Quaker Digital Academy

"The Freedom to Learn From Anywhere"

Sponsored by the
New Philadelphia City Schools
www.go2qda.org

QDA Achievements—Reaching Goals

Dear Citizens and Parents,

Quaker Digital Academy continues to grow and meet the needs of students and families in this 21st century. In today's global environment student and family needs are changing and flexibility for reaching and meeting their needs is essential.

We provide a wide range of educational opportunities for our students who wish to pursue their education in an alternative setting. Our educational programs are selected and designed to address the individual student. Students are engaged in their learning, and the effort they put forward benefits them not only academically, but as individuals. Students work hand in hand with highly qualified teachers who provide the guidance and direction that is needed for their success.

Our educational environment helps students become critical thinkers, improves their self discipline, and responsibility, along with preparing them for their future. This is evidenced by our state report card showing academic growth and receiving an "Effective Rating" for the 2007-08 school year. In addition, we have graduated 50 students over the past three years. Our students have taken various career paths, including continuing their education by attending college, vocational schools, joining the armed forces and entering the work field.

We look forward to serving our students and families, continued growth, expanded technology and expanded educational goals for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard J. Varrati, Superintendent

Quaker Digital Academy Board of Directors

Mrs. Agnes Swigart—President—former Kent State University-Tusc. Administrator

Mr. Hugh Berry—Former New Philadelphia Board of Education Member

Mrs. Annie Giles—Registered Nurse and Community Volunteer

Mr. Greg Goodie—Certified Public Accountant

Mr. Perry Hershberger—Extended Care Facility Administrator

Steve Eckert—Principal & Director of QDA

Quaker Digital Academy 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.

Quaker Digital Academy strives to provide an educational opportunity for all students to work independently. Students at Quaker Digital Academy 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 Quaker Digital Academy, they have the skills to be life-long, reflective learners who are able to be objective and rational when making decisions.

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

Curriculum

Curriculum and Courses offered by Quaker Digital Academy are selected for their content and subject matter, with the student in mind. We use only the latest technology and curriculum offered in the world today.

Quaker Digital Academy offers a diverse spectrum of curriculum designed to meet the individual needs of our students, whether they are low or high achieving. Curriculum is selected for the individual student to help them to achieve academic success.   The curriculum used by QDA meets Ohio academic standards and prepares QDA students for state proficiency testing, as well as, being aligned with state standards.

STUDENT DATA—Grade Level Breakdown

Kindergarten:	4	Grade 6:	8	ETHNIC DATA
Grade 1:	3	Grade 7:	16	Asian: 0
Grade 2:	8	Grade 8:	19	Black, Non Hispanic 1
Grade 3:	6	Grade 9:	37	Hispanic 1
Grade 4:	6	Grade 10:	33	Multiracial 9
Grade 5:	8	Grade 11:	48	White, Non-Hispanic 152
		Grade 12:	8	Disadvantaged/Poverty Level: 88%

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES TO DATE: 50
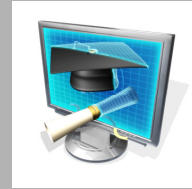
ENROLLMENT DATA

THE FREEDOM TO LEARN FROM ANYWHERE!

Quaker Digital Academy opened its doors in January, 2004.

Enrollment figures show steady growth in enrollment

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
September:	34	118	141	232
October:	36	124	158	244
November:	43	144	173	231
December:	41	148	183	235
January:	41	147	190	244
February:	39	138	192	240
March:	46	140	199	239
April:	43	138	192	220
May:	42	133	172	205

Staff Data

Administration:

- Dr. Richard Varrati, Superintendent
- Steve Eckert, Director/Principal
- Steven Sherer, Treasurer
- Deb Kennedy, Federal Programs
- Shannon Smith, Curriculum
- G. Randall Gibbs, Testing Coordinator
- Jill Westbrook, Guidance Counselor
- Maureen Wittler, Special Education Director
- Nancy Gibbs, Elementary Coordinator
- Melanie Beohm, Marcia Armstrong, School Psychologists
- Louise Harris, Title I
- Rhonda Leeper, Special Education
- Teachers & Tutors: Doug Smith, Kathy Sleutz, Terrie Golec, Scott Golec, Rex Degler, Jackie Proctor, Megan Beachy, Diana Neff, Bridget Frantz, Lee Elliott
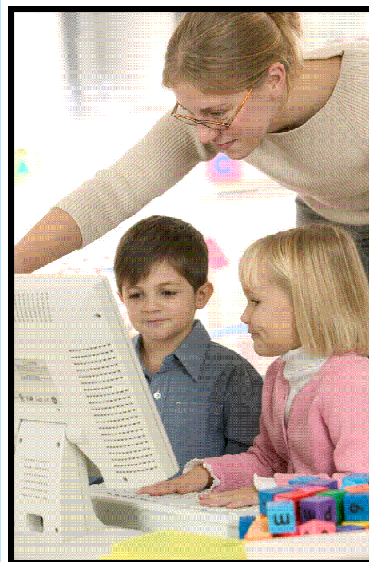
Our Mission is to make:

Education the top priority through teaching, technology and personal attention

Performance Index Scores on the Rise

2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
78.1	81.6	91.9

The Performance Index Score reflects the achievement of every student enrolled for the full academic year. The Performance Index Score can be compared across years to show achievement trends.

