

## ***North Carolina Virtual Public School 2010-2011***

The North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) established by the North Carolina State Board of Education, is an online school community serving K-12 public school students throughout the state of North Carolina.

The **purpose** of the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) is to provide courses that students are unable to take at their local schools. In other words NCVPS will provide courses that augment a student's local school's program of study.

For example a student may wish to take an AP course the local school does not offer. Another student may want to complete the remaining requirement for graduation this semester yet the course needed at the student's school is already full this semester. Another student may be home bound or hospital bound due to illness or injury and wish to remain on schedule to graduate on time. Yet another student may wish to graduate from high school in three years.

NCVPS is not degree granting. Student progress reports will be provided to students and schools every 4 ½ weeks. When the course is successfully completed, credit is transferred to the local school for placement on the student's transcript.

In addition to courses students may also register for additional services such as SAT or ACT test preparation as well as AP exam reviews.

The NCVPS budget absorbs the full operational cost of teaching courses on line. There is no cost to the participating school or student.

### **The NCVPS Instructional Model**

The NCVPS utilizes an online educational environment to provide increased educational opportunities to public school students across the state through an anytime, anyplace instructional model. An anytime, anyplace instructional model accommodates scheduling flexibility, provides students opportunities to accelerate learning, extends students student learning beyond the traditional school day, and offers credit recovery options to students throughout the year.

To accommodate student needs and provide optimal flexibility, NCVPS online offerings are designed for an appropriate combination of synchronous and asynchronous delivery, affording students access to their courses 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Through web-based, asynchronous tools, such as discussion boards, email, file exchange, collaboration groups, and online testing, student-centered learning communities are established to promote student engagement and active learning in the online environment. All courses are instructor-led to facilitate group interaction, differential instruction, project based and inquiry learning, while increasing student-student and teacher-student exchanges.

In addition to the asynchronous online format, synchronous tools, such as whiteboard, text-based chat, Net Tutor, and telephone or V.O.I.P. are utilized to provide real-time communication and additional support to online students. Instructors are required to establish weekly online office hours to support individualized instructional needs through whiteboard instruction; communicate with students via phone collaborative opportunities. (Visit the NCVPS website ([www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org)) for more information on a wide array of instructional materials)

## **Student Enrollment Guidelines:**

- ◆ NCVPS courses are for the independent student\* / students will have access to instructors based on the office hours set up by the instructors
- ◆ NCVPS provides courses a student otherwise would not be able to enroll in at the student's local school. Students may take online courses from home, community center, or any location with appropriate hardware and Internet connection. The reasons to take an online course through NCVPS are many and include, but are not limited to, the following:
- ◆ NCVPS courses may accommodate students wanting to take courses not available locally
- ◆ NCVPS courses may accommodate students wanting to take courses whose sections at the local school are already full
- ◆ NCVPS courses may accommodate students who already have a full load and wish to take additional courses
- ◆ NCPVS courses may accommodate students whose schedule does not permit taking certain elective courses during the school day
- ◆ NCPVS courses may accommodate students whose special circumstances cannot be addressed locally
- ◆ NCVPS courses may accommodate students who want to graduate ahead of schedule from school
- ◆ NCVPS courses may be used as options for suspended students or for those students in need of remediation

## **Additional Information:**

- ◆ NCPVS can only accommodate students currently enrolled in a NC Public School
- ◆ Students should consult with their school counselor to see if the NCVPS online course of study is a proper fit
- ◆ In the high schools, each student shall carry a course load equal to the number of instructional periods in the school day (WCPSS Policy) and
- ◆ Students may only take one additional NCPVS course per semester (fall/spring and based on availability)
- ◆ Students may take two additional NCPVS courses in summer school (based on availability)
- ◆ Special Needs Students / If a student has an IEP, 504 or LEP plan requiring modifications to the instructional environment, the NCVPS representative will discuss additional support necessary to accommodate the modifications. This will require a meeting to amend the IEP, 504 or LEP to include the online learning environment and necessary modifications. The student's enrollment will be processed after the amendments have been made.

## **How to Register for a NCVPS Course:**

1. Any student wishing to register for a NCVPS course must consult with their school counselor to determine if an independent online course is a right fit for them.\*
2. Students must visit the NCVPS website ([www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org)) to obtain information on the following:
  - a. Course Offerings & Course Descriptions
  - b. Minimal Computer Requirements
  - c. Internet Browser Test
  - d. Frequently Asked Questions
  - e. Help Form
3. Complete parts I, II and III of the NCVPS Registration Form (located below and/or Student Services).
4. Complete a Dual Enrollment Form (located below and/or Student Services).
5. Student's should complete the student registration process through the assigned counselor.

## **Withdrawal Policy**

A ten day drop/add period will be implemented for all NCVPS courses. The end of the drop/add period will be noted on the NCVPS academic calendar.

Several factors will be considered in enrolling students past the drop/add period. NCVPS reserves the right to make final decisions in enrolling students past the drop/add period.

