OCEAN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

501 Atlantic Avenue
Ocean City, NJ
0 8 2 2 6

Ocean City Virtual High School Course offerings for the 2021-2022 school year:

Advanced Placement
AP Economics
AP European History

Arts
Art History* (Honors)
Creating Art History*
Music: Fundamentals of Composition*

Business
Business and Personal Law*
International Business*
Investing in the Stock Market*

Computer Science and Technology
Programming and Visual Basic*
Web Design*

Engineering
Engineering for Sustainable Energy*

Language Arts
Creative Writing*
Fantasy and Science Fiction Short Stories*
Film and Literature*
Horror Writers*
Poetry Writing*
Screenwriting Fundamentals*

Life Skills/Health
Digital Citizenship*
Employability Skills*
Preparing for College*

Mathematics
Essential Math for College and Careers*
Mathematics of Electricity*
Number Theory*

Science
Animal Behavior and Zoology* (Honors)
Biochemistry* (Honors)
Bioethics* (Honors)
Epidemics*
Meteorology*
Nuclear Science*
Pre-veterinary Medicine* (Honors)

Social Studies
Constitutional Law* (Honors)
Contemporary Issues in American Law and Justice*
Criminology* (Honors)
Peacemaking*
Practical Law*
Psychology of Crime* (Honors)
Sports and Society*
The Glory of Ancient Rome* (Honors)
World Conflict: A United Nations Introduction*

World Languages
German Language and Culture*
Mandarin Chinese Language and Culture*
Portuguese I
Russian Language and Culture*

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<u>Virtual High School Application – 2021-2022</u>

The Ocean City School District is pleased to provide the opportunity for eligible high school seniors to take online courses through Virtual High School (VHS). The Virtual High School is a high quality online course provider that works in cooperation with local schools to provide enriching online courses. Virtual High School is a collaborative effort of hundreds of high schools from across the country and around the world. It will offer our students a way to expand their educational opportunities and 21st century skills in an entirely new way via the Internet. VHS is nationally accredited by the Middle States Commission for Secondary Education and the Northwest Accreditation Commission. The VHS online design and delivery standards are in alignment with the National Education Association recommended standards for online teaching and learning.

Although exciting and innovative, virtual courses are not for everyone. A student must meet the VHS course prerequisites and only consider taking a VHS class if he/she is an extremely self-motivated, self-disciplined learner who is a proficient user of technology. Before students apply, they need to make sure that they fully understand what is involved in taking an online course through VHS. VHS online classrooms use a learning management system called Desire2Learn. Through Desire2Learn, VHS students can post assignments, communicate with their teacher, participate in discussions, and collaborate on group projects. VHS courses are facilitated by experienced, certified teachers and their curriculum provides students with opportunities to pursue unique areas of interest while gaining critical thinking and communication skills. For further information, please visit the Virtual High School website www.thevhs.org

Our selection of Virtual High School courses will provide you with the opportunity to take a course not offered in our high school. However, there are some significant differences between taking a course in school and taking a course virtually. How do you know this is a good option for you?

- You should have a strong interest in the subject matter. This will help keep you motivated.

- You will move from teacher-supported learning to student-directed learning. You will need to take on more personal responsibility for organizing your time, using effective study skills, and learning course content. It will take discipline to keep pace with the course since you are not reporting to a classroom every day.

- Classes are asynchronous. This means that you will not log on to your course at the same time as your teacher. You will have contact with your teacher through the course management system. You will be working independently.

- You will be expected to complete a considerable amount of work to demonstrate course proficiencies. Remember, you are not in a typical classroom environment where a teacher can assess your classroom participation or daily interactions.

- You will be expected to read all assigned material and complete all assignments.

- You will be required to demonstrate academic integrity. You must demonstrate honesty, trustworthiness, and fairness. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

- Some textbooks may come with electronic resources which include websites, self-tests, or checklists. Learn to use these as study aids.

- You must be organized. Maintain a planner to help you manage your time effectively as you juggle studying for your in-school classes, your virtual class, extra-curricular activities, friends, family commitments, and socializing.

- If you choose an Advanced Placement course, a summer assignment will be required.

Need more information? Talk to your guidance counselor to see if a Virtual High School Course is a good fit for you and your learning style. You can also visit the Virtual High School website at www.thevhs.org for additional information and to view the Virtual High School course descriptions.

