

### What's a NetCourse?

A NetCourse is a course taught online over the World Wide Web in the Virtual High School. Courses range from music and literature to computer programming and calculus. Class size does not exceed 20 students. VHS offers a catalog of over 100 NetCourses to member schools.

### What's a site coordinator?

The site coordinator manages all technical and administrative issues related to VHS within the member school. VHS provides site coordinator professional development.

### What are the advantages of VHS?

Schools can significantly expand their course offerings without adding extra classrooms. VHS NetCourses provide scheduling flexibility because students can visit their online courses any time of the day or night from school or home. No extra class period is required. And students from a variety of locations and cultures learn to work together in a collaborative, project-oriented environment.

### I'm a small school. Why should I join?

VHS is a cost-effective way for schools with limited resources to offer courses they never dreamed possible. Schools can expand educational opportunities by offering students advanced, honors, technical and specialized courses. VHS also provides access to online professional development for teachers who might not otherwise be able to participate.

### How much does it cost?

Cost varies depending on the training options chosen, but generally there are three fees: the school's yearly membership fee, the cost of teacher professional development, and the cost of site coordinator professional development. Contact the VHS National Office for more details.

### How can my school get involved?

Contact your school administration about becoming a VHS consortium member and then apply online at our website: <http://www.goVHS.org>. Select **Want To Join** at the bottom of the page. You can also contact the VHS National Office to discuss your school's involvement in the Virtual High School.

[www.goVHS.org](http://www.goVHS.org)



For more information about the Virtual High School and VHS professional development NetCourses, please contact us.

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Founded by The Concord Consortium and Hudson Public Schools of Massachusetts

We're Bringing  
Innovative  
Education  
to the World.

Virtual High School



# Opening Doors in Education

[www.goVHS.org](http://www.goVHS.org)



Virtual High School

### What is Virtual High School?

The Virtual High School (VHS) is a consortium of public and private schools nationwide and in some international schools that offers Web-based courses to high schools that are members of the VHS consortium. Any secondary school can become a member of VHS.

### What kinds of courses are offered?

The VHS catalog offers over 100 NetCourses (online courses), including advanced placement, honors, technical and specialized courses, to high school students in VHS member schools.

### How do students take a course?

Students participate in their course online by logging in over the Internet from school or home. Students are required to log in daily and participate in group discussions, complete homework, and take tests online. Classes are asynchronous, which means there is no scheduled daily class when everyone meets at the same time. This does not mean students can ignore daily assignments. Courses are rigorous and require regular participation.

### What kinds of students do well in VHS?

VHS requires a certain amount of self-discipline and motivation on the part of the student. But sometimes a poor classroom student excels in a VHS NetCourse because communicating online eliminates many teenage social pressures that can discourage students from participating.

### Who teaches the courses?

All VHS NetCourse instructors are classroom teachers in member schools. VHS is unique because it offers online professional development to secondary instructors who want to learn to teach online. VHS consortium members design and teach their own courses to other consortium members — a sustainable model that provides teachers and schools with long-term opportunities. The course catalog consists of successful, well-designed VHS NetCourses that pass VHS course design requirements.

### How can I teach in VHS?

VHS provides all the professional development a classroom teacher needs to teach and/or design a NetCourse for the Virtual High School.



HAS BEEN OFFERING Web-based courses to high school students since 1996. No one has more experience educating high school students online than we do. We pioneered the design of secondary online courses and the development of cost-effective methods of course delivery. VHS is unlike other groups offering courses over the Internet. First, we're a nonprofit organization. Our mission is to bring quality, innovative education to every high school nationwide. Second, your teachers are our teachers. The Virtual High School is a unique collaboration of public and private high schools that takes advantage of existing teaching resources to offer online courses — VHS NetCourses — to students in participating schools. We do not replace classroom teachers with online instructors. VHS NetCourses are taught by experienced classroom instructors in our member schools who want to learn to teach online. Third, the VHS National Office assures the quality of NetCourse content and instruction by requiring VHS teachers to successfully complete rigorous Web-based professional development in online course design and instruction before teaching in VHS. Our Faculty Advisors continually review and evaluate the quality of our NetCourses to maintain our high standards.



## The World of Virtual High School

Open the Door to Knowledge

[www.goVHS.org](http://www.goVHS.org)

ferences, homework, and tests — takes place online. The VHS National Office maintains the course catalog, manages registration, and provides all server space for storing course materials. Access to Internet Explorer 4.0x or Netscape 4.0x and at least a 56K connection are required. (Cable, DSL or higher is recommended.) Books and software are provided.

### TEACHERS



VHS IS AN OPPORTUNITY for teachers as well as high school students. The VHS collaborative model of online education offers interested classroom teachers the opportunity to learn new skills in Web-based teaching. VHS NetCourse teachers are classroom teachers in VHS member schools who want to teach online. We provide the online professional development courses necessary to design Web-based courses and teach online in the Virtual High School. In exchange for providing teaching resources, the member school can enroll students in any VHS NetCourse — 20 students per VHS NetCourse section taught. This unique collaborative model provides classroom teachers with new skills, schools with more scheduling flexibility, and students with more courses to choose from. Teachers can design courses that their schools otherwise would not be able to offer and teach students from all over the country and internationally online. VHS teachers also become part of a VHS community of teachers who answer questions, provide support and share ideas online. We also offer professional development to VHS site coordinators so they can manage technical and administrative tasks within the member school and coordinate communication with the VHS National Office.

### SCHOOLS



OVER 200 SCHOOLS in the U.S. and internationally are part of the VHS consortium. Any public or private secondary school can apply for membership in the Virtual High School. VHS includes many small rural and urban schools, schools with limited resources, and innovative schools who are seeking a cost-effective way to expand their course offerings and increase scheduling flexibility. VHS member schools are located in 33 states and include communities from Washington state's Olympic peninsula and rural Texas to New York City and the Maryland School for the Deaf. All VHS member schools share a commitment to providing opportunities to students and teachers alike.

### STUDENTS



MORE THAN 5,000 STUDENTS have taken VHS NetCourses. Students register for NetCourses through their local high school and can participate in their courses online from any location. Some schools require students to participate in their VHS NetCourses daily from workstations within the building, other schools allow students the flexibility of logging in from school or home. It is not unusual for a NetCourse to include students from many different states and cultures. If there is one characteristic that all successful VHS students share it is the ability to work independently. VHS NetCourses are challenging and require no less participation or effort than other courses. At the same time, it is not

always the traditionally successful student who excels.

VHS students report that online courses provide a sense of freedom from the social pressures that usually accompany high school. Online, no one can see if you're tall or short, dressed in the latest fashion, or in a wheelchair. Quiet students open up. Racial and gender barriers break down. Consequently, many VHS students accomplish goals they never dreamed possible.

### NETCOURSES

A NETCOURSE IS A CLASS taught online over the Internet. VHS offers over 100 NetCourses in music, math, creative writing, literature, computer programming, web design, and many other subjects. All communication — class discussions, student and teacher con-



### HOW TO JOIN

Any public or private high school can apply to join the Virtual High School. For more information go to our website <http://www.goVHS.org> and follow the **Want To Join** link at the bottom of our homepage. Or call 978-897-1900 to talk to us.