



# ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO'S PREMIER E-SCHOOL

2017-2018 Parent Informational Booklet | 2016-2017 Annual Report

## DIGITAL LEARNING: The future of learning.



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



## QDA Chief Officers

Richard Varrati, Ed.D. – CEO

Julie Erwin – Treasurer

Steve Eckert – Principal

## QDA Board of Directors

Charles Gil Snyder - President

Hugh Berry - Vice President

Agnes Swigart

Greg Goodie

Perry Hershberger

## 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

## New Student Information System

The QDA Technology Department has implemented a new student information system for the 2017-18 school year to improve efficiency, accountability, and reliability. The project began in December 2016 with a search to bring multiple systems together. The QDA administration selected MaestroSIS by BocaVox after an extensive search to find a solution that could meet the needs of our students, guardians, and staff.

We continue to expand on the number of features available to students and staff, but we currently are using our new Student Information System for:

- Centralized enrollment processing
- Paperless enrollment and student records
- Course Enrollment
- Progress tracking across our three learning management system to ensure students are making adequate progress in all courses
- Student single sign-on access to coursework
- Parent/Guardian access to student progress
- Instant access to report cards and transcripts
- Communication – students, parents/guardians, and staff get an email for every action that occurs
- Attendance Tracking. Students can now log and see their attendance time



## New QDA Homepage

The QDA Technology Department analyzed the QDA homepage data and redeveloped the site with convenience in mind. Information, forms, and events can be quickly found from multiple menus so students and their families are not clicking around to find what they need. We will continue to share QDA student stories on this site and invite you to visit the Alumni Foundation page to view our recent graduates!

## Chromebook Pilot Launch

Students continue to connect to more and more devices, so the QDA Technology Department wanted to give them a device that would fit within their technology ecosystem. With a QDA G Suite for Education account, students can sign into their account on the QDA Chromebook, personal device or smartphone and have instant access to all of their files saved to the Google Drive.



## A Message from Superintendent Richard Varrati

SUPERINTENDENT AND CEO FOR QDA

# Why Quaker Digital Academy?

*New Experience, Dedication, and Commitment.*



Quaker Digital Academy offers students the opportunity and support to be successful in their academic pursuit for a solid education. QDA is designed to meet the individual needs of a student, which may not always be available in the shuffle of a traditional school classroom. Students are treated as individuals and their academics are selected based on their academic needs. It is designed for the gifted student, the regular student, and the student at risk. QDA provides support to help those enrolled find the path to success. QDA not only has certified Ohio teachers, but assigns all students an Instructional Supervisor (IS), who serves as their personal counselor and is their main point of contact for the enrolled individual and their family. The IS handles all school related issues for the student, and keeps in regular contact to ensure success in their academic subjects. This support and guidance is extremely important in today's educational climate of Ohio. QDA is fully aware that what helps one student learn may not work for the next. That is why QDA offers varied curriculums that can help provide a custom tailored and personalized learning path for student's individual needs.

With the growing demand from students and families looking for a safe school environment and a 21st century education, QDA has the experience to meet the challenges of providing an academic setting to prepare students for the changing world and meet the needs of the individual student to find their own pathway to success.

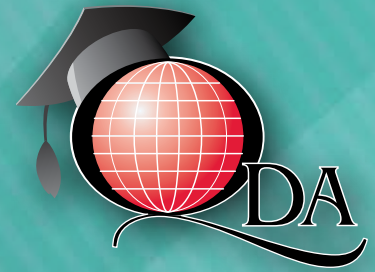
**Contact us today to learn more!**

**Toll Free: 1-866-968-7032 or [information@go2qda.org](mailto:information@go2qda.org)**

*Dr. Richard Varrati, CEO and Superintendent at QDA, has worked for 36 years in the field of education.*



408 book bags were distributed to students of Columbiana County during EDUPALOOZA a QDA sponsored event.