Students may withdraw from a NCVPS course past the drop/add period. No credit, full or partial, will be awarded for non-completion of a course. A grade of "WF" will be recorded on the transcript if a student withdraws after the drop/add period.

## **NCVPS 2010-2011 Academic Year**

The NCVPS 2010-2011 Academic Year accounts for 90 days, or 18 weeks of student instruction per semester.

Visit the NCVPS web site at [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org) for more information on Registration, Instructor Online Office Hours, Net Tutor, The Parent and Student Orientation Process and the Communication Network.

Students wishing to take a NCVPS course during the school year and summer should consult with their school counselor and/or Ms. Williams, NCVPS DLA.

## **Message About Summer School Exams**

Some courses will require a state-mandated exam (EOC, VoCATs). Students enrolled in such courses will be notified of the testing date and time. These exams are generally taken at the base school.

## **\*Characteristics of Successful Online Learners**

While distance learning opportunities provide tremendous benefits to students in regards to course offerings, student-centered instruction, flexible scheduling, and heightened critical thinking and written communication skills, there are specific learner characteristics that promote greater student success in online learning environments. The following guidelines may assist in identifying students for distance learning opportunities:

- ◆ Autonomous learners are generally skilled in the areas of responsibility and self-regulation, necessary for managing course assignments and deadlines through online environments.
- ◆ Academically motivated learners commonly exhibit an internal locus of control, affording online students the persistence necessary in achieving desired goals.
- ◆ Grade level reading ability is a critical determinant of student success in online environments, as much of the course is delivered through written communication.
- ◆ Proficiency in written communication is required of students, as online courses are dependent not only upon live classroom discussions but also upon group discussion boards and written assignment submissions.
- ◆ Basic computer skills are necessary for students to function in an online learning environment, as students will utilize word processing software, email capabilities, and Internet resources in completing assignments and activities.
- ◆ Parental support has also been found to promote student success in online learning, as parents will generally work to ensure students meet deadlines and have the necessary resources available to them.
- ◆ Computer and Internet access at home, although not required, can certainly provide an advantage to students participating in distance learning courses, as students, many times, prefer to continue their work on assignments and communications outside of their regular school, or even take courses at home during the evening or on week-ends.



# North Carolina Virtual Public School Registration Form (2010-2011)

## NCVPS Registration Instructions

View the entire list of all North Carolina Virtual Public School courses on the NCVPS website ([www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org)). Students must consult with their counselor and parents about course selections. WCPSS dual enrollment policy applies to all students. Each student should review the “*Characteristics of Successful On-line Learners*” information before registering for a course. First-time students are limited to one course per semester. Under extreme circumstances, a student may be approved for two courses. It is not recommended for a student to take more than one course in addition to a full school course load. Students wishing to register for a NCVPS on-line course should complete the following steps in order to be considered:

1. Consult with their parents and counselor
2. Fill out the registration form (parents and counselor must sign)
3. Turn into assigned counselor in Student Services

**Registration Information Part I**      (circle one)      **Summer**    **Fall**    **Spring**

### *General Information*

<b>Student Last Name</b>	<b>Student First Name</b>	<b>Student Middle Name</b>
<b>Student Birth Date</b>	<b>Current Grade Level</b>	<b>NC Wise Number</b>
<b>Address/Street Name &amp; Number</b>		<b>City/State/Zip</b>
<b>Home Phone</b>	<b>Student’s Cell Phone</b>	<b>Student’s Work Phone</b>
<b>Student’s Email Address</b>		
<b>Parent’s Name</b>	<b>Parent’s Cell Phone</b>	<b>Parent’s Work Phone</b>
<b>Parent’s Email Address</b>		

**Registration Information Part II****Course Information**

\*Note: beginning summer 2010, students are responsible for the cost of textbooks and materials.

<b>Current High School</b>			
Wakefield High School			
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Credit Recovery Course?</b>	<b>Counselor Signature</b>
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Credit Recovery Course?</b>	<b>Counselor Signature</b>
<b>Alternate Course Name</b>	<b>Alternate Course Number</b>	<b>Credit Recovery Course?</b>	<b>Counselor Signature</b>
<b>Alternate Course Name</b>	<b>Alternate Course Number</b>	<b>Credit Recovery Course?</b>	<b>Counselor Signature</b>

**Registration Information Part III: Electronic Resource Use/Academic Integrity**

By signing below, I agree that all work submitted in this course will be my own. I will uphold WCPSS Code of Conduct and promote academic integrity while at WHS and while taking online courses. I understand that if I violate WCPSS policy, I am placing myself at risk of failing the course and may face disciplinary action at WHS.

I also agree to abide by the WCPSS Policy 6446: Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources. I understand that if I violate WCPSS policy by actions including but not limited to: using inappropriate language, posting inappropriate material, I may be reported to NC Dept. Public Instruction and face disciplinary action at my school, including being removed from the course and being issued a "WF".

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Attach the completed WCPSS Dual Enrollment Form to this application.