



ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO'S PREMIER E-SCHOOL

2016-2017 Parent Informational Booklet | 2015-2016 Annual Report

It's all about

options.

QDA is able to
create
a *personalized*
LEARNING PATH
that fits the needs
of the individual.

QDA Chief Officers

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

Board of Directors QDA

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

Sponsorship

The Quaker Digital Academy is a public digital school sponsored by the New Philadelphia City School District.

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, counselors, and administrators.

QDA is a non-profit, public online school in the State of Ohio for students in grades K-12. Any student residing in Ohio may enroll in QDA with offices conveniently located in New Philadelphia, Berlin, East Liverpool, and Steubenville. Contact us today to learn how cyber education can meet your child's needs.

QDA is state funded.

There is no cost to the student. A computer is provided and up to \$40 a month for internet access. Home schooling parents will save money by sending their children to QDA.



tech update

The QDA Technology Department is committed to continuous network infrastructure upgrades to improve efficiency, reliability and performance. Here are a few projects we have been working on:

In the Cloud

We have moved the QDA homepage, learning management system, and various web services from an internal server to a virtual environment hosted on the Google Cloud. Over the years we experienced the occasional Internet or power outage that would take our systems offline. With cloud based hosting we have 10x more network bandwidth, failover redundancy, and the ability to scale our system to meet user demands. For example, the chart below shows our Learning Management System (lms.go2qda.org) activity from August 7th – August 20th in orange and the activity from August 21st – September 2nd in blue.

On QDA's first day of school (August 24th) we saw a 260% increase in user traffic. We prepared for this by switching the hardware from "off peak" mode to "high traffic" mode thus ensuring our students didn't run into any issues on the first day of school.



Phone System Expansion

The final phase of our network and phone system expansion is expected to be completed in the fall of 2016. The Berlin office will now be tied into our main phone system so students and families can reach any staff member at any office through the New Philadelphia office.

Student Laptops

We have continued to replace hard drives with solid state drives to make our student laptops quicker and more reliable.

Ohio 22+ Adult High School Diploma Program

Twenty-two Ohio adults have received their high school diploma through QDA since September 2015. The Ohio 22+ Adult High School Diploma Program has been a great success at QDA during the past school year, with even greater outreach for 2016-17. Ohio adults over the age of twenty-two may earn their high school diploma through QDA's online learning environment.

The QDA On-Line Adult 22+ High School Diploma Program is a two-year program and is in year two of legislative funding. Only students who are able to complete all of their graduation requirements by June 30, 2017, will be enrolled in the program for the 2017 fiscal year. Through a review of your transcript and discussion with a counselor, QDA will help you to make an informed decision regarding the best possible pathway for you. Some of the available options to you are:

- a high school diploma through QDA
- a career pathway through an Adult Diploma Program
- a GED
- a referral to a local ABE Program in your area.

Each adult 22+ student will work on his/her own personalized learning plan and complete independent work in order to earn credits for graduation. Students will complete their academic lessons on-line. The academic program is competency based and is dependent on the mastery of state standards.

For more information contact the QDA Office
at 1-866-968-7032 – Jill Westbrook.



A Message from Superintendent Richard Varrati

SUPERINTENDENT AND CEO FOR QDA

Why Quaker Digital Academy?



The principles of the school, as instituted by its CEO, Dr. Richard Varrati, suggest that a student's school should be "made of choices, not bricks." To this end, QDA constantly seeks to provide new opportunities to those enrolled, providing individual attention that may not always be available in the shuffle of a classroom. Whereas a student at a brick and mortar school has a group of classmates with which to vie for attention, each individual enrolled in QDA is assigned an Instructional Supervisor (otherwise referred to as an "IS") that serves as a main point of contact

for the student and their family. The IS handles all school related issues for the students, and keeps in regular contact to ensure success in their studies. Furthermore, each student's education is tailor-made for the individual. QDA is fully aware that what helps one student learn may not work for the next student. That is why at QDA we have invested in expanding our curriculum so that many options are available. By offering a selection of cutting edge, state-approved curriculum, QDA is able to create a personalized learning path that fits the needs of the individual.

