experience and social life that comes with attending school.

Now with VGo, they can participate in interactive classroom discussions and share in the social aspects of locker-side chats, lunch period and moving from class to class. Even attending school assemblies and after school activities – all from a laptop at home.

VGo is at the forefront of a new category of remote learning modalities that integrates videoconferencing, wireless networking and robotics enabling students with physical limitations to experience the full interactivity associated with attending school. VGo itself is a 4-foot high robotic appliance with integrated camera, screen and audio system that can be driven and operated from any Internet-connected computer.

Unlike with a fixed videoconferencing system or Skype and webcam, with VGo students can move around school autonomously throughout the school day, seeing, hearing and speaking with teachers and classmates as they go – just as if they were there in person.

Parents tell us that by removing the barrier of being unable to go to school, VGo has opened up academic and social environments that were previously closed off to their children. They've seen their kids flourish, both mentally and physically.

While some wish to be private, we also see that many schools and parents take advantage of the benefits of publicity that come with implementing such amazing technology. Schools demonstrate to the community (and sometimes the nation) that they are delivering the best education possible for all. Parents have used the publicity to raise awareness of particular health conditions or their personal situations.