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Students with disabilities or special needs may enroll in QDA. However a Special Education team will meet with each individual student and parent to review all records to verify that we can indeed fairly and properly service the student. Each child will work with a regular education teacher as well as a special needs teacher in his/her age-appropriate grade level. Each child's needs will be met according to the Individualized Education Plan/IEP.

Service options may include regular classes without modifications after a consultation with a special needs teacher; regular class with modifications from a special needs teacher; individualized classes with part regular education classes; or individualized classes. Students with disabilities receive consultative services from the special education teacher on a weekly basis. These services can include a combination of the following: email correspondence, phone conferences, or weekly meetings. Students also have the opportunity to work in the QDA computer lab, when the special education teacher is on sight for extra assistance. If a child is having difficulty, the parent or teacher may ask for a meeting with the IEP team to discuss the needs of the child and develop a plan of intervention.

If a child is having difficulty and is not currently identified as a student with disabilities, the parent or teacher may ask for a meeting with the Intervention Assistance Team (IAT). The IAT will meet to discuss the needs of the child, identify the problem and develop a plan of intervention. Parents also have the right to request an evaluation to determine if their child qualifies for special education services and supports as defined by the Ohio Educational Agencies serving Children with Disabilities.

In May 2008, seventeen students enrolled in QDA were receiving special education services. Of those seventeen, eleven students were identified as having Specific Learning Disabilities, three were Other Health Impaired, two students were Emotionally Disturbed, and one student had Cognitive Disabilities. One student was evaluated, but was not eligible for special education services.

Sean and Superintendent Richard Varrati

QDA Senior

Sean Trough

Sean is completing his high school diploma with Quaker Digital Academy. Sean has already completed his basic and will go on to train as a medic in the U.S. Army.

QDA FINANCIAL INFORMATION

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	$	1,042,694

REVENUES

STATE FOUNDATION	$	1,290,647
INVESTMENTS	$	39,236
OTHER	$	905
TOTAL REVENUE	$	1,330,788

Quaker Digital Academy Revenue
2007-08
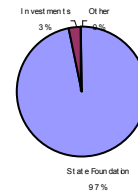
EXPENDITURES

PURCHASED SERVICES	$	1,074,544
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	$	9,252
CAPITAL OUTLAY	$	22,908
OTHER	$	4,298
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$	1,111,002
REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	$	219,786
ENDING CASH BALANCE	$	1,262,480

Quaker Digital Academy Expenditures
2007-2008
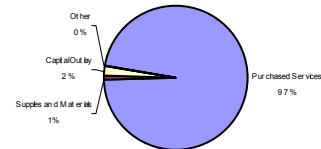
QDA TEST INFORMATION

Quaker Digital Academy utilizes various assessments to assess student achievement and ability. QDA participates in the required achievement tests for grades 3-8 and 10. State diagnostics are administered annually to students in grades K-3 and KRAL is given to kindergarten students. Complete testing information is included in the 2007-08 State Report Card available at www.ode.state.oh.us—Report Card.

Quaker Digital Academy

Rated an EFFECTIVE SCHOOL

for the 2007-08 school year.

ANNUAL REPORT

2007-08

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One Student's Story . . .

There are many heart-warming stories to tell about students who have, or are attending the Digital Academy. One student's story:

Reaching her dream . . .

One of QDA's recent graduates came to New Philadelphia from Mexico. Like many immigrant families, they came to our nation to start a new life with dreams of the future. She and her sisters enrolled in our middle school, music and band. At a skating party, she fell and required a doctor's attention. It was then discovered that she had severe kidney failure. This began a hard time for her and her family. Teachers and classmates gathered to lend a hand. Mom and dad both work and have only one car. Because she required kidney dialysis treatment in Akron three times a week, many community members and school staff donated gas money, provided transportation and assistance for the family.   However, attending school became too much for her physically.   She enrolled in Quaker Digital Academy to receive a home-based education, sponsored by our school district. We are proud to announce that this fine young lady has completed all of her requirements for graduation, and although she is now 21 years of age, a major goal in her life has been accomplished. As her English as a second Language Tutor, I am so very proud of her. Without Quaker Digital she most certainly would not have achieved this monumental accomplishment.

Virginia Maculaitis - ESL Program Tutor