# GRADUATION 2017!

Quaker Digital Academy held its first QDA graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 8, 2017, in Founder's Hall Auditorium at Kent State University Tuscarawas Campus. High school seniors and adult 22+ students attended the graduation ceremony and received their school diploma. Special music for the ceremony was provided by Annabelle Cessna and Shawna Hinkle. A reception was held following the ceremony.

Since its inception in 2004, QDA students have been included in the graduation ceremony held by our sponsor school, New Philadelphia City School District. The Class of 2017 was the first year QDA chose to hold its own school ceremony . . . and this is a tradition that will continue.







## QDA Initiates Scholarship Foundation

**The QDA Educational Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3).**

In an effort to assist QDA graduates to further their education, the QDA Education Foundation was formed in 2015. Graduates may apply for scholarships beginning with the Class of 2018. Donations and fund raising campaigns have been initiated and will continue to support this worthy endeavor. The first initiative conceived and coordinated by CEO Dr. Richard Varrati, has been a joint project with the City of New Philadelphia. Assisted by Tom Farbizo, Director of Recruitment and Fundraising for QDA, the Foundation sponsored an advertising campaign to replace windows at New Philadelphia's airport, Harry Clever Field. The Foundation sold ad space to be placed on the windows located on the East High Avenue Building. New windows were installed and updated lighting completed the project. The Foundation banked 60% for the scholarship program, while the city received new windows or 40% of the donation. A similar program will begin next year with City Sanitation Vehicles.

Students at Buckeye Career Center assisted with the lighting and wiring installation, as well as sponsoring one window. Other sponsors included: City of New Philadelphia, East Central Ohio Educational Service Center, Ferris Chevrolet Buick Cadillac, Kennedy Insurance, Kimble Company, MedFlight, New Philadelphia City Schools, Quaker Digital Academy, Sergeant Insurance and Vasco Sports Contractors.

The Community and City are working together with the QDA Foundation to encourage our students to continue their education and to reach their personal goals. If you have any questions or would like to donate to the Foundation, please contact Mr. Farbizo or Dr. Richard Varrati at the QDA New Philadelphia Office (330 364-0618).

# Saluting Outstanding QDA Students



## Audrey Edgell

Audrey is efficient, detail-oriented, and extremely competent. She often successfully finishes a task well before the deadline. She is extremely organized, and never misses an assignment, all while working a part-time job.

She also has excellent rapport with people of all ages. Audrey has participated in many speaking endeavors at East Liverpool High School for the cosmetology program. Her excellent communication skills allow her to connect with various people and inspire them to put forth their best efforts. She is currently starting an internship in cosmetology since she has already met all of her high school qualifications. As her teacher, I predict that big things will come her way!



- Casey Havens, Instructional Supervisor

## Tabytha Kerns

Tabytha is a courteous, cooperative, and energetic QDA student. She will be a junior this school year. Tabytha was a member of the National Junior Honor Society and was recently inducted into the National Honor Society. She maintains a 3.5 GPA and has been accepted into the College Credit Plus Program. She has completed her first class at Franciscan University with a 4.0 and is determined to enter into Pre-Med. Tabytha eagerly volunteers at her local library and at the QDA Steubenville Office in the educational lab. She has a strong sense of responsibility and always strives to do her best. QDA is very proud of this highly motivated and hard-working student.

- Robin Ludwig, Instructional Supervisor



## Leah Ortt

Leah Ortt is a 2017 graduate of Quaker Digital Academy. Leah is a superior, goal driven student who, most importantly, is an outstanding young lady and perfect role model.

Leah, a member of the National Honor Society, began her QDA career in the 2013-14 school year as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Leah had a 4.0 grade average as a QDA student and a 4.0 grade average as a student at Kent State University. Her determination and drive enabled her to graduate from high school in 3 years.



-Bob Zontini, Instructional Supervisor



# The Wright Brothers from Strasburg



Local brothers, Patrick and Paul Wright, have a shared interest with another set of Ohio brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright.

