

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers for Parents

Q *What is the New Jersey Virtual High School (NJVHS)?*

NJVHS is the first online option for education in New Jersey. This state-of-the-art institution was established by the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC) to provide students with courses that can be taken anytime, anyplace, and anywhere. Students in grades 9-12 require the permission of their sending district for high school credit.

Q *How will I know if this is the right choice for my child?*

The advantage of the online learning option is that courses can be tailored to the needs of individual students. Whether the needs are simple or intricate, the focused one-to-one instruction will meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and satisfy the requirements of your child's home school. The interactive pace is determined by the student and can be accommodated by his/her teacher much more easily than in a conventional classroom.

Q *How will I know what my child is learning/doing if my own computer skills are weak?*

Parents/caregivers can access information about their child's progress in several ways. Telephone support for technological issues is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is also a pager program available, timed to give you up-to-the-minute student updates which can be available via a mobile phone. In addition, computer access is a very simple procedure that can be easily learned no matter what your current skill level. The best times and methods to contact the teacher will be set up by the teacher.

Q *Who is NJVHS designed for?*

The NJVHS is modeled after the nationally recognized Florida Virtual School. Although summer school courses are mainly implemented to provide students with opportunities for remediation, future offerings will provide for students who are eager to challenge themselves with additional academic courses.

Q *Will my child's home school district accept the credits for these courses?*

Each district will make their own decisions about the participation of its students in The New Jersey Virtual High School. NJVHS suggests contacting the guidance office to learn whether or not your child is eligible. Your child's high school will give permission to attend, much the same as they have done for "traditional" summer schools.

Q *Aren't the students isolated if they choose to take the courses at home?*

The students will have access to their teacher and to the ideas of other peers in the class. "Class chat rooms" will be created and supervised by the teacher of each online offering. Many students may actually feel empowered by the anonymity.

Q *Will I have access to my child's online teacher? Does my child interact with the teacher?*

Yes, you will have the ability to communicate with your child's teacher by phone and e-mail. Your child will also have direct interaction with his/her teacher in the same ways that you will.



Phone: 732-389-5555, ext. 1000
Fax: 732-542-0302
Web site: www.njvhs.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers for Parents



What is the cost?

The cost is \$350 per summer school course.



Does the district assume the cost or do I?

The cost is assumed by the student/family. The vast majority of schools are unable to provide summer schools due to fiscal limitations.



How will I know if my child is actually doing what he/she is supposed to?

You will have access to your child's records at all times. You will also be able to speak with your child's teacher when necessary. In addition, you can go online and view your child's progress, upcoming assignments, and recent test scores.



Can I see a demonstration?

Yes, simply visit our Web site at www.njvhs.org, and click "Demo."



What kind of computer skills does my child need to succeed at NJVHS?

A basic understanding of computers is helpful. Students should know how to use the keyboard, mouse, and CD-ROM drive; how to point and click; and how to use the pull-down menus. Experience with e-mail and browsers such as Netscape and Internet Explorer is also helpful.



What kind of technology does this require?

Basic technical requirements include:

- PC with Pentium II processor and Windows 98 or higher, or Macintosh with PowerPC processor and System 8.5 or higher.
- 64 MB RAM

- Color monitor (16 bit color depth and 800x600 resolution)
- 8x or faster CD-ROM drive
- Direct network connection or 56k modem with internet access
- Sound card and speakers
- Hard drive with at least 40MB available
- A current browser (Netscape Communicator 4.61 or higher, or Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher)



What happens if the technology does not work?

If there is a problem with your computer, you can always come to the MOESC building at 100 Tornillo Way in Tinton Falls. A room is set up there with computers for the students to use from 7 a.m. — 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, with a New Jersey certified teacher present. If there is a problem with the technology at MOESC, the company that resolves the problem is UCompass.com Inc., and they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Will there always be enough computers for all of the students who may need to use them at MOESC?

We recommend calling 24 hours in advance to schedule some time and to assure that your child will have a computer to work on at the desired time.



What role will I play as the parent of an NJVHS student?

Parent responsibilities will be the same as their responsibilities regarding summer school participation in the past. The student's high school is



**The New Jersey
Virtual High School**
Log on 2 Learn
Summer School

Phone: 732-389-5555, ext. 1000

Fax: 732-542-0302

Web site: www.njvhs.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers for Parents

responsible for approving summer school and will be asked to sign a contract that states that the student's high school will give credit for the course so long as the student passes the in-person written midterm and final exams. The high school will be asked to sign individual contracts and by doing so, will have made their decision as to the course's remedial or advanced status.

What is the enrollment procedure?

Students must have written approval from their guidance counselor and building principal.

Students must complete a registration form, which is available at www.njvhs.org or from their guidance counselor.

Unless their school has pre-purchased seats, parents or students must mail or deliver registration and payment to:

MOESC: The New Jersey Virtual High School
100 Tornillo Way
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712

How long does it take to complete a summer school course?

The maximum time allowed to complete a summer course is six weeks. An extended completion course may be an option for students who are classified and need a little more time. These students would be allowed eight weeks to complete the course.

How many students do you need to have in order to run a course?

We need to have a minimum of 15 students to run a course. We can accommodate 30 students per course.

What is the amount of time you need to enroll a student?

Students can enroll within 24 hours, with the approval of their school district.

Who teaches these courses?

All courses are taught by New Jersey teachers who are certified to teach each subject course.

Who is responsible for student monitoring?

Each student's online teacher will be responsible for monitoring his/her students' online progress. However, if there is a concern, parents have the ability to log on to check a student's progress every day, if so desired, to see the student's assignments, completed work, time logged in, and test scores.

What are the methods of payment?

Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit card. There will be a \$35 fee for returned checks.

Are there any academic prerequisites for NJVHS?

Academic prerequisites will be determined by the student's high school district accepting the courses.



Phone: 732-389-5555, ext. 1000
Fax: 732-542-0302
Web site: www.njvhs.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers for Parents

What kind of students do well in online learning?

Online courses have been found to be a particularly valuable option for the following:

- Summer school students
- Active students with scheduling problems
- Students who may not otherwise have these course offerings
- Remedial students who need to repeat a course
- Students who want to improve their skills in a specific subject area

How many courses can a student take?

NJVHS is designed to be self-paced and, unless specified by the district or the teacher, there are no limits to how long or how often a student can log on to learn.

How many assignments can a student handle at one time?

The beauty of online learning is that students have the option of logging on for as long as they want in one day. We recommend that a student set a pace that he/she is comfortable with, but the option is as individual as the paths the course can take.

What is the “drop” policy?

Only through continuous communication can students be successful in an online course. It is essential that the student and the instructor maintain regular contact. To ensure that students are aware of this requirement, the following four-part process has been established:

- If the expected number of assignments is not submitted after five days, the student and the parent will receive an e-mail advising them of the lack of interest.
- If the student does not respond to the letter by submitting the assignments within the seven days, the instructor will call the parents.
- If the student does not respond by submitting assignments within four days of the initial letter, NJVHS will assume that the student is not interested in completing the course and will drop the student from the course.
- An official final grade report will be mailed to the student and his/her school when all materials are returned.