



# Wisconsin Virtual School

## Fall 2009 Newsletter



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- WVS has been operated by Cooperative Educational Service Agency # 9 (CESA 9) since 2000.
- Nearly 10,000 students have had a WVS online experience.
- WVS had 1,762 enrollments in 2008-09.
- Two hundred and seventy-four students took an AP course online with WVS last school year.

### September 2009

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### Why Choose Wisconsin Virtual School - YOUR Wisconsin Web Academy?

- Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS) is Wisconsin's Web Academy (WWA) as designated and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Details can be accessed at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/onlinevir.html>.
- WVS is a **non-profit** educational organization operated out of Cooperative Service Educational Agency (CESA) #9.
- WVS has offered the online courses without a price increase for NINE years!
- WVS complies with all state education regulations and administrative rules.
- WVS is a supplemental online course provider. Your students remain in **YOUR** district and are counted as **YOUR** students.
- WVS does not award credits or diplomas to students. Districts maintain control of local enrollments and policies concerning eligibility for WVS classes and credits awarded.
- WVS can be your resource for local policy development for administrators to navigate the creation and communication of district guidelines.
- WVS offers **middle and high school courses** that meet Wisconsin standards and are taught by Wisconsin certified teachers with the majority of WVS teachers residing in our state.
- WVS is a solution for any school that wants to offer online courses to its local students in grades 6-12. We provide the content, platform, Wisconsin-certified online teachers, technical support, training, server, and much more. Core content and AP courses are NCAA approved.
- The courses are highly interactive and include students accessing online discussions, communicating with instructors through e-mail, audio/video activities, web conferencing, web links, and other resources.
- **WVS also offers an option of utilizing YOUR own district**

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**TEACHERS.** We can provide online teacher training at **NO COST** to your district when you partner with us and use our content and learning management system.

- Local Education Guide (LEG) training and resources are also offered at **NO COST** to your district. <http://www.wisconsin-virtualschool.org/leg.asp>
- We also offer pricing packages to suit district needs. Volume pricing starts when your district has 50 or more enrollments throughout the school year.
- There are **no** minimum enrollments required, **no** membership fee, **or contracts** to sign.
- WVS offers perpetual licensing through Aventa Learning for course ownership. Contact us for further details.
- WVS provides district presentations for your school board, teachers, students and parents. “The Being a Successful Online Student” presentation has been well received across the state for parents and/or students. This assistance is also complimentary for schools utilizing the state-led program.
- **WVS has worked with schools to help them develop their OWN virtual “school” without investing in content development, server purchasing and updates, and teacher training costs.**

For more information, visit our web site at [www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org](http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org), contact us at [wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org](mailto:wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org), call 715-453-2141, or ask for a school visit from staff.

Yours in Education,

*Dawn Nardine*

Wisconsin Virtual School Director

## **How Do We Get Started with WVS?**

- The WVS program requires the district to assign a Local Education Guide (LEG) or mentor for the student who also serves as the liaison for the WVS teacher. Successful course completion depends upon a LEG who follows up with the student on a regular basis.



- **All NEW schools need to call WVS for a username and password to register students for 2009-10.** Please call us at 715-453-2141 or email us at [wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org](mailto:wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org).
- The students and their districts decide which courses to take.
- The school district LEG enrolls their students **online** at: <http://wvs.office.aventalearning.com>. The LEG uses their personal login ID and password to enroll AND approve students.
- After the student enrollment is processed by WVS, the student will receive an e-mail confirmation that provides a username and password for accessing the course. The LEG also receives this information by email.
- Students have 5 months in the fall and spring terms to complete their courses from the date they receive course access. The summer term is approximately 8 weeks long. Extensions may be granted for a fee. See our policy located on our website at: [http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org/pdfs/WVS\\_Course\\_Extension\\_Policy\\_Schools.pdf](http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org/pdfs/WVS_Course_Extension_Policy_Schools.pdf)
- The district is billed for students who remain enrolled past 14 days. A parent payment option is also available.



## **Local Education Guides (LEG): A Critical Ingredient for Online Success**

WVS teachers are excellent facilitators of the courses, experts in their content area, innovative, and student-oriented, but they need local support to help online students succeed.

