



Union Catholic High School

Online learning gives Catholic school students access to nontraditional subjects

Union Catholic (UC), a private accredited Catholic high school in New Jersey, serves a diverse student population drawn from more than 170 public, private and parochial schools traversing three counties. The school focuses on providing a faith-based, 21st century learning environment. As part of its goal of keeping students connected and productive “anytime, anywhere,” the school joined The Virtual High School (VHS) in 2005 to give UC students access to accredited online courses in nontraditional subjects.

In 2005, five students piloted the online courses. As more students heard about the online opportunities, VHS enrollment grew. UC students have used VHS to take Advanced Placement® (AP®) courses and electives such as Screenwriting, Web Design, Oceanography, and more than 200 others. For the 2016-17 school year, 87 students enrolled in 55 VHS courses. There have been more than 400 UC enrollments in VHS courses from 2013 to the present.

VHS students choose from more than 200 unique courses including 23 AP® options, core courses, engaging electives, and credit recovery. VHS keeps UC students engaged by serving as a platform to connect them with peers across the country and around the world in a collaborative learning environment.

While the students continue to benefit from VHS offerings, five UC faculty members have gone through the VHS Online Teaching Methodologies professional development course. This allows them to teach a VHS online course as

“Union Catholic is proud to say that we are entering our 11th year with VHS and have been nothing but extremely happy with the relationship!”

Noreen Andrews, Assistant Principal and Virtual Learning Coordinator, Union Catholic High School

part of their duties at UC. One faculty member, Marla James, a UC social studies teacher and VHS AP® European History instructor, has become so enthused about online teaching that she gave a presentation on best practices for effective e-learning and student engagement via virtual discussions at the 2016 International Forum of Women in eLearning in San Antonio.

“Our relationship with VHS has propelled me, our students, and our faculty to new heights and accomplishments in virtual learning,” said Noreen Andrews, UC’s assistant principal and virtual learning coordinator. “We are so grateful for having had the opportunity of this experience.”

Union Catholic High School Profile

Approximately 800 students
Students from five New Jersey counties and five countries attend the school.

School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

White Students: 43%
Hispanic Students: 21%
Black Students: 17%
Asian/Pacific Islander Students: 6%
American Indian/Alaskan Native Students: <1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: <1%
Two or More Races Students: 11%

The Virtual High School (VHS, Inc.), a non-profit leader in blended and online learning, offers a variety of programs and curriculum to meet the needs of schools, students, and families. To learn more visit www.VHSLearning.org.