With the ever-rising number of students turning to cyber education, QDA has more than proven it is ready to meet the challenges of the shifting landscape and the needs of those enrolled. QDA's growth mirrors that of the changing world, and reflects the need for students to be able to choose their own education and find their own way to success

Contact us today to learn more!
Toll Free: 1-866-968-7032
or information@go2qda.org

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

Parent Workshops Held at QDA

QDA will be offering four phonics workshops to teach parents how to teach phonics at home. The first workshop was offered in November. Participants learned how to teach phonics with a multisensory approach. The workshop will focus on the following areas:

- Phonemic Awareness Skills
- Sound-Symbol Drill
- Short Vowels
- Dictation words/sentences
- Sight Words

Participants will receive materials to utilize at home.



Maxwell Mead



Instructional Supervisors Bob Zontini and LuAnn Kennedy, Brooke Penrod (graduate), Instructional Supervisors Nikki Gautier and Linda Ball, and Dr. Richard Varrati, Superintendent



Instructional Supervisor Tony Casini with recent graduate Brittany Buzzeo



Zachary Caddy

Educational Field Trips Scheduled for 2016-17

Secrest Arboretum

Sept. 14 | 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Ohio Caverns

Sept. 21 | 12:00-2:00 pm

Zoar Village

Sept. 23 | 9:00 am-3:00 pm



Raptor Encounter

Sept. 27 | 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Performing Arts Center
at Kent State Tuscarawas

Newark Earthworks and Flint Ridge

Sept. 28 | 10:30 am-2:30 pm

Ashtabula's Maritime Museum and the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum

Oct. 5 | 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Magical Theatre Company

Oct. 11 | 12:30
pm-2:30 pm

Performing Arts Center
at Kent State Tuscarawas



Ramseyer Farms

Oct. 12 | 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Jigsaw Jones and the Case of the Class Clown

Nov. 16 | 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Performing Arts Center
at Kent State Tuscarawas



Everybody's Hero: The Jackie Robinson Story

Feb. 8 | 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Performing Arts Center
at Kent State Tuscarawas

Rainbow Fish

March 1 | 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Performing Arts Center
at Kent State Tuscarawas

Ohio River Museums and the Valley Gem Sternwheeler

May 10 | 10:30 am-2:30 pm

Toledo Zoo and Aquarium

May 17 | 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Title One Highlights

QDA offers Title I Programming for our Students

A Year in Review...

Title I programming provides a variety of opportunities for our students to experience cultural and educational activities.

During September 2015, QDA students and families visited The Great Serpent Mound in Peebles, Ohio. Serpent Mound's educational tour consisted of three educational features: The first was an educational tour of the mound. The second was Native American games, which included atlatl throwing, corn toss, double bag, and the chunky stick game. The third was the study of reptiles, where guides explained the importance of the reptile to native culture.

In the month of October, QDA students and families visited the Get Lost at Maze Craze in New Springfield, Ohio. Students participated in over 20 amazing acres of corn transformed into a life-size maze, with 7.8 miles of trails that twist and turn and sometimes came to a dead end! Students and families also visited The Historic Schoenbrunn Village and enjoyed a live drama of Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* reenacted by the glow of a bonfire.

Last November, QDA participated in the Reading Festival sponsored by the Educational Service Center. Instructional Supervisor and Title One Coordinator, Darla Kish, along with Instructional Supervisors Linda Ball and Nikki Gautier, planned literacy activities around the theme, *The Oregon Trail*. A QDA Book Fair was held which allowed students the opportunity to purchase books for their personal collections. The Society and National Junior Honor Society members assisted as student workers at the event. Many students from surrounding counties participated.

QDA students and families attended the Class Acts Series held at the Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center. This series is a collection of performances designed for and offered exclusively to local schools. These performances are scheduled during the school day and last between 40 and 50 minutes each. The performances included: The Cashore Marionettes, Kamikaze Fireflies, A Christmas Story for Caroline, Walk on: The Story of Rosa Parks, and Dr. Insecta.