Our experience shows that school districts that designate an active Local Education Guide (LEG) to support their students are **seeing successful online experiences for their students with 90-100% completion rates.**

LEGs are individuals that assist students who are ready for online learning with onsite support for registration, choosing appropriate courses, and completing the communication link between student-teacher-school. LEGs have access to monitor the students' progress and communicate directly with the WVS teacher. They support the teacher with vital information to help ALL learners in the online environment.

Without LEG support, students may tend to put off their coursework and end up scrambling in the last few weeks of their course access, or let communications fail between themselves and their virtual teacher, and potentially not complete the course.

WVS will provide districts with half-day training for LEGs – **FREE** to school districts utilizing WVS services. Schedule LEG training and make a Local Education Guide part of every successful online student's experience! See our website for the archived link to view the JUST for LEGs webinar.

## **Aventa Learning is Wisconsin Virtual School's Curriculum Partner**

Aventa Learning offers one of the largest, most diverse catalogs of online courses for middle and high school students to help educational institutions broaden their existing curriculum offerings and provide personalized instruction. Wisconsin Virtual School has chosen Aventa Learning as its exclusive content provider. WVS has offered Aventa's robust, flexible online credit recovery program to meet the needs of at-risk students and help them achieve success since 2006.



Besides WVS, Aventa Learning serves more than 1000 virtual schools, charter schools, state departments of education, and school districts in over 40 states and throughout Canada. Aventa Learning is part of the KC Distance Learning family of brands. Aventa Learning received the "2007 United States Distance Learning Association Award – Best Practices for Online Learning Curriculum, Gold Award" and the "2008 United States Distance Learning Association Award – Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming For Online Distance Learning, Silver Award."

## **Wisconsin Virtual School Summer Session 2009**

Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS) provides an online summer term for schools that want a "more traditional" summer school schedule for their online students. Our experience and our contacts at schools indicated that summer online students are more successful if they have a more "defined" schedule to make up 1/2 credit or possibly a full credit in the summer. This was our third year of providing a specific summer session. This summer we had 153 Wisconsin student enrollments during the 8 week period that began on June 15 and ended August 7.

WVS Summer 2009 Stats:

- 60 school districts in Wisconsin participated.
- 77 students took WVS Credit Recovery Courses.
- Algebra I, II, and English I, II, III, and IV were the most popular Credit Recovery courses.
- 73% of the students indicated they needed a summer session course for credit recovery.
- The average grade for a summer session course was 79%.\*\*
- The completion rate for the WVS Summer 2009 session was 85%.\*\*

\*\*Final percentages pending students completing extensions.



## Online Learning Resources

Here's a list of great online learning resources. I encourage any school district interested in the latest research and promising practices in online learning and teaching to consider a membership with the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) at [www.inacol.org](http://www.inacol.org).

- "Online Learning: Key to Addressing Systemic Problems in K-12 Ed" at:  
[http://wcet.informz.net/wcet/archives/archive\\_395824.html](http://wcet.informz.net/wcet/archives/archive_395824.html)
- "Blended Learning: The Convergence of Online and Face to Face Education" at:  
[http://www.inacol.org/resources/promisingpractices/NACOL\\_PP-BlendedLearning-lr.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/resources/promisingpractices/NACOL_PP-BlendedLearning-lr.pdf)
- "Using Online Learning for At-Risk Students and Credit Recovery" at:  
[http://www.inacol.org/resources/promisingpractices/NACOL\\_CreditRecovery\\_PromisingPractices.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/resources/promisingpractices/NACOL_CreditRecovery_PromisingPractices.pdf)
- "Management and Operations of Online Programs" at:  
[http://www.inacol.org/resources/promisingpractices/iNACOL\\_PP\\_MgmntOp\\_042309.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/resources/promisingpractices/iNACOL_PP_MgmntOp_042309.pdf)
- Keeping Pace with Online Learning at  
<http://www.kpk12.com>
- Various online learning research articles can be found at:  
<http://www.inacol.org/resources/research.php>
- International Association for K-12 Online Learning (NACOL) at [www.inacol.org](http://www.inacol.org)



### **WVS ENROLLMENT DATES for 2009-10**

**Fall Session 2009** – The fall session has been extended to accommodate trimester school districts. Students have five months course access. Enrollments **begin** August 24, 2009  
Enrollments **end** on December 18, 2009

**Spring Session 2010** – Students have five months course access.

Enrollments **begin** December 21, 2009  
Enrollments **end** on May 21, 2010

**Advanced Placement Enrollments** – **NEW** – we are now **recommending** rather than requiring windows in which the students should begin working to be successful and have an opportunity to gain as much knowledge prior to the 2010 early May AP Exams.

