

VHS Offers Your School More – A School Case Study

Virtual High School (VHS)

VHS is a non-profit collaborative of more than 200 partner schools throughout the U.S. that uses online education to expand learning opportunities for teachers and students. Our award-winning collaborative model is unique among online education providers and features nearly 150 innovative, student-centered courses that enhance curricula and meet nationally accepted standards.

How can VHS help your school?

Schools are always looking to expand learning opportunities for students and teachers but with budget constraints, it can often be a challenge. That's why VHS created a collaborative online learning model that helps schools implement the best online educational methodology in the country, boost curricula and add online professional development opportunities for teachers at a fraction of the staffing and administrative costs needed to initiate the same programs independently.

By partnering with VHS, schools have an affordable way to add:

- A unique global online learning and teaching environment
- Nearly 150 diverse, content-rich high school course offerings including Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Astronomy, American Popular Music, World Conflict: A United Nations Introduction

- Summer programs, AP and the only online IB course offered in the country
- Anytime, anywhere online learning
- Professional development courses for faculty in the best, most-respected online teaching methodology available

How does VHS work?

All it takes is one teacher from each district teaching an online course, one period a day, to see valuable results with VHS. Once schools offer an online course to VHS's collaborative they gain 50 virtual classroom seats annually for their students. The VHS team provides full technical support for member schools including student registration, online grading, server maintenance and more.

Teachers from your school will have the option to enroll in one of two different graduate-level online professional development courses: *The Teachers Learning Conference (TLC)*, a 22-week course that trains teachers to develop and teach an online course or *Netcourse Instructional Methodologies(NIM)*, a 15-week course that trains educators to teach an existing online VHS course. Schools then enroll one volunteer teacher or staff member into the VHS Site Coordinator training—a 4-week online professional development course that teaches how to manage all technical and administrative issues related to the VHS online learning program. Participants in all VHS Professional Development Programs are eligible for graduate-level credits after they successfully complete their training.

A School Case Study continued on the back of this sheet

A School Case Study (continued)

VHS in action at the Metropolitan Learning Center – A Case Study

The Metropolitan Learning Center is a small inter-district magnet school that is open to students from six different communities in Connecticut. The school has a unique global and international studies theme, state-of-the-art design, and technologically advanced equipment such as laptops and audio-visual equipment. The school offers grades six to ten and has a small student population of some 485 students. Principal Dr. Suzi D'Annolfo is working to integrate grades 11 and 12 by 2004.

The Metropolitan Learning Center faces the challenge of being a small school

According to D'Annolfo, one of the challenges she faces running a small school is trying to meet the diverse needs of her students and faculty with limited resources. Her solution is to look for additional learning opportunities for students outside the four walls of the traditional classroom. But finding quality programs that fit with the school's vision isn't always easy.

When D'Annolfo first heard about VHS's online learning program, she thought it was the perfect response for her tech savvy school. The Metropolitan Learning Center already encouraged online learning, students had laptops and VHS's international program fit with the school's global approach to education. She hoped that adding an online learning program would allow her to offer a greater selection of electives and build curricula for the upcoming grade 11 and 12 launch.

The Virtual High School solution

After speaking with the VHS team, she decided to enroll one of her teachers into the VHS teacher-training program and try the online learning program with a grade 10 class. One year later, the grade 10 students at the Metropolitan Learning Center have had the opportunity to take many of VHS's exciting online courses such as Multi-media, Computer Science and Engineering, and D'Annolfo has seen them flourish. She also received great feedback from the school's VHS teacher who said the online teacher training experience was very rewarding. She liked having the opportunity to gain online teaching methodology and see students taking a new approach to learning.

VHS and the Metropolitan Learning Center working together to achieve results

After seeing such positive results with students and teachers, D'Annolfo has decided to open up the VHS program to more students and teachers at the Metropolitan Learning Center. Next year, D'Annolfo will have two VHS teachers on staff and offer 50 virtual classroom seats for students.

"VHS has been a great opportunity for our kids to study different subjects through a new learning approach. The seats are always filled and our kids are choosing to return to VHS next year. After the first day of registration for next year's course offerings, only five seats out of 50 were left." said D'Annolfo.

How do I find out more?

To arrange a one on one consultation with a member of the VHS collaborative, please call 978-897-1900, send us an email at info@goVHS.org, or log onto www.goVHS.org.



Virtual High School

Bringing innovative education to the world

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