



## St. Louis Public Schools Virtual School About Kaplan Virtual Education

### Who We Are

Kaplan Virtual Education (KVE) is a leader in the growing field of virtual high school instruction and online content and curriculum development. KVE and its predecessors have offered students the opportunity to take courses and earn high school diplomas online since 2001.\*

KVE's different programs are geared toward learners at various stages—adult learners who need a high school diploma to move forward in their career or take the first step to a college degree, public school students looking for greater course options or credit recovery, and private and home school students who need an expanded curriculum. The key for all of our students is that KVE offers the flexibility to go to high school online, so that life complements rather than interferes with, learning. KVE offers high-quality curricula focused on student and school needs, extensive support and guidance, and an innovative learning environment.

### Accreditation

KVE is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award high school diplomas, and accredited by the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA). SACS: 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033, Tel: 404.679.4500. CITA: PO Box 871008, Tempe, AZ 85287, Tel: 866.873.8878.

### Virtual Public Schools

KVE enables states and school districts nationwide to:

- Expand the range of courses and opportunities offered to students
- Offer courses for which there are not qualified Instructors at the home school
- Allow students to take a course when low course enrollment prevents the course from being offered locally
- Provide courses for students who have scheduling conflicts
- Present high-quality instruction to students who are in alternative education settings or on home and hospital instruction
- Provide additional support and extended time to students who fail to achieve in residential courses
- Provide equity across programs and schools in the quality of instruction
- "Any time, any place, any pace" learning for students†

Online education is growing in popularity because it offers learning options that are effective, flexible, and accessible. Students can take online courses from the convenience of their own homes. These classes can expand offerings, resolve scheduling conflicts, and meet other needs.

KVE has uncomplicated the process of adding virtual courses to a district's curriculum by taking care of the details, and providing the content, platform, online Instructors, technical support, training, and much more.

\*In 2007, the Iowa College Acquisition Corp., d/b/a KVE, acquired the assets of Virtual Sage online publisher and University of Miami Online High School.

†While there may be downtime for scheduled maintenance or due to reasons beyond KVE's control, KVE makes reasonable efforts to notify students in advance of upcoming maintenance.



## **Saint Louis Public Schools (SLPS) Virtual School Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the SLPS Virtual School?**

SLPS Virtual School offers online courses for students in the Saint Louis School District. Students can take an entire course from any Internet connected computer, and can access their courses and other resources

24/7.+ SLPS Virtual School serves grades 9–12.

SLPS Virtual School enables schools to offer students equal access to a wider range of coursework with more flexibility in scheduling, and learning online is neither time nor place dependent.

### **Who can enroll?**

SLPS students may enroll. Students residing in eligible districts may enroll. Home school students may enroll. Private school students are eligible to apply for enrollment for a tuition-paid program. Eligible districts include Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Clayton, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Mehlville, Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood, Valley Park, and Webster Groves.

### **How will the SLPS Virtual School classes be structured?**

SLPS Virtual School students are guided through their courses by state certified Instructors. Courses are delivered over the Internet. To encourage student success with virtual learning, a variety of Web-based technology resources (streaming audio and video, computer animations, newsgroups, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and digital portfolios) are provided. Instructors communicate with students and parents on a regular basis via phone, email, online chats, instant messaging, and discussion forums.

### **Is there a cost for students in SLPS courses?**

There is no cost for SLPS students. Part-time students residing in eligible districts may take courses at a cost. Seats are limited and are granted on a first-come, first-serve basis; a waiting list will be made when capacity is met.



## St. Louis Public Schools Virtual School

### **How long are the courses?**

The courses are semester courses.

### **Will SLPS Virtual School issue students diplomas?**

SLPS Virtual School does not currently offer a complete high school diploma program online. The credit earned by taking a SLPS Virtual School course is entered into the student's record by the local school. For non-public school students, the credit is forwarded to the appropriate educational institution.

### **When will SLPS Virtual School be up and running?**

SLPS Virtual School is currently up and running and is enrolling students for the 2008–2009 school year.

### **How will students be selected for SLPS Virtual School for the 2008–2009 school year?**

Seats will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis and a waitlist will be developed.

