



ONLINE CLASSES PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE

By Emily Cassulo Jupiter High
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Like most teenagers these days, Peyton Pabst, a junior at Jupiter High, has a MySpace where he spends most of his free time outside of school.

But when he is online and not blogging, Pabst can usually be found on flvs.net, also known as the Florida Virtual School, a Web site where students can take classes online that they cannot fit into their schedules at school.

"I moved to Jupiter in the middle of the school year last year and I had missed the first half of Algebra II," Pabst said. "I had no choice [but to take Algebra II online]. It was either take the class online or take it in school."

The same was true for Jordan Watkins, a senior at Jupiter High.

"I've never had room in my schedule at school before, because I've concentrated more on taking a lot of art and science classes," she said. "I decided instead of filling up a space in my school schedule, I would take it online instead."

Watkins said taking an online course is not as hard as it seems.

"The only problem is remembering to keep up with [the class] every day and do assignments, because sometimes it doesn't feel like a real class."

Gina Sicbaldi, a senior at W.T. Dwyer High, has taken part of an SAT Prep class online.

"We would sit at our computer and just do the different sections that were required and work the math problems out on paper," she said. "We'd then turn them in when we were finished."

This was not always easy, Sicbaldi said. She said she prefers a personal instructor to a virtual one. "[Personal instructors] can help you with how you did the problem wrong and show you a better way," she said.

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