



The traditional education model has been transformed by changes in technology, and Fort Worth Country Day is capitalizing on the virtual classroom to enhance its rigorous college-preparatory education. The 2013-14 academic year marked FWCD's first year as a leader in online education through the Malone Schools Online Network (MSON), which provides independent schools access to new online classes through Stanford University. The only Texas Malone Foundation School, Fort Worth Country Day was one of eight schools during the 2013-14 academic year to offer virtual, real-time college courses onsite through this MSON collaborative.

The MSON program was established by a steering committee of six heads of school that are part of the Malone Consortium. **Evan D. Peterson**, head of School, is a member of this committee. For upper-level students at registered Malone Schools, MSON provides a variety of superior online courses offered in a virtual classroom that enhances each member school's existing curriculum.

In this inaugural year, 12 FWCD students were enrolled in six MSON classes, ranging from Arabic and Chinese; to Advanced Abstract Math, Organic Chemistry and Meteorology; to Democracy, Freedom and the Rule of Law. A total of 10 courses

were offered, and 88 students from the eight schools participated. For the 2014-15 academic year, 15 schools will participate and 18 courses will be offered. Two faculty members will hail from Fort Worth Country Day: **Lauren Cunningham**, Upper School art/art history teacher, will teach Art History: From Venus to Vera; **Dr. Chuck Kraus**, director of bands, will teach Contemporary Topics in Music History.

Students must make an application and be accepted into an MSON course. MSON courses serve as a high school enrichment elective course (fifth academic) in the FWCD program, and the course counts in a student's GPA. Those students who take MSON courses work closely with the Upper School administration to create a more individualized schedule that accommodates the designated MSON class. Each course has a minimum of six students and a maximum of 16.

The result is a virtual discussion seminar that is delivered in high-definition classroom setups. State-of-the-art technology links students with their peers and faculty: High-definition LCD displays and two high-definition cameras, in conjunction with touch-screen speaker phones, facilitate distance-learning activities among the participating schools—all at once. Stanford University maintains the

2014-15 MSON Courses

Advanced Abstract Math
 Advanced Computer Programming
 Advanced Topics in Chemistry
 Ancient Greek
 Arabic I and II
 Art History: From Venus to Vera
 BioEthics
 Chinese V
 Contemporary Topics in Music Education
 Critical Reading and Argumentation
 Etymology of Scientific Terms
 Introduction to Organic Chemistry
 Introduction to Linear Algebra
 Island of Misfit Texts: Studies in the Sui Generis
 Meteorology
 Modern Physics
 Multivariable Calculus
 Topics in Ottoman History

connective technology, and all MSON schools have access to both live and recorded content, as well as software that allows for student participation when away from the dedicated distance-learning lab.

Classes take place twice a week during the school day for live, synchronous instruction that utilizes multiple-line, high-definition distance learning. Courses are taught by Stanford University professors and faculty from the participating independent schools. 🌐