

NCVPS

OCS Blended Learning Program

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It's That Time Again: **SPRING REGISTRATION: Opens November 14, 2011!**

Do you LOVE your OCS Blended Learning class? Teaching the same OCS class in the spring, or another course? Developed an awesome relationship with your partner teacher and want to stay connected?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, it is almost time for you to *make sure* you get registered for the OCS Blended Learning classes for Spring. Talk to your school's NCVPS contact and make sure you get what you want!

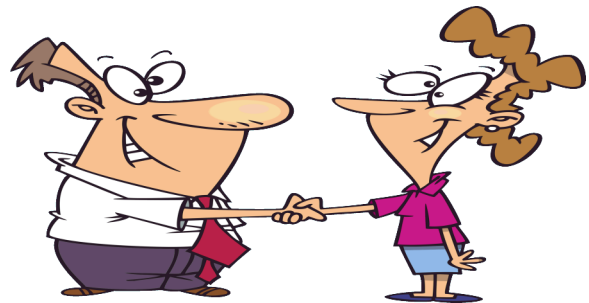
As a reminder, here are the OCS courses offered, includ-

ing the new OCS Intro to Math:

- OCS Intro to Math
- OCS Algebra I
- OCS English I
- OCS English II

- OCS Biology
- OCS Applied Science

Check [here](#) for more information. Spring registration information, which opens at 8 a.m. on November 14, 2011. We can't wait to work with you again!



<http://schools.iclipart.com>

The Testimonials Keep Coming!

Lamont Robinson, of Orange High School in Hillsborough, NC sent us his testimonial about his experience so far this semester with partner teacher, Anna Cromer. "The NCVPS has proven to be a very effective tool to ensure all students receive high level instruction that is presented in a way that is understandable and fun. As an OCS teacher, I was concerned that the new standards would be difficult to teach to our students

in a traditional classroom setting, but with NCVPS, students in my OCS Blended Biology class have learned concepts in Biology that would have been very difficult to comprehend in another setting. Students enjoy the technology used to reinforce Biology concepts, and they also enjoy and look forward to feedback from their virtual teacher. The collaboration between the virtual teacher and the f2f teacher

through this program has been great. I enjoy taking part in this program, and I hope to be involved in NCVPS classes in the future. "

Look inside for:

- Student samples of writing for OCS Applied Science.
- How Teacher of the Year Leslie Fetzer works with her co-teachers.
- Thanksgiving activities for Algebra, English, Biology and Applied Science.
- A celebratory note about our newest course to start Spring 2012, OCS Intro to Math

MORE ABOUT US?

Online at

<http://www.ncvps.org/index.php/courses/ocs-blended/>

Writing Across the Curriculum in OCS

With all the buzz about writing across the curriculum, we took a look at our OCS courses. We found lots of good activities, from embedded writing tidbits in science and math courses, to partner teachers working together to incorporate more writing into the courses. We want to share some of those activities with you.

Kristi Kruff at Myers Park HS in Charlotte, wrote in the Co-Teacher Documentation Log (CTDL) for her Applied Science class: *"Today went great. The letters to the Governor were a GREAT assignment. The kids need to work on writing skills, punctuation, capitalization, etc., and this was a wonderful opportunity to work on those skills...I will mail them; they worked really hard on them."* You can read Katie's and Frederick's letters in the sidebar to the right. We are waiting to hear from the Governor.

In Truda Weaver's Applied Science course at Porter Ridge HS in Indian Trail, she has students write summaries of articles from student news magazine. Her partner teacher provided her with a rubric to score the summaries.

Embedded in the OCS Biology course is an excellent opportunity for students to use their creativity to write a story about a food chain picture. Results have been very positive.



In OCS Algebra, our development team added higher level thinking questions to the math worksheets. Click on the question below to see a good example.

