



annual report

OHIO'S PREMIER E-SCHOOL

2014-2015 Parent Informational Booklet | 2013-2014 Annual Report



"We cannot solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them"

- Albert Einstein

About QDA

QDA is a non-profit, public, online school in the state of Ohio for students in grades K-12. Any student residing in Ohio can enroll in QDA with offices conveniently located in New Philadelphia, Berlin, East Liverpool, and Steubenville. Here at QDA, students do not have a set schedule, but instead, can learn from anywhere they have access to a computer and Internet connection. Contact us today to learn how cyber education can meet your child's needs.

Toll Free Number
1-866-968-7032

General Email
information@go2qda

Board of Directors QDA

Hugh Berry - President
Greg Goodie - Vice President
Agnes Swigart
Perry Hershberger
Charles Gil Snyder

QDA Chief Officers

Richard Varrati, Ed.D. – CEO
Steve Sherer – Treasurer
Steve Eckert – Principal

Academic & Goals

The State of Ohio Model Courses of Study are the basis for QDA curriculum K-12. The Academy implements these resources as well as a variety of exceptional curricular options. Our teaching staff is comprised of caring, highly qualified and licensed teachers and counselors.

Sponsorship

The Quaker Digital Academy is a public digital school sponsored by the New Philadelphia City School District. The enrollment for the 2013-14 school year was 650 students.

letter from the superintendent...

Dear QDA Community,

The 2014-15 school year is off to great start and we are looking forward to a great school year. QDA continues to see student and academic growth. Our offices in Berlin, East Liverpool, Steubenville and New Philadelphia are designed to offer our students and families personal services. We take great pride in providing our students and their families a high quality, tuition-free education for grades K-12 throughout the State of Ohio. QDA's success is built on the belief that all students can excel if given the opportunity to explore their strengths, both academically and personally. Our students and parents are supported by caring certified teachers, while being provided with accredited curriculum to meet their individual needs. In addition, QDA has a school counselor to assist instructional supervisors who give personalized attention to each student.

QDA prides itself on working with a diverse student population and utilizes nationally certified curricula to help each student meet their academic needs. Our students are independent thinkers and self-motivators and are encouraged to take charge of their education. We at QDA provide them with the tools to meet the skills and the demands of the 21st century. In addition to our academic offerings, QDA provides students with the opportunity to participate in educational field trips, join activities and receive tutoring.

Our goal is to provide every student a high quality education that will prepare them for their future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Dr. Richard J. Varrati
CEO/Executive Director



letter from the principal...

QDA is committed to making a difference by providing a quality educational alternative. We offer parents and students a comprehensive academic program that emphasizes the pursuit of excellence.

QDA strives to provide an educational opportunity for all students to work independently. Students at QDA become confident, self-motivated individuals who are academically and technologically proficient. The individual needs and learning styles of students are accommodated through personalized learning. When students leave QDA, they have the skills to be life-long, reflective learners who are able to be objective and rational when making decisions.

QDA is committed to providing appropriate materials, highly qualified teachers and personnel, and staff development in order to guide the learning of its K-12 students.

Steve Eckert
Principal



How to **SUCCEED** as a QDA Student



MATH WINNERS

Kent State Tuscarawas
East Central Ohio Educational
Service Center Math Tournament

Congratulations to our participants:

Leah Ortt, Jessica Swartzentruber
and Ryan Woodward. Jessica
Swartzentruber was the 8th grade winner in the
Mathematics Process and Problem Solving Category



Successful online students have two traits in common: they know how to stay focused on their studies and they are ready to learn. But, resolving to earn an online high school diploma isn't difficult if you know what steps to take.

1. Make sure that online high school is right for you. An online education isn't for everyone. If you do not enjoy working independently or get distracted easily, perhaps online education isn't the best fit. Carefully evaluate the choice to learn online. Feel free to contact QDA with any questions you may have.

2. Choose an online school that works for your learning style. Each online high school has a different way of interacting with students. QDA offers local extracurricular activities, and each student is assigned an online mentor (Instructional Supervisor) to work with each day. Some schools leave students to work on their own, simply sending grades and feedback through email. At QDA we offer a personalized program.

3. Create a high school graduation plan with the help of a counselor. When you enroll in QDA you will be given the opportunity to create a graduation plan outlining the courses you need to take in order to earn a

diploma and talk with our academic counselor at the end of each semester to review the plan.