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Virtual High School Application – 2021-2022

Student & Parent /Guardian: Complete Below and Return to your Child's Guidance Counselor

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Counselor: _____

Requested VHS Course Name(s): _____ _____

(Note: Students are limited to one full year VHS course or two VHS semester courses per year)

I have read and understand the ***Virtual High School Application*** and would like to enroll in a Virtual High School course. Both my parent/guardian and I have initialed the Frequently Asked Questions attached.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent /Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Faculty / Administrator Recommendations (two recommendations are required):

As a member of the Faculty / Administration, my signature below indicates I believe the above student is an extremely self-motivated, self-disciplined learner who is a proficient user of technology and would make the most of an opportunity to enroll in a Virtual High School course.

Recommender # 1 Name: _____

Recommender #1 Signature: _____

Recommender # 2 Name: _____

Recommender #2 Signature: _____

Once a student makes a commitment to a VHS course, it is the expectation that they complete the requirements of the course. Therefore, we do not expect students to drop a VHS course once they have enrolled. Students are carefully pre-screened to ascertain their level of motivation and ability to succeed in an online environment. Please be mindful of the fact that the school has paid the tuition for your students VHS course(s), which range from $450 to $1,000 per course and that other students may have been denied the opportunity to enroll due to the limited number of seats. Your commitment and full effort is expected and appreciated.

Virtual High School Application – 2021-2022

To be completed by a student.

What course(s) are you interested in taking and why? (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What qualities do you possess that will make you a good candidate for VHS? (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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Virtual High School Application – 2021-2022

Frequently Asked Questions about VHS

Does a student receive credit for taking a Virtual High School class? Yes. A student will receive five credits for a full year class and 2.5 credits for a semester course. If the course is one of the students' courses in their schedule, the student's grade will also be incorporated into his/her GPA and class rank.

How many Virtual High School classes can a student take? A student is permitted to take one full year VHS class or two semester courses per year as one of their seven courses. Students can choose to take a VHS course in addition to their regular school schedule, but it would be at their expense and although credit would be awarded a course taken above the students allotted schedule of courses would not count towards their GPA or class rank.

What grade levels are permitted to take a Virtual High School class? Students entering grade 11 or 12 will be able to submit a Virtual School Application, pending credit status and schedule availability.

What happens if a student drops a Virtual High School class? We do not expect students to drop a VHS course once they have made a commitment to enroll. Students will be carefully pre-screened to ascertain their level of motivation and ability to succeed in an online environment. Please be mindful of the fact that the school has paid the tuition for your students VHS course, which ranges from $450 to $1,000 per course and that other students may have been denied the opportunity to enroll due to the limited number of seats. Your committed and full effort is expected and appreciated.

What kind of courses will Virtual High School offer for our students? For a full listing of available Virtual High School Courses, please refer to the Program of Studies tab under the Guidance section of the Ocean City High School web page.

Who can a student contact if he/she is having concerns about their class or Virtual High School instructor? Each high school will provide a "site coordinator." This individual will act as a liaison between your home high school and the Virtual High School. The site coordinator will communicate the VHS program to students and parents, monitors student progress, and communicates with the VHS support team and the student's guidance counselor. Of course, your child's guidance counselor is always available for assistance.

How will Virtual High School classes be delivered? Courses are delivered by certified instructors and move forward on a weekly calendar schedule so students cannot finish early at an accelerated pace. VHS course design standards ensure that all courses have a high level of peer-to-peer interaction so students learn from their peers as well as their instructor. The asynchronous schedule enables students around the globe to participate in working groups and class discussions.

Are Virtual High School classes scheduled in a way to allow students to manage their time effectively and keep up with their course work? Scheduled online learning with allotted time during the school day, weekly assignments, and a fixed semester or year-long schedule can help students keep up with their course work and manage their time effectively. Students who have successfully completed an online course can show colleges and employers that they have learned how to manage their time and assignments effectively.

How does the Virtual High School timetable compare to the OCHS calendar in terms of semesters, finals, and when grades are due? Relatively well. Timelines for progress reports and grades will be communicated to the VHS instructor by our VHS Site Coordinator.

Will students be assigned a specific classroom for their Virtual High School class? Students will be assigned a study hall for attendance purposes. Although students do need to use this time for Virtual High School coursework, they will have access to a computer should they wish to use study hall time for this purpose. Students should effectively plan and monitor their time in order to successfully complete their VHS class. This is part of the independent learning process. The VHS course will appear on the student's transcript and will be calculated into the student's GPA.

How can I register for a Virtual High School course? A student must complete the Virtual High School Application and request the course through their guidance counselor when they select their courses for the upcoming school year.

What if a student is "closed" out of a Virtual High School course? As with any class that may be closed to a student, the student will be placed on a "wait" list. The student will be informed by his/her counselor to select another VHS or home high school class.

Date: _____   Student Initials: _____   Parent/Guardian Initials: _____