



Open eBook Forum eBooks in Education

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Curriculum and Instruction
Virtual High School

About VHS



- ⌘ A non profit collaborative of 300+ high schools offering innovative online courses
- ⌘ Currently in 8th year of online course delivery
- ⌘ \$10M and 5 years of R&D effort
- ⌘ Stockholm Challenge 2001 Award winner

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One School's Experience - Hudson High School and VHS

- ⌘ One of the original 28 schools the first year of the Technology Challenge Grant
- ⌘ Has 4 trained online teachers earning 200 seats a year for Hudson's 727 students
 - ☑ American Popular Music
 - ☑ Astronomy: Stars and the Cosmos
 - ☑ AP Statistics
 - ☑ Service Learning
- ⌘ How it works for Hudson

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Digital Age Learning Requires:



- ⌘ new social dynamics of learning: no more sage on the stage
- ⌘ fewer preconceived notions about the learner
- ⌘ instant access to materials in the appropriate medium to meet the expectations of today's students

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Digital Media Options Available



- ⌘ Web-based supplemental materials for textbooks
- ⌘ URLs for primary resources, simulations linked to teacher-created lessons (Virtual Pig Dissection, etc.)
- ⌘ Teacher-created webquests, linked to online resources
- ⌘ Learning Objects

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What Online Educators Need:



- ⌘ Publishers to accommodate the new ways information is delivered in the Digital Age
 - ☑ Ability to access selected chapters or sections of chapters online
 - ☑ Ability to purchase affordable “timed” material
 - ☑ Affordable price point for eBooks to reflect economic realities of public schools

Is there a market for alternative digital materials?



- ⌘ Recent studies on exponential growth of online K-12 offerings
- ⌘ DOD schools want ebook availability
- ⌘ Global learning requires instant access

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The VHS Focus



- ⌘ Effective online course design and delivery
 - ☑ Scheduled
 - ☑ Asynchronous
 - ☑ Instructor-led
- ⌘ Professional development for online teachers
- ⌘ Quality control/quality assurance
 - ☑ Course design/delivery standards (Guide to Online High School Courses)
 - ☑ Teacher mentoring
 - ☑ On-going professional development
- ⌘ Infrastructure for course delivery
 - ☑ Online Grading System
 - ☑ Online Registration
- ⌘ 21st Century Skills development for Millennial Generation students
 - ☑ www.21stcenturyskills.org

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21st Century Learning Skills:

- inventive thinking skills (creativity, problem solving, critical thinking)
- ⌘ effective communication and interpersonal skills in a global community
- ⌘ 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

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What can online students learn?

- Content/curriculum
 - ☒ Access to courses not otherwise available
 - ☒ Learning with technology, instead of about technology
 - ☒ Information literacy skills
- Online collaboration
 - ☒ Online teams and group projects
 - ☒ Multimedia presentation skills
 - ☒ Critical thinking, project-based learning
- Global citizenship skills
 - ☒ Extending the learning experience beyond the classroom walls
 - ☒ Online discussions with students of different cultures

Resources



- ⌘ *Guide to Online High School Courses:*
www.nea.org/technology/onlinecourseguide.html
- ⌘ *Partnership for 21st Century Skills:*
www.21stcenturyskills.org
- ⌘ NCREL Special Issue #11: *Virtual Schools and E-Learning in K-12 Environments*
- ⌘ *Building Learning Communities in Cyberspace* by Rena Palloff & Ken Pratt
- ⌘ *The Online Teaching Guide* by Ken White & Bob Weight

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