



## **What is the VHS Collaborative?**

The VHS Collaborative (VHS) is a non-profit international collaboration of public and private schools from the United States and 29 other countries. VHS offers students high-quality online courses, creates common core standard aligned courses, and provides professional development for online teachers. The program has been internationally recognized as a model for K-12 online education. VHS is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools.

VHS courses are accessed through the Internet using Desire2Learn (D2L). Unlike other online schools, all VHS classes are teacher facilitated. Class sizes are limited to 25, and there is an emphasis on interaction between teachers and students. Activities are student-centered; discussion and group activities are a part of each VHS course.

## **Why VHS?**

Participation in VHS allows schools to greatly expand their course offerings, giving students access to innovative, high-quality courses that the schools may not otherwise have been able to offer.

## **How does the collaborative work?**

Member schools select one or more faculty members to teach over the Internet. VHS teachers receive online training in how to teach VHS NetCourses in ways that are student-centered, collaborative, and make effective use of technology.

In exchange for each teacher released by the school to teach a VHS NetCourse, the school is able to register 25 students per semester for each semester taught. Most VHS courses are one-semester courses. If a teacher provides the course in both the fall and spring semester, the school receives 25 seats in the fall semester and 25 seats in the spring semester. The school receives 50 seats, 25 in the fall and 25 in the spring for teachers providing full year courses.

Each school also identifies a site coordinator who is trained to act as an advisor and administrative contact for VHS students in their school.

## **Beca and VHS**

Beca joined VHS in January 2008, as a fully participating member school. The Academic school year 2008 – 2009 was our first year with students enrolled. The Netcourse that Beca provides is a one-semester course, Spanish Culture and Twentieth Century Hispanic Literature. This course is offered in both the Fall and Spring semesters. This allows us to enroll a total of 50 students in VHS courses, 25 in the fall and 25 in the spring.

## **Beca and the Diocese of Allentown Consortium**

In April 2012 Allentown Central Catholic, Berks Catholic, Bethlehem Catholic, Nativity BVM, and Pius X formed the original Diocese of Allentown Consortium. In 2015, Notre Dame and Marian Catholic joined the consortium. The consortium allows us to transfer seats between schools and also lowers the per seat fee for additional seats. The lower seat fee has allowed to register additional students in VHS courses.

Students incur no fees for honors and standard level VHS courses. Students taking AP courses are responsible for paying the \$75 VHS AP course fee. Some of the AP Science courses also have lab fees, which the students will be responsible for paying. AP fees and Lab fees must be paid for before the student is registered for a course.

VHS is also partnered with Connections Learning; however, the Connections Learning courses are not covered under the standard VHS membership. All Connections Learning course fees are the responsibility of the individual student.

VHS courses are currently offered to juniors and seniors.

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