4. Put your learning first. We encourage our students to commit to graduating and to keep this goal in mind and offer guidance to stay on track.

5. Create a study spot. A clean, quiet place to complete your assignments can make a huge difference to an online student. Find a place in your home with a desk that you can use. Speak with other family members about the importance of keeping the area neat and keeping quiet while you are trying to study.

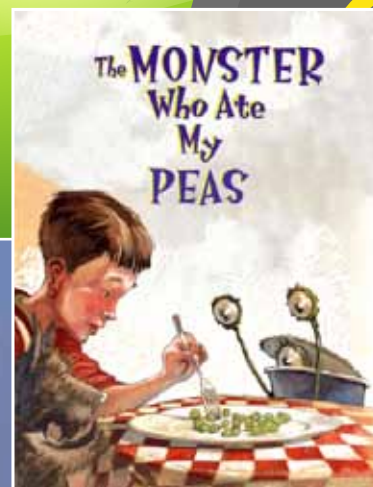
6. Use a calendar and always turn assignments in on time. Having your own monthly / weekly calendar can help you schedule your assignments and plan for the future. At the beginning of each semester, write down your assignments on the appropriate days. At the beginning of each week, review what will be due in the coming days.

7. Ask for help when you need it. At QDA, we encourage our students to know when to speak up. If you don't understand an assignment, let someone know. Some online students may struggle learning technical subjects such as math in a virtual environment. QDA offers tutoring for students who need a little extra attention with their studies.



QDA is happy to announce the
2014-15 field trip schedule.
For complete information
visit our website:

www.go2qda.org





QDA Field Trips 2014-15



September 15, 2014
Rain Forest Reptiles:
Rarity in Peril

September 24, 2014
Clay, Dennison Depot and
Schoenbrunn Museums

October 1, 2014
Great Lakes Science Center

October 16, 2014
Aquila Theatre Company
Presents: The Tempest

October 27, 2014
Skippyjon Jones

November 14, 2014
The Monster
Who Ate My Peas

February 26, 2015
Sid the Science Kid: LIVE!

March 18, 2015
The Works

March 24, 2015
Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley
Hall of Fame

April 8, 2015
Toy & Plastic Brick Museum

May 4, 2015
Ohio's Ice Cream Destination
Ye Olde Mill

May 13, 2015
Columbus Zoo

May 20, 2015
Warther Museum

2013 - 2014 Report Card for Quaker Digital Academy

Graduation Rate



This rating answers the question – How many students from your school graduate in four, five, six, or seven years?

digital education
could be right for you...
RIGOROUS
but *flexible*.

Each school year, school districts throughout the State of Ohio compile a report to be distributed to the parents of children attending their school. This report is available to the public and is available on-line. QDA complies with all state and district requirements as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education through the Department of Community Schools. QDA is sponsored by the New Philadelphia City Schools.

4-Year Graduation Rate

The 4-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2013 who graduated within four years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2009 and graduated by 2013.

RATING

Exceeds Standards

32.4%

Exceeds 30.0 - 100.0%
Meets 7.0 - 29.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 6.9%



5-Year Graduation Rate

The 5-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2012 who graduated within five years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2009 and graduated by 2013.

RATING

Exceeds Standards

41.5%

Exceeds 39.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 38.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%



6-Year Graduation Rate

The 6-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2011 who graduated within six years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2008 and graduated by 2013.

RATING

Exceeds Standards

41.7%

Exceeds 39.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 38.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%



7-Year Graduation Rate

The 7-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2010 who graduated within seven years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2007 and graduated by 2013.

