



Minecraft As A Mandatory Subject In School? Sweet!

By Meera Dolasia

1 Sweden has to be one of the coolest places
for a kid to grow up in. First, they introduced
the concept of schools with no grades or
classrooms, then came Monstrum's amazing
5 playgrounds, and now, the coolest idea of all
— 'forcing' 13-year-olds to play Minecraft as
part of the classroom curriculum.

The seed for this rather radical idea was
10 planted when the government of Sweden
organized a national school competition
called 'Future City', for which classrooms
were asked to submit their ideas about the
kind of structures they envisioned in the
15 Sweden of the future.

It was such a success that educators at
Stockholm's Viktor Rydberg school decided
to continue this 'out of the box' thinking by
20 incorporating Minecraft into the class
curriculum for 13-year-old students.

According to the teachers, the game which
challenges kids to use their imagination by
25 building virtual worlds complete with
electricity grids, water supply pumps and
anything else they would like to see in their
future, allows students to think beyond the
classroom frontiers.

30 This, they believe, will help them make better
decisions as adults, especially about things
like the environmental impact of their actions.
And while it may sound radical to most
people, they liken it to teaching a woodcraft
35 class — except in this case, all the
construction is being conducted in a virtual
world.

So far, 180 13-year-old girls and boys have
40 participated in this mandatory unit, which not
surprisingly has been such a huge hit that
the school is planning to make it a
permanent addition to their curriculum. It of
course augments, not replaces, core
45 subjects like math and science. The
educators say that even parents who were a
little apprehensive about their kids playing
video games at school are now on board and
fully support this decision.

50 We wonder if any school in the US would
even consider such a drastic curriculum
addition — and how parents would react.
What do you think? Be sure to let us know,
55 by adding your comments below.