

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning at Mallard Creek High School

*A partnership for the future: MCHS and NCVPS*



# About NCVPS

- NC Virtual Public School is a leader in virtual learning for students.
- Nearly 50,000 secondary students across the state are enrolled in over 150 online courses.
- Students come from all 115 school districts in North Carolina, as well as many charter schools. Additionally, NCVPS is open to non-public school students.
- Collaborative learning is core to the NCVPS model, so courses will utilize real-time and asynchronous collaborative tools, audio and video, blogs, and cutting-edge assessment tools.
- Most importantly, courses pair students with highly qualified NC licensed faculty members from around the world.
- Students from all areas of our state have access to courses and highly qualified teachers in subjects that they may not have available at their local school. Our state has truly achieved the goal of providing quality learning opportunities to every North Carolina student regardless of zip code.

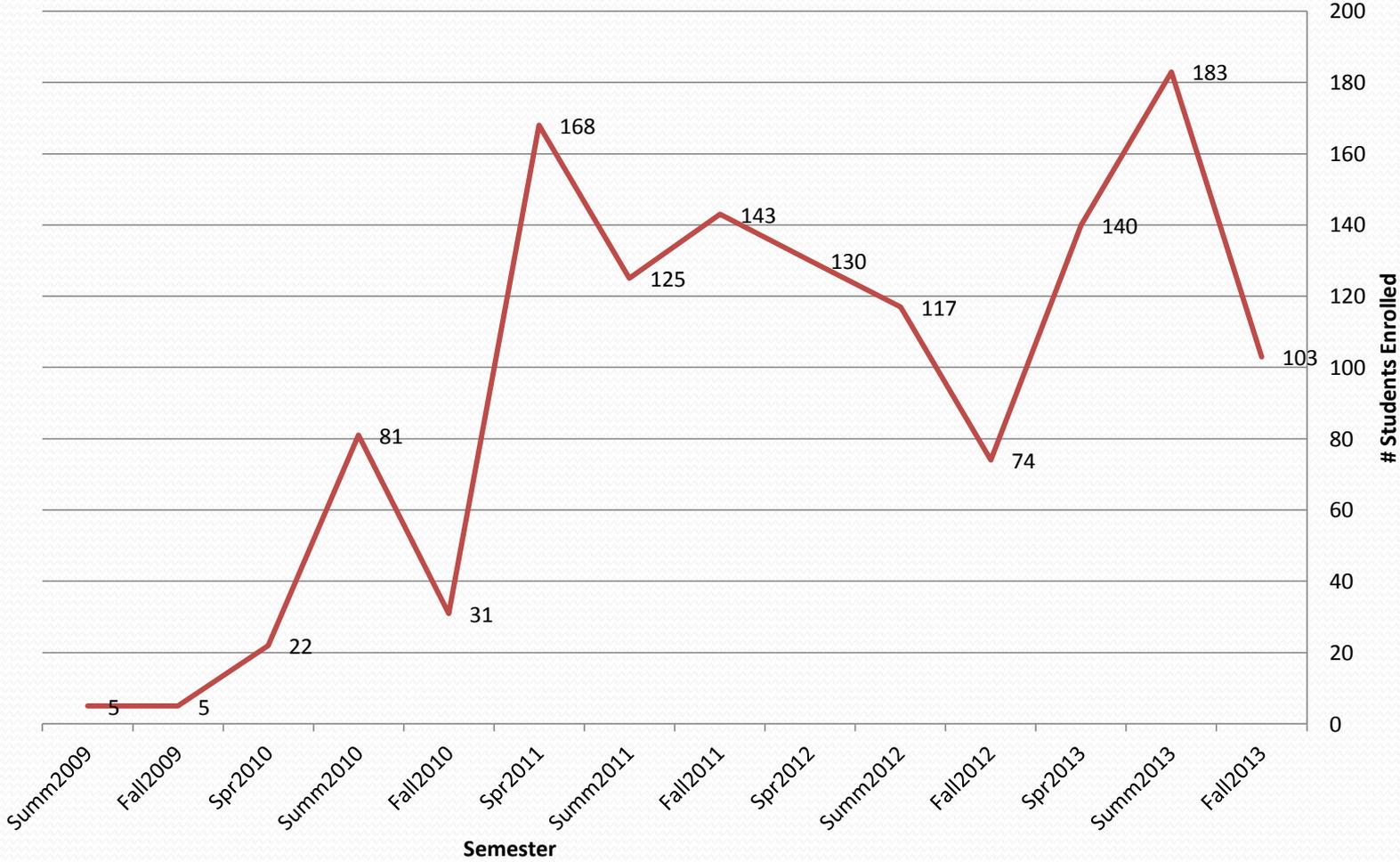
# eLearning at MCHS

- First slate of 22 courses started in spring 2010.
- Since 2010, MCHS students have taken over 1,300 courses.
- Over 500 students have taken courses online, averaging 2.7 online courses per student. This does not include credit recovery, Apex and OCS students.
- With a full-time eLearning Lab Supervisor, nearly 100 students per day are able to take online courses during their regular school day schedule.
- Courses may be taken off-site, allowing students to maximize their potential GPA and work at their own pace, on their own schedules.