The 2015-2016 school year field trip tour ended with a visit to Stan Hywet Hall in Akron.

National Honor





QDA Eighth Graders Go to Washington D.C.

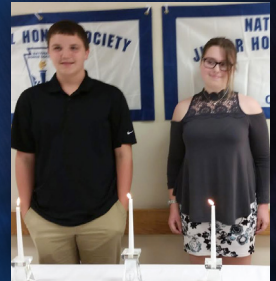
Every year schools in our area take eighth graders to Washington D.C. May 18-20 three QDA students and their chaperone Linda Ball made this trip with Welty eighth graders. These were three days packed with a tour of the Capital Dome, visits to Arlington National Cemetery, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, and the Smithsonian Museums. The trip also included stops at the many monuments and memorials that represent great US historical figures and events. Trip highlights included the changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Twilight Tattoo at Fort Myer, the 911 Memorial at the Pentagon and a view of the White House. Students also had chances to do some souvenir shopping at the museums and souvenirs shops. This trip brings a new perspective to the history of our nation to our students.

(Pictured Above) National Honor and National Junior Honor Societies Volunteered at the registration table for the Tuscarawas County Patriot Rally.



National Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society

Our NHS and NJHS members come from all over the state of Ohio. This year, NHS and NJHS families came from cities as far as Dayton, Toledo, and Oberlin to be at the NHS/



NJHS Induction Ceremony. The ceremony gives QDA Board Members, Administration, and Instructional Supervisors an opportunity to show appreciation for the hard work our students and families devote to their digital education.



2015 - 2016 Report Card for Quaker Digital Academy

SCHOOL RATING

Meets Standards

Location: New Philadelphia
Administrator: Dr. Richard J. Varrati

*Directory information current as of the
2015-2016 Report Card publication date*

**Career Technical
Planning District:** Buckeye JVSD CTPD

Enrollment: 665
Attendance Rate: 94.6%



High School Test Passage Rate

The High School Test Passage Rate component represents the number of students who passed all five state tests that are required for graduation.

Students who Passed all Five Tests.....82.1%

RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**



Graduation Rate

The Graduation Rate component looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four, five, six, seven or eight years.

Graduation Rates

30.1% of students graduated in 4 years
44.4% of students graduated in 5 years
45.3% of students graduated in 6 years
44.9% of students graduated in 7 years
47.0% of students graduated in 8 years
42.3% is the weighted average of all graduation rates.

A graduation rate is not calculated if there are not at least 10 students in the graduating class.



Gap Closing

The Gap Closing component shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for our most vulnerable populations of students in English language arts, math and graduation.

Annual Measurable Objectives.....3.9

RATING

**Meets
Standards**

4-YEAR RATING

**Meets
Standards**

5-YEAR RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

6-YEAR RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**



Progress

The Progress component looks closely at the growth that all students are making during the school year.

Value-Added

Overall.....Does Not Meet Standards

COMPONENT GRADE

**Does Not
Meet
Standards**

7-YEAR RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

8-YEAR RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

COMBINED RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**



The Graduation Rate component looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four, five, six, seven or eight years.

4-Year Graduation Rate

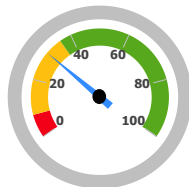
The 4-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2015 who graduated within four years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2011 and graduated by 2015.

RATING

**Meets
Standards**

30.1%

Exceeds 36.0 - 100.0%
Meets 8.0 - 35.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 7.9%



6-Year Graduation Rate

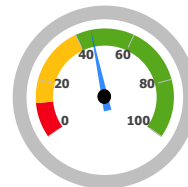
The 6-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2013 who graduated within six years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2010 and graduated by 2015.

RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

45.3%

Exceeds 40.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 39.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%



5-Year Graduation Rate

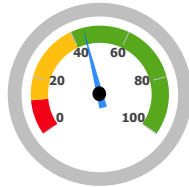
The 5-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2014 who graduated within five years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2011 and graduated by 2015.

RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

44.4%

Exceeds 40.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 39.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%



7-Year Graduation Rate

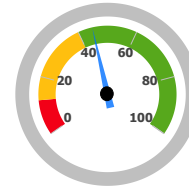
The 7-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2012 who graduated within seven years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2010 and graduated by 2015.

RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

44.9%

Exceeds 40.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 39.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%



8-Year Graduation Rate

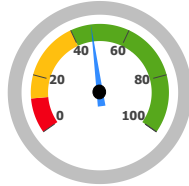
The 8-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2011 who graduated within eight years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2008 and graduated by 2015.

RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

47.0%

Exceeds 40.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 39.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%



Combined Graduation Rate

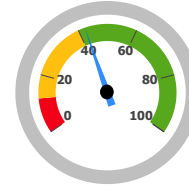
This is the weighted average of all graduation rates.

RATING

**Exceeds
Standards**

42.3%

Exceeds 40.0 - 100.0%
Meets 12.0 - 39.9%
Does Not Meet 0.0 - 11.9%

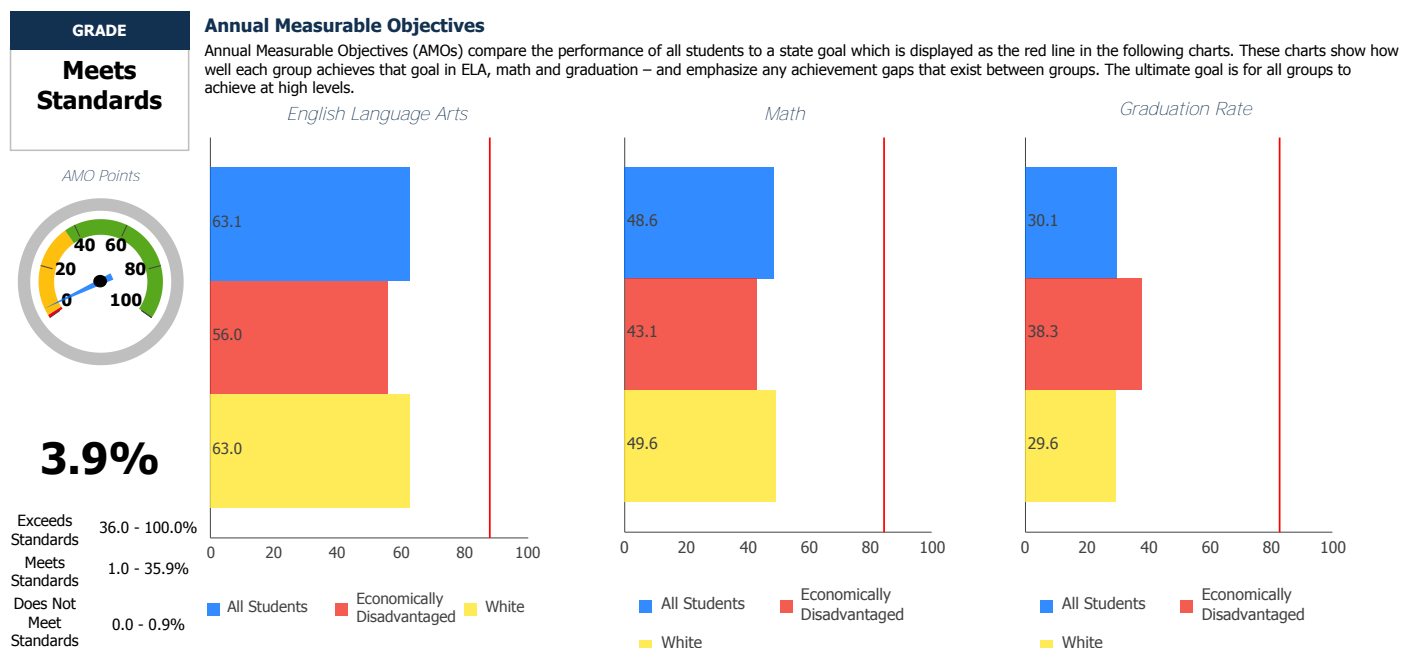


2015 - 2016 Report Card for Quaker Digital Academy

Gap Closing



The Gap Closing component shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for our most vulnerable populations of students in English language arts, math and graduation.