### **What courses will be offered for 2008–2009?**

1.	English 1 Foundations: Survey of Literature, First Semester
2.	English 1 Foundations: Survey of Literature, Second Semester
3.	English 1: Survey of Literature, First Semester
4.	English 1: Survey of Literature, Second Semester
5.	English 1 Honors: Survey of Literature, First Semester
6.	English 1 Honors: Survey of Literature, Second Semester
7.	English 2 Foundations: World Literature, First Semester
8.	English 2 Foundations: World Literature, Second Semester
9.	English 2: World Literature, First Semester
10.	English 2: World Literature, Second Semester
11.	English 2 Honors: World Literature, First Semester
12.	English 2 Honors: World Literature, Second Semester
13.	English 3 Foundations: American Literature, First Semester
14.	English 3 Foundations: American Literature, Second Semester
15.	English 3: American Literature, First Semester
16.	English 3: American Literature, Second Semester

17. English 3 Honors: American Literature, First Semester
18. English 3 Honors: American Literature, Second Semester
19. English 4 Foundations: British Literature, First Semester
20. English 4 Foundations: British Literature, Second Semester
21. English 4: British Literature, First Semester
22. English 4: British Literature, Second Semester
23. English 4 Honors: British Literature, First Semester
24. English 4 Honors: British Literature, Second Semester
25. *****
26. Algebra I, Foundations, First Semester
27. Algebra I, Foundations, Second Semester
28. Algebra I, First Semester
29. Algebra I, Second Semester
30. Algebra I Honors, First Semester
31. Algebra I Honors, Second Semester
32. Algebra II, Foundations, First Semester
33. Algebra II, Foundations, Second Semester
34. Algebra II, First Semester
35. Algebra II, Second Semester
36. Algebra II Honors, First Semester
37. Algebra II Honors, Second Semester
38. Geometry, Foundations, First Semester
39. Geometry, Foundations, Second Semester
40. Geometry, First Semester
41. Geometry, Second Semester
42. Geometry Honors, First Semester
43. Geometry Honors, Second Semester
44. Trigonometry - one semester
45. Pre-Calculus – one semester
46. *****
47. Biology, Foundations - first semester
48. Biology, Foundations, - second semester
49. Biology - first semester
50. Biology - second semester
51. Biology Honors - first semester
52. Biology Honors - second semester
53. Chemistry, Foundations, First Semester
54. Chemistry, Foundations, Second Semester
55. Chemistry, First Semester
56. Chemistry, Second Semester
57. Chemistry Honors, First Semester
58. Chemistry Honors, Second Semester
59. Earth Space Science, Foundations, - first semester
60. Earth Space Science, Foundations, - second semester
61. Earth Space Science - first semester
62. Earth Space Science - second semester
63. Earth Space Science Honors - first semester

64. Earth Space Science Honors - second semester
65. Physics - first semester
66. Physics - second semester
67. Physics Honors - first semester
68. Physics Honors - second semester
69. Environmental Science - first semester
70. Environmental Science - second semester
71. *****
72. American History - first semester
73. American History - second semester
74. American History Honors - first semester
75. American History Honors - second semester
76. World History first semester
77. World History second semester
78. World History Honors first semester
79. World History Honors second semester
80. American Government -- 1 semester only
81. American Government Honors -- 1 semester only
82. Economics -- 1 semester only
83. Economics Honors -- 1 semester only
84. Geography - first semester
85. Geography - second semester
86. *****
87. Spanish 1 - first semester
88. Spanish 1 - second semester
89. Spanish 2 - first semester
90. Spanish 2 - second semester
91. Spanish 3 - first semester
92. Spanish 3 - second semester
93. French 1 - first semester
94. French 1 - second semester
95. French 2 - first semester
96. French 2 - second semester
97. Journalism - first semester
98. Journalism - second semester
99. Psychology - 1 semester only
100. Art History - first semester
101. Art History - second semester
102. Introduction to Computers and Applications, First Semester
103. Introduction to Computers and Applications, Second Semester
104. Business Systems Technologies - first semester
105. Business Systems Technologies - second semester
106. Health and Life Management -- 1 semester only
107. Personal Fitness -- 1 semester only
108. Physical Education -- 1 semester only
109. Web Design (KompoZer) -- 1 semester only
110. Digital Photography and Graphics (GIMP) -- 1 semester

only
111. Introduction to Online Learning -- 1 semester only
112. Personal Finance -- 1 semester only
113. Career Planning -- 1 semester only
114. Health -- 1 semester only
115. Nutrition and Wellness -- 1 semester only
116. SAT Prep (Math and English) -- 1 semester only



## St. Louis Public Schools Virtual School

### **What type of equipment is required of students to participate in SLPS Virtual School either at home or school?**

The following minimum computer configurations are recommended:

- Personal computers (PC)
  - Pentium II (233 Mhz)
  - Windows 98 or higher
  - 256 MB RAM with 100 MB available hard drive space
  - 12 x CD-ROM
  - 56k modem
  - Display setting 800 x 600 resolution
  - Sound card
  - Internet Explorer 5.5 Service Pack 2 or a compatible browser that supports the same functionality as Internet Explorer 5.5 Service Pack 2
- Macintosh (Mac) Computer
  - Power Mac G3 Processor
  - OSX
  - 256 MB RAM with 100 MB of available hard drive space
  - 12 x CD-ROM
  - 56kb modem
  - Display setting 800 x 600 resolution
  - Sound Card
  - Internet Explorer 5.5 Service Pack 2 or a compatible browser that supports the same functionality as Internet Explorer 5.5 Service Pack 2

**Can students withdraw if they find that virtual education is not suitable for their learning style?**

After classes begin, students will have a 14-day grace period to drop courses or make course selection changes without financial or academic penalties.