RATING

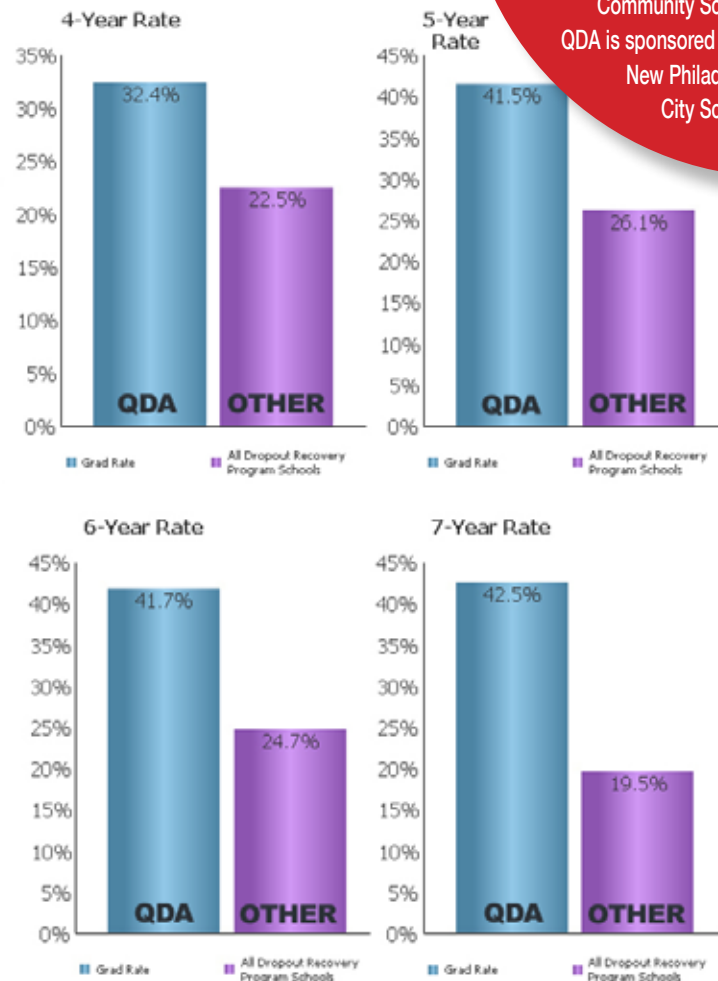
Exceeds Standards

42.5%

Exceeds 39.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 38.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%



How Does this School Compare to the Other Dropout Recovery Program Schools in Ohio?



* Data available at time of printing.

Total Graduates to Date

434

Total Enrollment

715

2013-14 Economically Disadvantaged

41%

Attendance Rate for the 2013-14 School Year

86%



**Academic Standard 3.0 GPA | Character
Service to Others | Citizenship | Leadership**

QDA students participate in National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society. Members will be participating in several community events: New Town Mall Halloween candy distribution, staffing the registration table for the Tuscarawas County Patriot Day in February, and the ECO-ESC Literacy event. New members are inducted each spring.



QDA Assessment Over Time

All students in the school for a full academic year are included in the results.

High School Assessment Test Passage Rate



This rating answers the question – How many students in your school passed all five state tests that are required for graduation?

Students who Passed All Five Tests

RATING
Coming in
2014

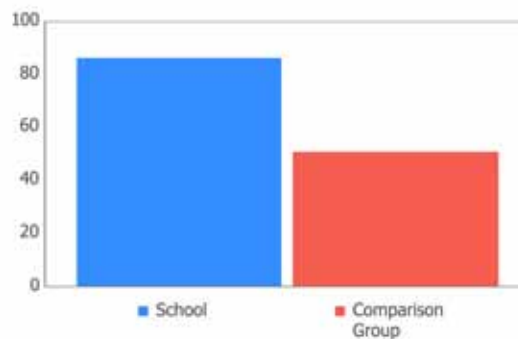


86.4%

A rating of Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, or Does Not Meet Standards will be applied to this score in 2014.

qda enrollment projections

2003-04 – 15
2004-05 – 40
2005-06 – 128
2006-07 – 162
2007-08 – 225
2008-09 – 290
2009-10 – 397
2010-11 – 489
2011-12 – 525
2012-13 – 599
2013-14 – 667
2014-15 – 700
2015-16 – 725
2016-17 – 825



Special Services Report

The QDA is committed to providing support services to all students and teachers. We also provide a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to all students with disabilities. The Special Services Center monitors to (1) ensure that the special education policies and procedures are in accordance with all federal, state and local mandates, (2) design, implement and evaluate appropriate programs for students with disabilities, and (3) provide technical assistance and staff development opportunities. The QDA focuses on the consistency and quality of special education programs and related services within the district.

Each year school districts throughout Ohio participate in an effort to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities, age 3 through age 21. The QDA provides special education services to approximately 50 students with disabilities, or approximately 8% of the district's student population. If you have a child, or know of a child, you suspect may have a disability as described by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) or Americans with Disabilities Act – Section 504, please contact Mrs. Maureen Wittler, Director of Special Services at 330-339-7218.

Gap Closing



This rating shows how well all students are doing in your school in reading, math, and graduation. It answers the question – Is every student succeeding, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, or disability?