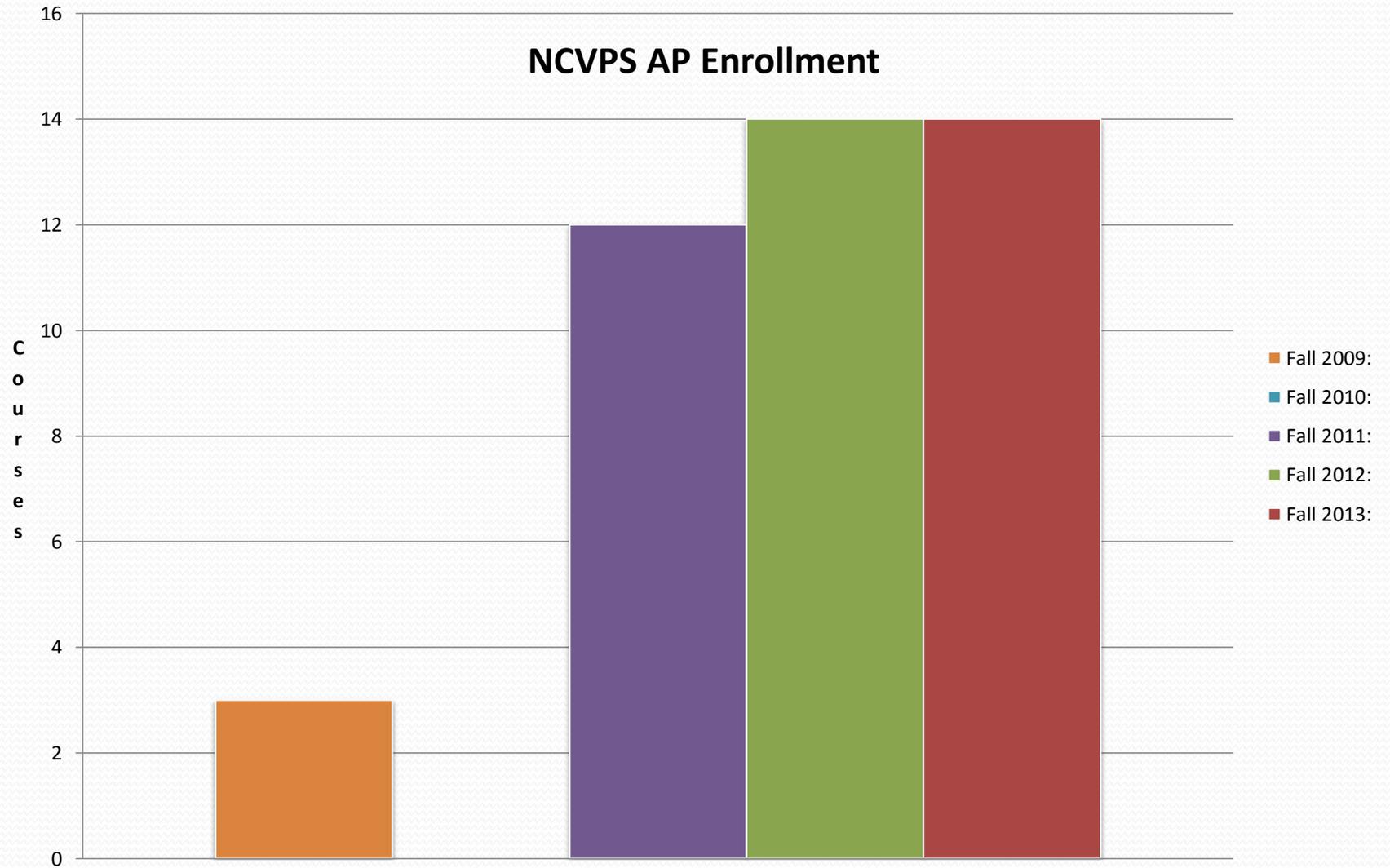
# Virtual Courses (alive & thriving!)

