



# ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO'S PREMIER E-SCHOOL

2015-2016 Parent Informational Booklet | 2014-2015 Annual Report

Every child is **Unique.**  
Every child is *capable of learning...*  
Every child can achieve **SUCCESS.**



Individualized Education through QDA

## 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.org

### Board of Directors QDA

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

### 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 2014-15 school year was 700 students.

## A Message from Superintendent Richard Varrati

SUPERINTENDENT AND CEO FOR QDA



"Every child is capable of learning; it's just that sometimes a traditional brick and mortar environment isn't the right fit. Online learning can bridge the gap between providing a solid educational foundation and creating an individualized plan that works for the particular needs of a student. A traditional school is great, but you won't find the individualized educational plan that we can provide at QDA."- Dr. Richard Varrati

All types of students can benefit from an education through QDA. For example, a student who is two to three grade levels behind struggles in a traditional environment. At QDA, he or she is more likely to thrive because the curriculum is tailored to move that student up to the correct grade level. The stress is removed. Other students, like those who are the victims of bullying or those with parents who travel extensively, also represent the typical QDA student.

The at-your-own-pace learning model offered by QDA allows students to work at their studies on an individual basis.

For those parents concerned about socialization, QDA offers twenty-three field trips every year for students and their families. Students may also participate in extracurricular activities on a local level, just like any other area student.

**"Every child is capable of learning;  
it's just that sometimes the traditional brick  
and mortar environment isn't the right fit."**

**~ Dr. Richard Varrati**

Because not every student learns exactly the same, QDA offers learning models that extend beyond the Internet. Some students use textbook courses and then follow up with an on line assessment. Other students are enrolled in college classes and still others opt for vocational classes.

QDA is state funded, so there is no cost to the student. We also provide the computer and up to \$40 a month for Internet access. Home schooling parents will save money by sending their children to QDA.

To learn more about QDA and the programs offered, contact 330-364-0618 or 1-866-968-7032

*(Dr. Richard Varrati, CEO and Superintendent at QDA has worked for 35 years in the field of education)*

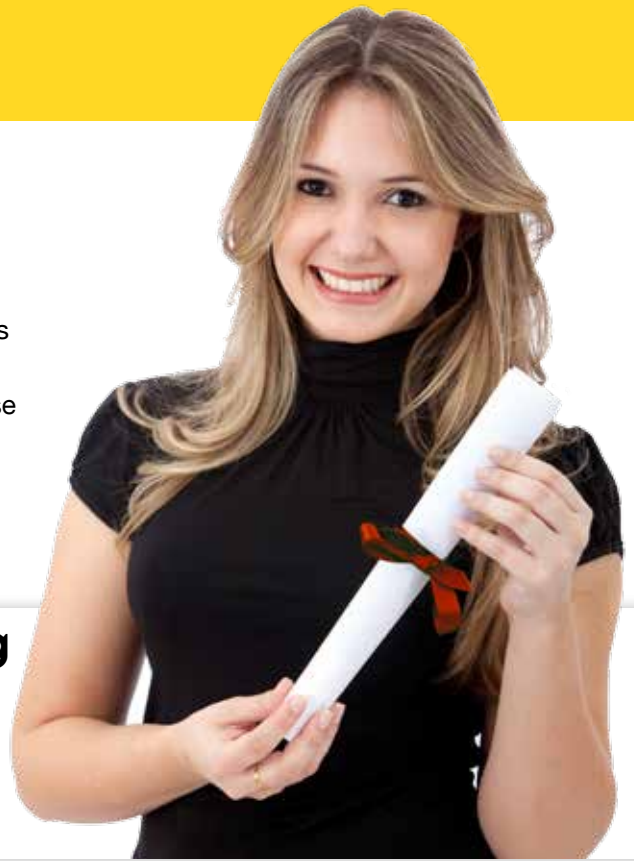




# NEW to QDA

## Ohio 22+ Adult High School Diploma Program

The Ohio 22+ Adult High School Diploma Program allows Ohio adults over the age of twenty-two to earn their high school diploma through QDA's online learning environment. This is not a GED program. Those interested in receiving their high school diploma may complete our online application to begin the enrollment process. For more information, please contact the QDA office at 1-866-968-7032, or contact Jill Westbrook at 330-364-0618.



**“Investing in yourself is the best thing you can do. If you’ve got talents, NO ONE can take them from you.”**

**~Warren Buffett**

## Nahlana Blackwell – Graduate at 15 and Young Entrepreneur!



For the second time, an area couple has watched a daughter graduate early from high school. Nahlana Blackwell, daughter of Vernae and Rick Blackwell of Columbia, recently followed in her sister, Amber's, footsteps by graduating from the Quaker Digital Academy at age 15.