**AP Enrollments will be allowed after the recommended dates based on your school's needs.**

Fall AP Enrollments **begin** August 24, 2009  
Recommended Fall AP Enrollments **end** September 18, 2009  
First Day of AP Class: August 31, 2009

Spring AP Enrollments **begin** December 21, 2009  
Recommended Spring AP Enrollments end January 29, 2010  
First Day of AP Class: January 4, 2010

**Summer Session 2010 – June 14 to August 6, 2010:**  
This is an 8 week session ONLY. Students will NOT have 5 months access. Extensions will be available for a fee.

(Extension policy:

[http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org/pdfs/WVS\\_Course\\_Extension\\_Policy\\_Schools.pdf](http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org/pdfs/WVS_Course_Extension_Policy_Schools.pdf)

Enrollments **begin** May 24, 2010

Enrollments **end** on July 9, 2010

**Tip:** If you want more than 8 weeks access for a summer student, you'll need to enroll them before the spring term closes on May 21 with a start date on or before May 21, 2010.

Go to <http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org> for enrollment instructions. Contact us at 715-453-2141 or [wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org](mailto:wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org) for more information.



# 2009-2010 Wisconsin Virtual School Course List

Please see our website for course descriptions and materials requirements

## High School Courses

English 1 A & B	Pre-Calculus**	Health**
English 2 A & B	Trigonometry**	Life Skills**
English 3 A & B	American Government**	Music Appreciation**
English 4 A & B	American History A & B	Nutrition & Wellness**
Grammar & Composition A & B	Civics**	Personal Finance**
Biology A & B	Economics**	Physical Education A & B
Chemistry A & B	Geography A & B	Psychology**
Earth Science A & B	World History A & B	Computer Fundamentals A & B (MSFT Office)
Physics A & B	Chinese (Mandarin) 1, 2	VB.NET Programming**
Physical Science A & B	French 1, 2, 3, & 4	JAVA Programming**
Algebra 1 A & B	German 1, 2, 3, & 4	Digital Photography**
Algebra 2 A & B	Japanese 1, 2	Digital Video Production**
Calculus A & B	Latin 1, 2	Game Design**
Consumer Math A & B	Spanish 1, 2, 3, & 4	Web Design**
Geometry A & B	World Language Survey**	**One semester HS courses
Integrated Math A & B	Art Appreciation**	
Pre-Algebra A & B	Career Planning**	

## Advanced Placement Courses

AP Art History A & B	AP Macroeconomics**
AP Biology A & B	AP Microeconomics**
AP Calculus AB- A & B	AP Physics B- A & B
AP Calculus BC- A & B	AP Psychology**
AP Chemistry A & B	AP Spanish Language A & B
AP Computer Science A & B	AP Statistics A & B
AP English Language A & B	AP US Government & Politics**
AP English Literature A & B	AP US History A & B
AP Environmental Science**	AP World History A & B
AP European History A & B	
AP French Language A & B	**One semester AP courses

**Recommended Fall Start Dates:  
August 31 – September 18, 2009**

**Recommended Spring Start Dates:  
January 4 – January 31, 2010**

## Credit Recovery Courses

Algebra 1	Biology	Geography
Algebra 2	Physical Science	World History
Geometry	American Government**	Physical Education**
English 1-4	American History	**One semester CR courses

## Middle School Courses

Language Arts 6, 7, & 8	Social Studies 6 (World Civilizations)	Social Studies 8 (US History)
Mathematics 6, 7, & 8	Social Studies 7 (World History)	World Language Survey**
Science 6, 7, & 8		**One semester MS courses

Registration fee is \$325 per half credit semester course. Contact WVS at 715-453-2141 x236 or email us at [wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org](mailto:wvs@wisconsinvirtualschool.org) if you are a new school enrolling students for the first time.