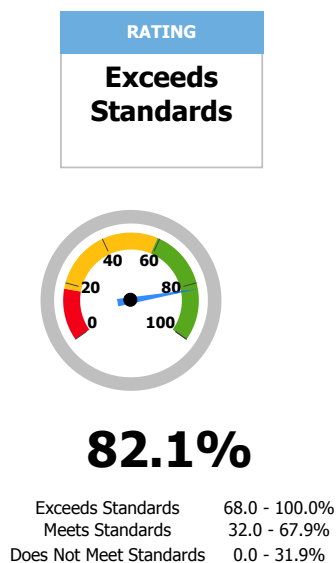
The red line on each graph identifies the Annual Measurable Objective. The 2016 AMO for ELA is 87.9%, for Math is 84.5%, and for Graduation Rate is 82.8%. Subgroups with fewer than 30 students are not rated and do not appear on the graphs.

High School Test Passage Rate

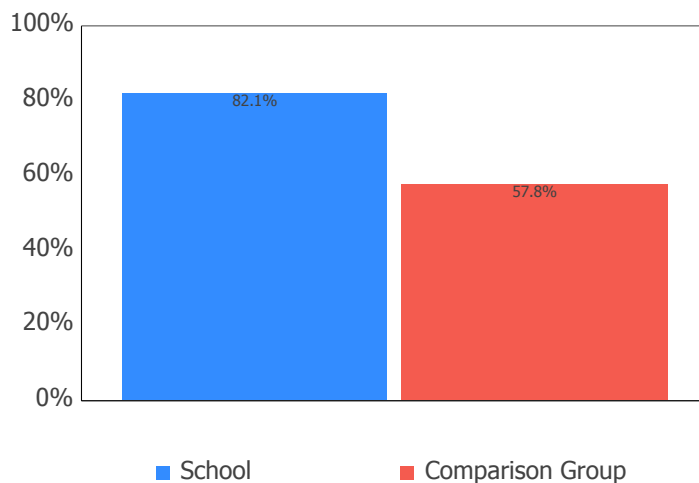


The High School Test Passage Rate component represents the number of students who passed all five state tests that are required for graduation.

Students Who Passed All Five Tests



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



did you know?

Graduates to Date - **606**

2016 Graduates – **157**



6 QDA Students Participated in College Credit Plus

6 Students Attend a Career Center

8 Students were inducted into National Honor Society in 2015-16

5 Students were inducted into Junior National Honor Society



2015-16 District Enrollment: **702**

- **43%** are in grades K-8
- **57%** are in grades 9-12



12 different curriculums are available.
Students may choose from:

- General Education
- College Preparatory
- Advanced Placement Courses
- QDA Offers Many World Languages

QDA Employs:

- 22 Instructional Supervisors/Teachers
- 7 Support Staff
- 2 Special Services
- 4 Administrators
- 1 Computer Technician
- 1 Director of Technology
- 15 Tutors/Substitutes/Testing Staff

Attending College While in QDA **6%**

QDA Students Enlisted in Military **2%**

ACT Information:

English	22.98
Math	25.5
Reading	24.5
Science	27.3
Composite	25



BERLIN, OH
PO Box 285
5122 State Route 39
Berlin, OH 44610
Ph: 330-893-0440

EAST LIVERPOOL, OH
108 East 5th Street
East Liverpool, OH 43920
Ph: 330-365-5660
Toll Free: 1-877-342-7167

STEBENVILLE, OH
2228 Sunset Blvd., Suite 2B
Stebenville, OH 43952
Ph: 330-365-5630
Toll Free: 1-877-427-2863

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH
New Towne Mall
400 Mill Ave. SE, Suite 901
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
Ph: 330-364-0618
Toll Free: 1-866-968-7032

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