20. Rachel solved the following problem, but she did not get the right answer. Can you find her mistake? Explain what mistake she made, and then solve it correctly!
Problem: $25 - 8 \cdot 2 + 3^2$
Step 1: $25 - 8 \cdot 2 + 9$
Step 2: $25 - 8 + 11$
Step 3: $25 - 88$
Answer: -53

Sometimes, partner teachers will customize writing prompts into the curriculum, as seen here with Sara Mann's OCS Algebra announcement. Click on the stamp to see it all! Just a few great ideas for writing!



Cause for Celebration! Meet the NCVPS Teacher of the Year: Leslie Fetzer

We are so thrilled to have our own OCS Biology Teacher and Instructional Leader Leslie Fetzer representing all of NCVPS as Teacher of the Year. Click on her picture to read the full article.



I recently asked Leslie how her co-teacher partnerships in the OCS Program helped to make her a better teacher. Here's what Leslie had to say: *"Working with co-teachers has really helped me grow as an educator. My co-teachers help me learn about my students individually so that I can use their interests to make the Biology content relevant for them. Beyond learning specific student details, I am learning about the different learning challenges that each student faces, and I am learning strategies to overcome those challenges. I enjoy our conversations about*

the course content and our students, and especially the give-and-take as we come up with ideas to teach difficult concepts. For example, one partner teacher helped her students remember that RNA has a "U" instead of a "T" by using an analogy about "T" and "U" being neighbors in the alphabet. Another helped her students remember that DNA cannot leave the nucleus and that mRNA is like a thief that sneaks in to grab the secret code and takes it back to its secret place—the ribosome. Suddenly, these students can decode DNA, RNA, and explain Protein Synthesis (a concept many Honors students struggle to grasp). Finding new ways to teach and reteach material, which is what ALL students need to learn, has been extremely rewarding. Some of my co-teacher's students were in English learning about inferences when they were able to draw connections from Biology and teach their English teacher about diffusion. Another's students were

Read Katie's and Frederick's letters to Gov. Perdue.

Dear Governor Perdue,

My name is Katie _____. I am in 12th grade at _____ high school. I am an occupational course of studies student. My class has been studying nuclear power. We have learned that it can be a safe and green energy source. I would like to recommend to you that you not build nuclear energy. I believe that nuclear energy will hurt North Carolina because of the 3 mile plant partial meltdown and people are afraid. Sincerely, Katie _____

Dear Governor Perdue,

My name is Frederick _____. I am in the 10th grade at _____ high school. I am an occupational course of studies student. My class has been studying nuclear power. We have learned that it can be a safe and green energy source. I would like to recommend to you that you build nuclear power plant because it will make the air green. I believe that nuclear energy will help North Carolina because it will bring more jobs and NC it will be about 3,500 jobs I thinks our air will be so much cleaner than it was be for the nuclear energy came to the North Carolina love what you are doing for the people. Sincerely, Frederick ____

able to pick out an intentional mistake made by a vitamin company in their commercial and wrote letters to the company after learning about cell parts. All my teachers do amazing work in the classroom, and I am honored to work with them! I love teaching, and especially love working with my OCS Blended co-teachers because every day brings something new—a new challenge, a new student, a new milestone. The best part is that it all leads to student success!"

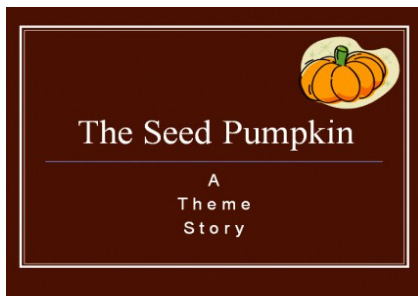
A Big THANKS to Our Partner Teachers in the Classroom: Fall Holiday Activities from Your NCVPS Partner

Like all teachers, we love to celebrate the seasons and holidays with our students. Isn't it great to have activities that are fun and aligned to your curriculum? Well, we have pulled together some great examples from all of our core areas to share with you!