- Currently, over 100 students are enrolled in 46 courses. This compares to just over 70 students enrolled in Fall of 2012, an increase of 40%.
- This summer's enrollment reached a record high up 56% over last summer, with 183 MCHS students enrolling in 33 courses!
- Last year (including summer), nearly 400 students enrolled in a total of 124 regular-ed courses.
- The number of students enrolled this fall in a foreign language has almost tripled in number from last fall, at a growth rate of 170%! This year, 35 students are taking various levels of Latin, Spanish, Arabic and German. In the spring, several students will be taking Japanese.
- This year, 14 students are taking seven different AP courses.

# NCVPS Enrollment



# NCVPS AP Enrollment



# Why take online courses?

Technology has changed not only *how* students learn, but *what* they learn as well, but why take courses virtually?

- **Take what you want, when you want!**

*In order to graduate, students may not need exactly the same credit hours from year to year, however they still need the typical core courses in Math, English, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language. With only four periods a day each semester, these minimum requirements leave little room for advanced studies or for focusing on an area of study that will give students an “edge” as they apply to colleges.*

*Maybe you are the only student who is interested in Medieval Studies. Without online learning, there would be no opportunity to study that subject because of the cost related to hiring a face-to-face teacher for a less popular subject. It simply would not be offered!*

- **Control your learning environment!**

*Some students are task-oriented, some are distracted around large groups, others find that four courses a day just isn't enough, still others like to study late at night, in their bedrooms...these are just some of the characteristics of the online learning environment and the reasons some students will prefer online courses over face-to-face classes.*

# All Alone in the Virtual World?

Alone on a computer, it is easy to think that students are left to “teach themselves.” However, that is simply NOT the case!

- Virtual teachers are “live” people who are a text or phone call away! There are numerous ways to contact teachers at all hours. They understand students’ needs as many are currently or were formerly face-to-face classroom teachers. **All** teachers provide personal contact information and evening office hours to stay connected with their students.
- All teachers are fully certified to teach in North Carolina.
- Lesson modules are engaging and dynamic. Students may do more reading than listening to a teacher, but the instruction is there.
- If more help is needed, NCVPS offers a Virtual Buddy/Peer Tutoring Program that pairs students up with seasoned virtual students (in their content area) who will provide additional support on almost every topic.
- Students working in the lab have the added benefit of close monitoring of technical difficulties, collaboration among their peers and the opportunity to speak to their online teachers during the school day.

# Which courses are better online?

There is no one answer to this question.

- Students learn differently and work differently. What is right for one, may be completely ineffective for another.
- Just as there are different types of learners, each subject brings its own unique elements to the online platform.  
Complex math problems may be better solved by one student using real-world examples, or for another, by reading pages of notes. One student may only be able to create a beautiful art piece with step-by-step written instructions while another student does better work by watching an animated illustration.

A variety of factors make it difficult to judge how challenging a course will be to each individual student.

*This is an important, individual decision.*

# Here are some of the courses our students have taken online...

Psychology  
Pre-Calculus  
Earth/Environmental  
Science  
Latin  
Spanish  
German  
Arabic  
French  
Russian  
U.S. History  
Personal Finance  
Journalism

African-American  
Studies  
SAT Prep  
Civics & Economics  
Accounting  
Computer Programming  
Strategic Marketing  
Leadership  
Development  
Success 101  
Visual Arts  
Medieval Studies  
Honors Anatomy  
Entrepreneurship

World History  
Physical Science  
Chemistry  
Biology  
AP German  
AP World History  
AP Art History  
AP European History  
AP Computer Science  
AP U.S. Government  
AP Psychology  
AP Environmental  
Science

# That's fine, but how do our students feel about online learning?

Here are some recent comments from our current group of online students:

*“Online courses allow me to move at my own pace.”*

*“You can work on your class anywhere, anytime. It is convenient.”*

*“I feel connected to my teacher because we can communicate easily if needed.”*

*“Online classes are a really good way to take classes that are unavailable or may otherwise not fit into your schedule.”*

*“I like the flexibility of turning in assignments (everything is due Friday at midnight.)”*

*“I feel supported at MCHS because they offer a virtual lab that lets you take courses they don't have but still work during the school day.”*

*“I like that I can interact with students from other schools.”*

# Ready, Set, Go . . .

You've decided that online courses are the way to go, now what?

1. Decide on a course(s). Not sure? View the NCVPS course catalog at: <http://www.ncvps.org/index.php/courses/catalogue/>
2. Confirm the choice(s) with the student's guidance counselor who will verify that all high school requirements are being met.
3. Fill out an NCVPS course registration form. Turn in the completed form to Mrs. Carte, Rm. C300 (or at the front office).
4. Begin working in the course on the first day of (virtual) classes (this may be different than the MCHS calendar).
5. Not happy? Students have 10 days to drop an online course without penalty. After 10 days, if the student stops working, the student will receive an 'F' on his/her transcript.

**Applications are now available for spring courses. Take one tonight!**



**THANK YOU!**