

Central Bucks East grad's website helps students find their new classmates

By Gary Weckselblatt, staff writer | Posted: Thursday, August 18, 2016 6:00 pm

Jared Silver, 19, is not one to limit his aspirations. Simply put, he wants to change the world.

The Central Bucks High School East 2015 grad, a creator of internet businesses, plans to use his technological prowess to foster a human capital revolution.

"What happens when raw talent is matched with resources to develop that raw talent into something far greater?" he said. "Throughout history we've seen pockets of very successful individuals. For business people, there's been the Industrial Revolution. For artists, there's been the Renaissance.

"If this raw talent is evenly distributed around the world, and not just in very small pockets, I want to help provide those resources to everyone around the world at relatively low cost.

"Think about it. If anyone can access the same line of code, it has the potential to dramatically change the world. It blows my mind. There's nothing I would rather do with rest of my life than make that happen."

But first, Silver has far less complicated goals. With high school and college classes ready to begin later this month, Silver is hoping one of his websites, SameClasses.com, can help students connect before classes begin to alleviate "nervousness, anxiety and stress. It can be a little scary," he said.

Silver created the site last summer as he was getting ready to attend Babson College, a private business school in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

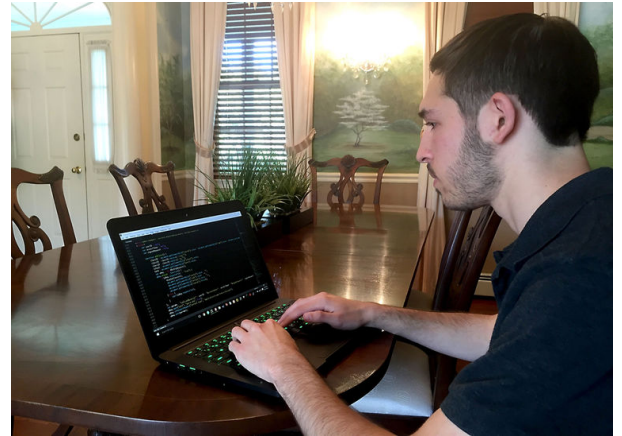
"What if there's a simple way to connect students before they get to school?" he wondered.

His effort yielded hundreds of people posting their schedules.

"I sat down on my computer on a Friday night and next morning it was poorly designed but functional," he said. "I shared it with my Facebook group at Babson. Then I started having high school students contact me."

Just about every public high school and several private schools are listed, along with a majority of colleges, from the U.S. Department of Education database of schools.

"It's a simple platform for determining who else is in your classes. Simply log in with Facebook, select your school, and enter your classes," he said. "Then, share it — the more people who enter their classes, the more useful it becomes to everyone."



Jared Silver working at his computer developing codes and websites.

Ginny Kownurko, the head of East's business department, called Silver "far and away the most intelligent and humble kid I've ever worked with."

She described her former student as "wise beyond his years. Most sophomores come in with a deer in the headlights look, but Jared was confident without being cocky."

Kownurko is especially appreciative of Silver's values. "He uses his talents to help everybody else out," she said. "He's in it for humanity, not for personal gain."

Silver has built a following of more than 10,000 email subscribers, 20,000 website members, 12,000 Twitter followers, and 36,000 Google Plus followers. He created and sold TrafficCodex.com to assist fledgling internet entrepreneurs in marketing their businesses, and he also founded StudyZip.com, now discontinued, to heighten students' learning experience.

Silver received the Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology, and he spoke on "Unconventional Wisdom" at a TEDxTalk, a conference on technology, entertainment and design.

Born in New Jersey, Silver and his younger sister Emily were raised in Buckingham by their parents, Scott, a commercial real estate agent, and Alison, an adjunct professor at Bucks County Community College.

Jared graduated East with a 4.4 grade-point average, and knew as a student at Holicong Middle School that Babson College was the place for him. It's central focus on entrepreneurship education fit in with his plans.

"I had already made an internet business that I was playing around with," Silver said of his middle school days. "I thoroughly enjoyed the act of making and slightly less the act of selling. It was something I could build myself as opposed to outsourcing. I fell in love with programing and design."

And while Babson is a place that, according to Silver, has "so many smart, motivated people with a remarkable opportunity to grow," Silver admits, "There's not a day in my life I don't agonize whether I should pursue business ventures full-time or go to school."

For now, he's preparing for another year at Babson, or at least one more semester.

"It was definitely worth going to school," Silver said. "Whether I finish or not is another story. I'll continually reassess."

Long term, however, his goals remain the same.

"What I focus my life on is trying to improve the life of others," he said.