

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers for Students

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

NJVHS is the first online option for students that provides courses that can be taken anytime, anywhere by students in grades 9-12 with the permission of their sending district for high school credit.

Q *Is this harder than regular summer school?*

All of the same curriculum will be covered, but with the teacher interacting with the student individually.

Q *Is this boring?*

Actually, it's the opposite of boring. Classes are taught by New Jersey certified teachers and can be tailored to meet the needs and desires of each individual student at a pace that best suits the teacher and student. You will be sent to sites to read materials, view videos, and participate in teacher-directed chat rooms.

Q *How much will it cost?*

The cost of a summer class is \$350, which covers all materials.

Q *Will my school accept the credit?*

Similar to traditional summer school, each school must make an individual decision as to whether

or not they will accept the course. Your high school must approve any courses that you take because your high school will be giving you the credit for taking it. Only your guidance counselor can give you that information.

Q *What happens if my computer at home breaks down?*

There is a lab at the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC) at 100 Tornillo Way in Tinton Falls (two miles from the Monmouth Mall). The lab will be open from 7:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with a New Jersey certified teacher present.

Q *How do I get graded?*

You will have assignments, quizzes, tests, a midterm, and a final exam. The midterm and the final exam must be taken in person, either at the MOESC building in Tinton Falls or at your home school district, depending upon the recommendations of your guidance counselor.

Q *How will I know how I am doing?*

You will have constant interaction with your teacher and constant information about your grades. You will always know what you need to do and when, and so will your parents. Your online teacher may give you an individual assignment to help expand your understanding of a concept or skill.



Phone: 732-389-5555, ext. 1000

Fax: 732-542-0302

Web site: www.njvhs.org

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Q *Will it take longer than regular summer school?*

There must be 60 hours of education to complete summer school in New Jersey.

Therefore the course will be 60 hours long.

Q *If I don't understand the material, can I get in touch with my teacher?*

Yes. Each teacher will set up time to speak with you, either by phone or e-mail.

Q *Will this cost my district any money?*

No.

Q *Can my parents talk to the teacher without my permission?*

Yes.

Q *Who will see my grades?*

The only people who will see your grades are the people who need to: you, your teacher, your guidance counselor, and your parents, nobody else.

Q *How long is this going to take?*

That really depends on you and the quality of your work. If you wanted to put a number of hours in right away you could. It will be truly up to you.

Q *Can I do this and still work my summer job?*

Of course, one of the greatest things about NJVHS is the flexibility. You can do your coursework at midnight if you want. The times the teacher wants to communicate with you will be set up by the teacher to meet both your needs.

Q *Will I ever get to talk to the other students?*

Yes, almost all of our courses provide a teacher-guided chatroom specifically designed for student interaction.

Q *Will I know who my teacher is?*

Yes, you will know who your teacher is, know what they teach when they are not teaching you, and have a small bio on them.

Q *Who says that this is okay for me to take?*

Your guidance counselor, your principal, and your parents will help you to make the decision.

Q *How do I know if this is the right choice for me?*

Your guidance counselor and your parents will be able to help you, but you will know if you are a good candidate for a more independent study course.

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Q *What happens if I think this is too hard or the wrong decision early on?*

You have a period of time to drop the course and get a partial refund.

Q *Where do I take the midterm and final exams?*

You must take the midterm and final exams in person at either the Monmouth Ocean Educational Services Commission or at your school district. You must present a current, official photo ID from your high school, or a photo driver's license. Your guidance counselor can help you to make the right choice.

Q *What happens if I fail the midterm?*

You may want to reassess whether or not this option is for you. Your teacher and your guidance counselor may be able to help.

Q *What happens if I fail the midterm by only a few points?*

You will contact your teacher and the two of you can decide what your next step will be.

Q *If I am a classified student, do I have a longer time to take the tests and complete the work?*

Yes.

Q *How many teachers teach each offering?*

So far, we think that it will be one teacher per offering.

Q *Can I see a "demo?"*

Yes, simply log onto www.njvhs.org and click "Demo."

Q *What happens if I have enough time to finish all the lessons early?*

It is possible that you could finish the lessons quickly. If so, there are other suggested activities that your teacher can instruct you in. There is still a 60-hour requirement to fulfill. NJVHS is designed to be self-paced and, unless specified by the district or the teacher there are no limits as to how long or how often a student can log on to learn.

Q *Is this a pass or fail course?*

No, you will receive a number grade.

Q *How do I know if my computer skills are good enough to handle this?*

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



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Q *What happens if there are a lot of students who want to take the same class? Will I get in?*

Unfortunately, there is a limit to how many students we can accept. The course will close with 30 students per section. Additional sections will be added at the discretion of NJVHS.

Q *How many courses can I take?*

This is a decision that your guidance counselor and your parents will help you to make.

Q *How many assignments can I work on at a time?*

The beauty of online learning is that you have the option of logging on for as long as you want in one day. We recommend that you use a pace that you are comfortable with, but the option is as individual as the paths the courses can take.

Q *What happens if I start to fall behind?*

You and your teacher will communicate frequently. If the teacher feels that you are falling behind, or if you feel a little lost, you should contact each other and talk about your options. Just as in "regular" school, the teacher will work with you to help you complete all the requirements and pass.

Q *What if my family can't afford this? Are there scholarships available?*

Unfortunately, we have no scholarships available at this time. We are attempting to secure funding for scholarships in the future.

Q *Do my parents get their money back if I mess up?*

Yes, there is a partial refund policy, provided your decision to drop the class is made fairly quickly.

Q *What kind of computer do I have to have:*

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