The girls have chosen different paths after graduation. While Amber continues her education as a junior at Kent State University, taking online courses in psychology and sociology, Nahlana Blackwell is an entrepreneur.

Her company, Designs by Nahlana, specializes in colorful rubber-band bracelets and animals that can be used as charms, key chains, zipper pulls or toys.

Blackwell said she developed the idea in a dollar-store craft section where she found a rainbow loom and the bands. After

making a few bracelets, she investigated other ideas from the Internet, and became interested in making animals.

She's adept at creating Snoopy, a horse, a ninja turtle, tiger, alligator, owls, a lion and many others.

“When I first posted pictures of my creations on Facebook, I had only a small amount of likes,” she said, “but today I have about 2,900.”

“I knew as soon as my girls reached school age, that they would do better if they could work on their own without the intervention of time schedules,” said Vernae Blackwell. “By going to Quaker Digital Academy, they could study what they wanted, when they wanted, and we had the added advantage of going to places like COSI, Cedar Point and the zoo.”



# QDA Field Trips 2015-16

QDA is happy to announce the 2015-16 field trip schedule.

For complete information visit our website:

[www.go2qda.org](http://www.go2qda.org)



**Lou Holtz**

Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame

03.30.2016 | 11:00 am



**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

10.23.2015 | 6:00 pm



**The Great Serpent Mound**

09.23.2015 | 12:00 pm

**Maze Craze**

10.07.2015 | 10:00 am



**Kamikaze Fireflies**

10.15.2015 | 12:30 pm







## Walk on: The Story of Rosa Parks

01.15.2016 | 12:30 pm



## Stan Hywet Hall

05.18.2016 | 10:00 am



## The Cashore Marionettes

09.11.2015 | 12:30 pm



## A Christmas Story for Caroline

11.20.2015 | 12:30 pm



## Dr. Insecta

02.03.2016 | 12:30 pm



## Recent Grads



Steven Walker and Instructional  
Supervisor Bruce Metzger



Sean Chambers and Instructional  
Supervisor Steven Miller



Nicole Combs



Ciara Tarulli

# QDA Assessment Over Time

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

\* Data available at time of printing.

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.

## High School Test Passage Rate



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

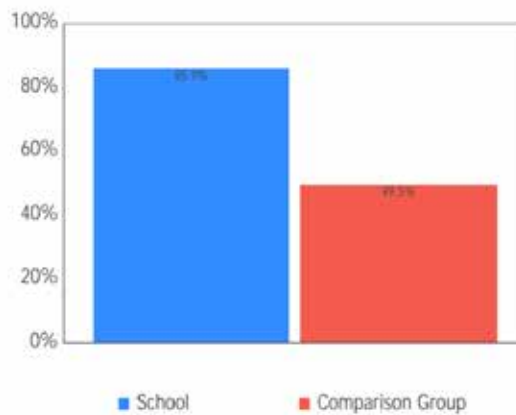
### Students Who Passed All Five Tests



**85.9%**

Exceeds Standards 59.0 - 100.0%  
Meets Standards 18.0 - 58.9%  
Does Not Meet Standards 0.0 - 17.9%

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



### How Does This School Compare to the Other Dropout Recovery Schools in Ohio?



## Graduation Rate



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

Directory information current as of the  
2013-2014 Report Card publication date

**Total QDA Graduates to Date 511**

**Total QDA Enrollment for 2014-15 700**

### 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.



**32.4%**

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



### 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.



**41.7%**

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



### 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 2010 and graduated by 2013.



**41.5%**

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.



**42.5%**

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





# Title One Highlights

During the past school year, QDA participated in a County-Wide Reading Festival hosted by New Towne Mall. Instructional Supervisor and Title Director Darla Kish, along with Instructional Supervisor Linda Ball, and Nikki Gautier planned literacy activities centered around the theme, "Get Caught in Reading." A QDA Book Fair was held which allowed students the opportunity to purchase books for their personal collections. The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society members assisted as student workers at the event. Many students from surrounding counties participated in the activity.

