

the
**Future
is
Now!**



Virtual High School Introduction

www.goVHS.org

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Agenda

- Introductions
- VHS Overview
 - Background
- 21st century students
- VHS Experience



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Route 21

ζ What are 21st century learning skills?

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Today's Students

- Digital Generation
 - IM
 - Facebook
 - Music
 - Video
 - Research
- Engage today's students
- Expand student experiences

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21st Century Learning Skills

- Effective communication and interpersonal skills in a global community
- Inventive thinking skills (creativity, problem solving, critical thinking)
- Collaboration, productivity and team-building skills
- Digital age literacy skills (technological, cultural, global awareness)
- All in Internet time
 - www.21stcenturyskills.org: Learning for the 21st Century – A report and Mile Guide for 21st Century Skills by Partnership for 21st Century Skills

"...Critical thinkers and problem solvers who can communicate, collaborate and have a global awareness"

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About VHS



- A non profit global consortium of over 500 high schools offering innovative online courses
- Currently in 11th year of online course delivery
- Originally funded by the Federal DOE through a 7.8M tech. grant – five years of research & development

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Philosophy & Mission

- Expand the course of study
- Expand student content experiences
- Create global citizens
- Teach 21st century skills
- Allow districts to continue offering a wide range of electives...even those that are under enrolled.

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Philosophy & Mission

- No full time enrollments
- Not an alternative diploma program
- Course credit is issued by you
- Student eligibility is determined by you
- All policy is set locally

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Teachers

- Teachers come from you/member schools
- All teachers are certified
- Teachers complete a graduate level course in online course delivery (NIM)
- First year teachers are paired with a faculty advisor/mentor

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Site Coordinators

- Site Coordinators are the glue that makes the program work
- Could be someone from guidance/teacher/administrative staff/paraprofessional
- Manages enrollments, grade reporting, student monitoring, student support
- Manages materials

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How is VHS Unique ?

- The VHS instructional model is built around an interactive experience in which students learn from the teacher as well as fellow students.
- These are virtual classrooms
- No more than 25 students

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How Courses are Conducted

- On a 15 week semester-based schedule
- Each self paced lesson begins on a Wednesday and ends on Tuesday
- Teachers and students may live in different time zones
- Students can access course any time from any computer in the world

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Course Experience...

- Fully online
- 25 student limit
- Fully certified teachers
- Included as part of students academic schedule
- Semester based
- Asynchronous

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