

WTSP – Tampa/St. Petersburg

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Wesley Chapel, Florida - For 16-year-old Loretta Hamui, going to school means opening up her laptop computer at her Wesley Chapel home, along with her three sisters. Two of the sisters are home schooled through the Florida Virtual School.

Loretta is a competitive figure skater from Mexico. She spends about eight hours every day training, and on most mornings she trains in Orlando.

But skating fills Loretta's day, leaving little time for school work. The Florida Virtual School gives her the flexibility she needs. She can pace herself and says she has more contact with teachers than in a traditional class.

FLVS school counselor Brenda Finora says all of the 400 teachers are state or nationally certified and they closely monitor students.

The virtual school is accredited and offers more than 90 courses, including electives and advanced placement classes which middle school students can take this year.

And the on-line learning allows students like Loretta accomplish her life long dream.

The FLVS is part of the state's public school system, so it's free. Students can sign up at any time.

Most students who enroll attend a public school and sign on for extra courses to get ahead, or to make up a course they've fallen behind in.

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