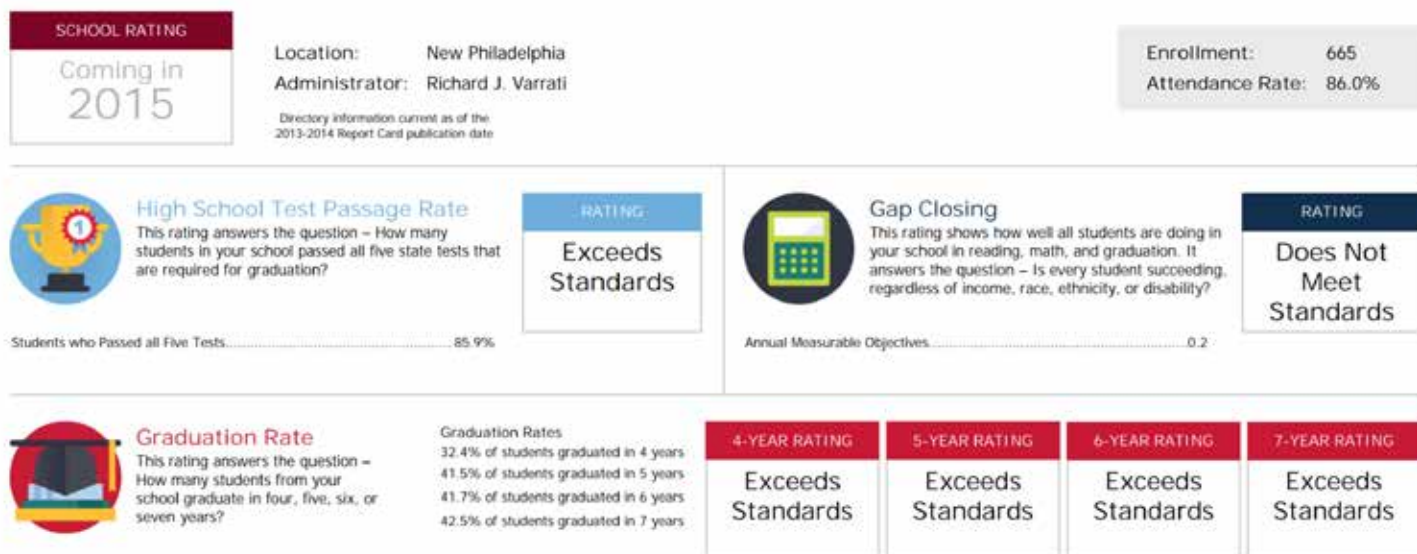
In March, QDA students visited The Works- Ohio Center for History, Art, and Technology in Newark, Ohio. The facility encourages hands-on learning. Students participated in an electricity demonstration, guided tour, and watched a glass blowing demonstration.

In April of 2015, QDA students visited The Brick and Toy Museum in southeastern Ohio. The students toured three floors of LEGO artwork, architecture, theme rooms, and animatronic displays. The students especially enjoyed the larger-than-life statues of LEGO Spider Man, Darth Vader, Scooby Doo, and a seven-foot-tall Woody from Toy Story.

Plans are in place for 2015-2016, where QDA will be focusing on hosting parent workshops highlighting phonics and math. The first workshop will be held the first week of November.



## 2013 - 2014 Report Card for Quaker Digital Academy



# tech update

## Latest News from the Tech Department

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:

- We have redesigned both the QDA Homepage and Learning Management System to be mobile friendly. Access the same content from any device without a loss of quality.
- For the 2015-16 school year, the New Philadelphia office will double their Internet bandwidth. The East Liverpool office will also have their bandwidth increased. The Berlin office will be upgraded to fiber optics for internet connectivity.
- We have begun making technical tutorials and hosting them on YouTube. Be sure to check out our page. We also continue to expand our Learning Management System Center. You can access it by going to [lms.go2qda.org/support](http://lms.go2qda.org/support)
- To increase performance and reliability, we have started to replace hard drives with solid state drives in our machines older than two years.

## Computer Systems

Current Model  
Type: Notebook  
Operating System: Windows 7  
CPU: Intel Core i3  
RAM: 4GB DDR3  
Screen: 15.6in  
Hard Drive: 500GB

## Support

Have an issue? No problem, the QDA Technology Department provides multiple levels of support to get our students back online as quickly as possible. Our 24/7 Knowledgebase can answer most questions, but our helpdesk ticking system and phone support are also available Monday - Friday. In addition, the QDA Technology Department can initiate a remote desktop session with just a few clicks on your end.

## Tutoring

Regardless if you are 10 or 50 minutes away from your teacher, our staff can now host interactive tutoring sessions. Students will see and hear the teacher as if they were in the same room.

## Email System

The QDA Email System is powered by Google Apps for Education. Each student enrolled in QDA will receive their own [@go2qda.org](mailto:@go2qda.org) email address along with a document center and personal calendar. Google Apps guarantees a 99.9% up time.

## Learning Management System

Our LMS provides students with a centralized access point for their courses, information and support. Built exclusively for QDA, our LMS is hosted and maintained onsite. Each student will be provided one simple account that will allow them to access their curriculum through our single sign-on system.

## Questions?

Feel free to send an email to [tech@go2qda.org](mailto:tech@go2qda.org) at anytime or call 330.339.7159 during office hours.

Monday–Friday  
9 am to 5 pm



## 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 Towne 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.



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