The red line on each graph identifies the Annual Measurable Objective. The 2014 AMO for Reading is 84.9%, for Math is 80.5%, and for Graduation Rate is 78.2%. Subgroups with fewer than 30 students are not rated and do not appear on the graphs.

RATING

Does Not Meet Standards

AMO Points

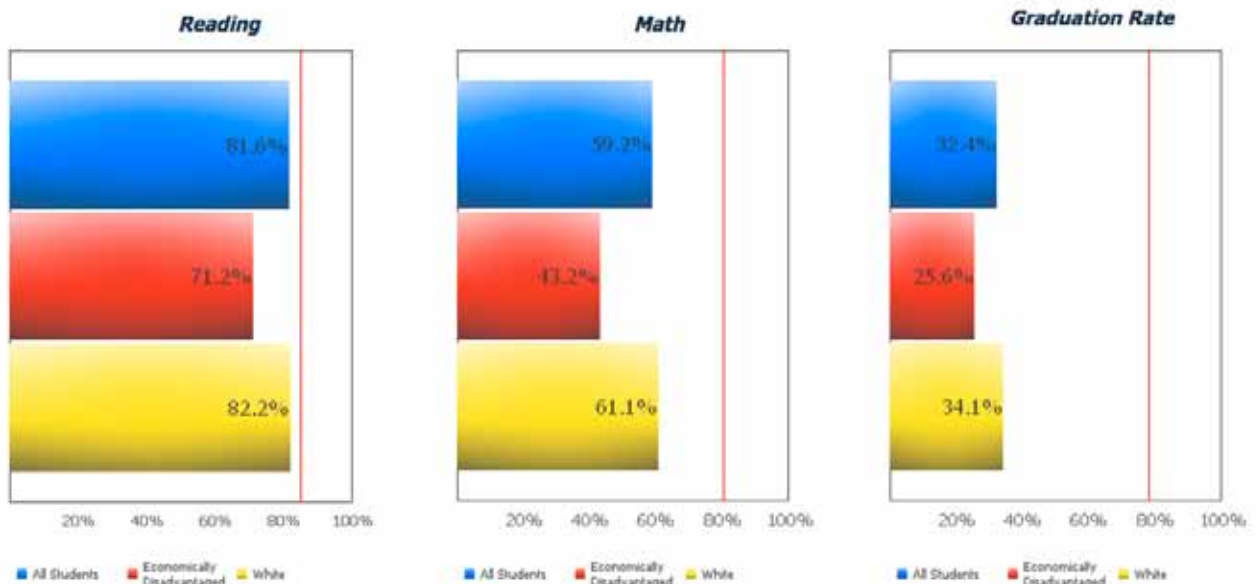


0.2%

Exceeds Standards 33.0 - 100.0%
Meets Standards 5.0 - 32.9%
Does Not Meet Standards 0.0 - 4.9%

Annual Measurable Objectives

Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) compare the performance of all students to a state goal which is displayed as the red line in the following charts. These charts show how well each group achieves that goal in reading, math and graduation – and emphasize any achievement gaps that exist between groups. The ultimate goal is for all groups to achieve at high levels.





recent grads



Tye Alleshouse



Lindsey Ames



Ashley Ayers



Austin Baumgardner



Emily Host



Jett Masters



Tyler Moore



Katelyn Schrader



Micaiah Walker



Daniel White

tech update

As QDA continues to expand over the State of Ohio, the technology department is committed to keeping our students connected to the latest cutting edge technology. Over the past few years, QDA has implemented numerous network infrastructure changes to improve the efficiency and reliability of our network resources:

- In the summer of 2014 our Learning Management System underwent a major upgrade to improve the performance and navigation of the site. Students and parents can now find everything they need with just a few clicks.
- In addition to our Learning Management System upgrade, our QDA Homepage was also updated in fall of 2013.

- These two upgrades now allow students to access QDA resources from their tablet or mobile device without any loss of quality. Our regular desktop site simply adapts to any screen size. Roughly 25% of new visitors access our site from mobile or tablet devices.
- Our Steubenville and East Liverpool offices have upgraded to fiber optics for Internet connectivity.
- Our New Philadelphia Voice-over IP System has expanded to our Steubenville and East Liverpool offices.
- New for the 2014-2015 School Year - QDA's New Philadelphia office will be expanding to offer a secondary computer lab and training center for students and staff.



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QDA is a charter school sponsored by the New Philadelphia City School District.