## **WVS School Partners 2008-2009 School Year**

### **CESA 1**

Dominican HS  
Eisenhower HS  
Grafton HS  
Greendale HS  
Hamilton HS (Sussex)  
Lake Country Lutheran HS  
New Berlin West HS  
New School for Comm.  
Service

Ozaukee HS  
Pius XI HS  
Racine Lutheran HS  
St Catherine's HS  
South Milwaukee HS  
REAL School  
Whitnall HS

### **CESA 2**

Albany HS  
Belleville HS  
Big Foot HS  
Brodhead HS  
Cambridge HS  
DeForest HS  
East HS Madison  
Elkhorn Area MS  
Janesville Virtual Academy  
JEDI Virtual HS  
New Glarus HS  
Riverside MS  
Stoughton HS  
Union Grove HS  
Waterford Union HS  
Williams Bay HS

### **CESA 3**

Barneveld HS  
Kickapoo HS  
North Crawford HS  
Platteville HS  
Prairie du Chien HS  
Richland Center HS  
Seneca HS  
Weston HS

### **CESA 4**

Alma HS  
Alma Center HS  
Aquinas HS  
Blair-Taylor HS  
Brookwood HS  
Cashton HS

Cochrane-Fountain City  
HS  
Hillsboro HS  
Independence HS  
Royall HS  
Sparta HS  
Viroqua HS

### **CESA 5**

Adams-Friendship HS  
Almond-Bancroft HS  
Amherst HS  
Columbus HS  
Fall River HS  
John Edwards HS  
Mauston HS  
Necedah HS  
Nekoosa HS  
Pittsville HS  
PJ Jacobs JR HS  
Washington Service-  
Learning Center  
Waupaca HS  
Westfield HS

### **CESA 6**

Badger MS  
Campbellsport HS  
East HS - West Bend  
Freedom HS  
Fremont HS  
Green Lake HS  
Oakfield HS  
Omro HS  
St. Mary Central HS  
West HS- West Bend  
Weyauwega-Fremont HS

### **CESA 7**

Algoma HS  
Ashwaubenon HS  
Denmark HS  
East HS-Green Bay  
Elkhart Lake HS  
Gibraltar HS  
Hilbert HS  
Howards Grove HS  
Kohler HS  
Luxemburg-Casco MS  
Mishicot HS  
New Holstein HS  
Northeastern WI Lutheran  
HS  
Oneida Nation HS

Oostburg HS  
Plymouth HS  
Preble HS – Green Bay  
Random Lake HS  
Reedsville Elementary  
Sevastopol HS  
Southern Door HS  
Southwest HS – Green  
Bay  
Stockbridge HS  
Sturgeon Bay HS  
West De Pere HS  
Wrightstown HS

### **CESA 8**

Bonduel HS  
Gresham HS  
Laona HS  
Marinette HS  
Oconto HS  
Shawano HS  
Tigerton High/MS  
Wabeno HS

### **CESA 9**

Antigo HS  
Athens HS  
Edgar HS  
Elcho HS  
John Muir MS  
Lakeland Union HS  
Marathon HS  
Merrill HS  
Mosinee HS  
Northland Pines HS  
Northwoods Community  
School  
Phelps HS  
Rib Lake HS  
Stratford HS  
Three Lakes HS  
Tomahawk HS  
Wausau East HS

### **CESA 10**

Altoona HS  
Augusta HS  
Chippewa Falls HS  
Colby HS  
Cornell HS  
Eleva Strum HS  
Greenwood HS  
Independence HS

Ladysmith HS  
Medford HS  
Memorial HS – Eau Claire  
North HS – Eau Claire  
Osseo-Fairchild HS  
Owen-Withee HS  
Spencer HS  
Stanley-Boyd HS

### **CESA 11**

Amery HS  
Baldwin-Woodville HS  
Barron HS  
Birchwood HS  
Chetek HS  
Clayton HS  
Clear Lake HS  
Colfax HS  
Cumberland HS  
Durand HS  
Elk Mound HS  
Glenwood City HS  
Hudson MS  
Luck HS  
New Richmond HS  
Pepin HS  
Prarie Farm HS  
Rice Lake HS  
Saint Croix Central HS  
Somerset HS  
Spooner HS  
Turtle Lake HS  
Webster HS

### **CESA 12**

Drummond HS  
Hayward HS  
Mellen HS  
Northwood School  
Phillips HS  
Solon Springs HS  
Superior HS  
Winter HS