**Will students receive grades?**

At the completion of either a semester or a course, the student and the school district/private school will receive a final unweighted numeric score. The numeric score will substitute for an actual letter grade to accommodate the various grading scales utilized throughout St. Louis. Local policies regarding weighting and grading scales are applied to the score SLPS Virtual School provides.

**Can a student take Advanced Placement courses?**

Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be offered in the 2008–2009 school year.

**Is dual credit available for SLPS Virtual School classes?**

SLPS Virtual School does not currently offer a dual credit program. Dual credit might become an option in future years.

**What tests will be required of SLPS Virtual School students?**

Senate Bill 912 states that SLPS Virtual School “will comply with all state laws and regulations applicable to school districts, including but not limited to the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP), adequate yearly progress (AYP), annual performance report (APR), Instructor certification, and curriculum standards.” This will require all students (public, private, and home schooled) to take the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests for the SLPS Virtual School courses in which they are enrolled that require MAP testing.



## St. Louis Public Schools Virtual School

### Instructor Questions

#### **What types of certifications are required for KVE Instructors?**

All Instructors must be state certified in their subject area. Instructors will be hired by the selected providers. Previous online experience or professional training in online delivery will be expected.

#### **How do interested teachers apply to be a KVE Instructor?**

Those interested in becoming a KVE Instructor should forward their resume to Chris Honse [chonse@kaplan.edu](mailto:chonse@kaplan.edu)

### Student Questions

#### **Are courses taught by real Instructors?**

Yes, Missouri certified Instructors are the Instructor for the course(s). Students will communicate with their Instructors via the interactive tools in the course, email, instant message, and phone.

#### **Why do students attend SLPS Virtual School?**

- Courses not offered in student's school
- Scheduling conflicts
- Credit recovery, deficient credits
- Homebound
- Teen parents
- Home schooled
- Remedial students who require one-on-one support
- Alternative or at-risk students
- Enrichment and/or Advanced Placement opportunities
- Wanting to improve their skills in a particular subject

#### **What type of student tends to be successful in learning online?**

Students who choose to participate in online courses will need to examine their personal skills and aptitudes for taking a class online. The following attributes can contribute to a student's likelihood for success: self-motivation, the ability to learn independently, computer literacy, efficient time management, effective written communication skills, and personal commitment. Students should not expect less work than in a regular classroom because each course must adhere to the state standard and grade level expectations for the area of instruction.





## St. Louis Public Schools Virtual School

### **What skills do students need to succeed in an online class?**

Students need adequate keyboard and writing skills. Experience using email and a Web browser is highly recommended. Students also need to be self-motivated.

Falling behind in an online course makes it very difficult to succeed. Students should communicate frequently with their Instructors and should plan to log in several times a week.

### **Are there face to face meetings?**

All high school virtual students are required to meet 3 full days ( 7 a.m. – 2:18 p.m.) per week face to face with the virtual teachers the first semester of school and 2 full days per week face to face during the second semester of school at the SLPS High School Virtual Learning Center located at Gateway Institute of Technology High School, 5101 McRee Avenue (corner of South Kingshighway and McRee Avenue)

### **Is curriculum provided for special needs children?**

Depending on the IEP, the curriculum can be tailored to meet specific needs. The SLPS Virtual School accepts students with IEP of less than 400 minutes of additional instructional support per week.

### **Are students completely on their own?**

No. Although students have more responsibility for time management and independent study than in a traditional classroom, they will have state certified Instructors available Monday through Friday (on school days). Students will communicate regularly with their Instructors as well as with other students in their classes.

### **How do online classes work? Do students have to be online at specific times?**

Students typically do not have to be online at specific times, but there are deadlines and due dates that students need to meet. Class discussion takes place in an online discussion area where comments are displayed and can be viewed throughout the duration of a course. To participate, students go to the threaded discussion area in the online classroom, read the items listed, and add comments. Participation in online discussions is important and students should participate in these discussions regularly. In most courses

the quality of class participation is factored into the final grade.

**How do students receive credit?**

Upon completion of an online course, SLPS Virtual School provides an unweighted numeric grade to the school district. Local grading scales and weighting policies will be applied by the school before awarding credit.

**What if a student has trouble logging into the online classes?**

SLPS Virtual School provides a toll-free number to a Help Desk to assist students with technical difficulties seven days a week from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm CT.