NCVPS partner teacher, Trudy Price-O'Neil, created an Animoto video showing her favorite things about Thanksgiving. She shares it with her students and asks them to create their own Animotos about their favorite parts of Thanksgiving. It is a wonderful way to share the holiday season with students in a meaningful way. Click on the image below to see Trudy's full Animoto.



NCVPS partner teacher, Pat Lewis, has a power point story available in a shared Wimba file. "The Seed Pumpkin" story is a great way to teach English I students about themes. See part of the worksheet [here](#).



In Biology, Unit 5 deals with organic Molecules. What a great way to show the relevance of the types of food with an activity on testing foods for starch content. Click on the Thanksgiving spread below to see part of the activity.



We cherish our relationships with all of our partner teachers. We wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday Season!

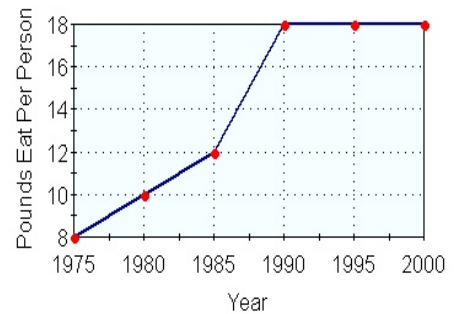
In Applied Science, have students watch a great article on the Science of Huge Pumpkins [here](#). Have them practice writing summaries of what they have learned in three complete sentences.

In Algebra, students can see the relevance of graphing data in a variety of ways. Using a simple, free [website](#) for graphing, they can create a variety of graphs to share with the class and school. Links to turkey statistics can be found on the worksheet. Click on the graph above and to the right to see part of the activity.

The possibilities are endless! Almost all of us will enjoy a short holiday week for Thanksgiving. Talk to your partner teacher and find something fun and meaningful to share with your students. Worksheets on any of these activities, can be emailing Karla [here](#).

<http://schools.iclipart.com>

How Much Turkey Do People Eat?



WWW.EDUCATIONWORLD.COM



<http://schools.iclipart.com>

Do you want to see updated testimonials from students and teachers about the OCS Blended Program? Click on the link in the black circle below!

[WWW.NCVPS.ORG/
INDEX.PHP/COURSES/
OCS-BLENDED/](http://WWW.NCVPS.ORG/INDEX.PHP/COURSES/OCS-BLENDED/)

We Want to Hear from You!

Have a shout-out for your NCVPS partner teacher or an activity that you planned together that was a smashing success? Or maybe you have photos, quotes, or work products from your students that you would like to see in our newsletter? Just email the newsletter editor, Karla Tucker at

karla.tucker@ncpublicschools.gov.

If your submission is selected, all featured parties will need to sign a permission slip for release. Our next edition will be in early December. We'd love to hear from you!

Got Google Doc Issues?

You all know how important our "Google docs" are to our OCS Blending Learning Program. We would be lost without these great daily communication resources! *And your online teachers are evaluated on their completeness.*

The past few weeks, we have noticed some issues with Google doc information NOT saving properly. In some cases, it may never open on a particular day. While an investigation into these problems hasn't really turned up a reliable solution, we hope that Google will soon fix them. We know how frustrating it is! However, here's a simple solution! *If you determine that the Google doc is NOT saving properly or NOT opening on a day, just send a quick email to your partner teacher.*

Without this daily communication tool, our students will suffer and we don't want that to happen! Daily communication is vital to our continued success, so don't let Google doc issues get you down.



<http://schools.iclipart.com>

Celebration!

We are so excited to announce our newest addition to the OCS Blended Learning Program: OCS Intro to Math. This precursor to OCS Algebra I will enable students across the state to acquire the skills necessary for success in OCS Algebra I. The new course incorporates our proven interactive strategies designed specifically for the OCS student. We can't wait to partner with you in this exciting new course!