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Public-school classes go online

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Central Florida -- Parents and students interested in learning about public-school classes offered online can get answers at the Florida Virtual School open house Saturday at Barnes & Noble bookstores around Orlando.

Online teachers will be available from 2 to 4 p.m. at the stores to answer questions, offer demonstrations and help students enroll in the more than 80 courses open to middle- and high-school students.

Open houses are planned at six Barnes & Nobles: Colonial Plaza Market Center, 2418 E. Colonial Drive; Florida Mall, 8358 S. Orange Blossom Trail; Plaza Venezia, 7900 W. Sand Lake Road; Waterford Lakes Town Center, 481 N. Alafaya Trail; Oviedo Marketplace, 1260 Oviedo Marketplace Blvd.; and 1900 W. International Speedway Blvd. in Daytona Beach.

Florida Virtual School was founded in 1997 as the country's first statewide Internet-based public high school. Courses are available to public, private and home-school students. The program served more than 31,000 students in the 2005-06 school year.

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