### **International**

Trinidad

HS-High School  
MS-Middle School

## **WVS Factoids**

- **WVS** has been operated by Cooperative Educational Service Agency # 9 (CESA 9) **since 2000**.
- **WVS offers** over 70 high school online courses, 20 Advanced Placement courses, middle school courses, a variety of foreign languages, ACT/SAT Test Prep courses, and High School Credit Recovery
- **Nearly 10,000 students** over the past 9 years have had WVS online opportunities.
- **For the 2008-2009** school year WVS had 1,762 enrollments.
- **Two hundred and seventy-four** students took online **AP courses** during our fifth year of offering them through WVS.
- **WVS completion rates range between 65-80%** based on course type and student motivation.
- **Reasons for Taking Online Courses:** 28% course not offered locally, 22% wanted to try online courses, 4% credit recovery, 7% home-schooled, 19% schedule conflict, 5% prefer online courses, 2% expelled, 1% homebound, 2% grade acceleration, 2% teacher conflict, and 8% for other reasons.
- **Course Selection for 2008-09:** 16% of WVS students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. 7% of WVS students took science courses, 13% took social studies, 13% took language arts, 12% took math courses, 23% took electives (business, technology, art, music, career planning, etc.), and 16% took foreign language.
- **Average Grade:** 87% is the average grade received for taking a WVS course.
- **Average Time Spent in the Course:** WVS students spend an average of 121 days on a virtual course.
- **Hours Spent per Week on the Course:** WVS students spend an average of 6-7 hours per week on each virtual class.
- **Communications in the Courses:** 81% of the communications are by e-mail. 18% of the students also use threaded discussions. 1% communicate with other students via email also.
- **How WVS Students Evaluate the Technology:** On a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being excellent and 1 being poor, students give the readability of the text a rating of 3.5. Computer exams were rated a 3.1, and multimedia quality a 3.1.
- **What WVS Students Think About the Content:** WVS students give the courses a 3.4 rating for covering the topic well, 3.3 for ease of course navigation, and a 3.2 for the course being interesting.
- **What WVS Students Think About Their Virtual Teachers:** A rating of 3.7 was given for the teacher “knowing their subject.” 3.5 was given for the encouragement they received. Teacher feedback rated a 3.5 on a scale of 1 to 4.
- **What WVS Students Think about Their LEG (Local Education Guide) or Mentor:** Students indicated with a 3.4 rating that their LEG encouraged and motivated them. LEGs gave personal attention: 3.2, LEGs provided technical support: 3.0, LEGs provided the guidance for enrolling: 3.2.
- **Schools providing a LEG** that takes an active role with the online student continue to have completion rates of 90% or higher.
- **What Students Liked Most About the Course:** 52% reported convenience, 12% indicated they like the self-pacing, and 16% because it was not offered in their school.
- **What Students Liked Least About the Course:** 17% didn’t like the technical problems. 5% prefer face to face. 19% indicated being alone and not having immediate feedback was what they liked least. Other answers included: took more time than they thought, more difficult than they thought, not enough contact with others, and self-discipline was needed.
- **What Students Thought About Taking Another WVS course:** 99% would take or seriously consider taking another online course.
- **Age of WVS Students:** 83% of the students are between 16 and 18 years old. 17% are 15 and under.
- **WVS student population** represents 60% rural districts and 40% urban districts.

(The factoids are a result of a report based on student completion surveys by students enrolled in the Wisconsin Virtual School. The data is from 267 surveys collect prior to May 2009 and current data collected from student records from the 2008-2009 school year. Additional data will be added as students complete courses. This data is provided for the sole purpose of WVS and its members. Unauthorized use is strictly forbidden.)



*Your Virtual Education Partner*

# Wisconsin Virtual School

- WVS is **YOUR** Wisconsin Web Academy (WWA).
- WWA is a partnership between DPI and CESA 9.
- Statewide and state-led supplemental online course provider
- Expand learning opportunities for **ALL** learners
- Serving students with expanded offerings, credit deficits, schedule conflicts, homebound, expelled, accelerated, home schooled, summer school, and others
- No membership fees or contracts to sign
- Local district control over enrollments and policies
- Over 70 high school courses, 20 AP courses, middle school, credit recovery, and an online test prep partner
- We provide Wisconsin certified teachers, content, platform, technical support, and more.
- We can provide training for your teachers to deliver WVS content at **NO** additional cost.

For more information visit our website at  
[www.wisconsinvirtuelschool.org](http://www.wisconsinvirtuelschool.org)  
or call 715-453-2141 for a district visit.



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