Brothers and QDA students Patrick and Paul Wright, are able to take their passion of aviation one step further as they volunteer to be a part of the restoration of a 1942 C-53 Douglas aircraft. The plane is owned by a commercial pilot who hopes to use it as a flying classroom to share WWII history with younger generations. The plane, dubbed the "Beach City Baby" was once

used by the Governor of Ohio and now calls the Beach City Airport home. Because the students attend Quaker Digital Academy, they are able to schedule their school work time and still take part in this historic project. QDA encourages students to follow their dreams and take advantage of exceptional educational experiences such as this venture.

The airplane project is beginning the second year of restoration. The brothers recently assisted in removing the engine's

fuel pump (pictured), as well as playing a key role in balancing the propeller restoration. Patrick's weight was the perfect number needed to offset the balance as they helped the experts install new bolts. The boys also spend off school time volunteering to cut wood for those in need, as well as repairing small engines with their father. Paul and Patrick are the sons of Sheila and Jerome Wright.



By attending the Quaker Digital Academy, these local Wright Brothers, are able to have the freedom to pursue their passion and obtain a great education at the same time.

To learn more about this project and the "Beach City Baby" you may visit [www.vintagewingsinc.com](http://www.vintagewingsinc.com).





# Title One Highlights

## REVIEW FROM THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR



Pictured left to right: NHS: Leah Ortt, Audrey Edgell, Tabytha Kerns, Joseph Mitch, NJHS- Alexandria Baker, NHS- Logan Todd, and NJHS- Logan Ortt

## QDA National Honor Society in 7th Year

The QDA National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society held their 7th annual NHS and NJHS Induction Ceremony on May 4, 2017 at Dover First Moravian Social Hall in Dover, Ohio.

In attendance were Executive Director, Dr. Richard Varrati; Principal, Steve, Eckert; QDA Board Members, Instructional Supervisors, teachers, parents and students. Logan Todd (NHS 2017) delivered the invocation. Leah Ortt (NHS 2016), Tabytha Kerns (NHS 2017), Logan Ortt (NJHS 2016), Darla Kish (NHS Adviser) and Sandy Aksterowicz (NJHS Adviser) participated in the Lighting of Candles. Students were awarded membership certificates and pins. Ice cream and cake was served to celebrate this honorable occasion.

Congratulations to the newest members: Audrey Edgell, Joseph Mitch, and Logan Todd; and to NJHS inductee: Alexandria Baker.

The National Honor Society (NHS) is a nationwide organization for high school students in the United States and is based on four criteria: Scholarship (academic achievement), leadership, service, and character.

National Honor Society groups are not only excellent scholars, but active in community service activities both in their community and at school.

QDA had the opportunity to participate in a county-wide Reading Festival sponsored by the Educational Service Center held in New Towne Mall. Instructional Supervisor and Title One Coordinator, Darla Kish, along with Instructional Supervisors Linda Ball and Nikki Gautier, planned literacy activities. The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society members assisted as student workers at the very popular event.

QDA students and families attended Class Acts 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: *Raptor Encounter*, *Pinocchio*, *Jigsaw Jones and the Case of the Class Clown*, *The Jackie Robinson Story*, and *Rainbow Fish*.

QDA students participated in educational field trips scheduled throughout the state of Ohio during the last school year. Parents as well as students are encouraged to attend. Last Fall we visited Heini's Cheese Chalet in Millersburg. QDA students toured the factory and learned about the art of making cheese, and sampled many different flavors of cheese. In September, QDA students visited Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio, where we learned about the many plant habitats located throughout our state. We also traveled to West Liberty to tour the Ohio Caverns. Students followed a winding path overlooking the picturesque Mingo Valley and entered the cavern through a sinkhole entrance opened in 2012. The tour covered areas discovered after excavation of the passages in the 1920s. QDA students received an American history lesson as they attended Civil War Days held at Zoar Village where they experienced the sights and sounds of the battlefield, camp, and home front. Re-enactors, first person characters, and costumed interpreters explained what life was like during the Civil War. Two ancient historic sites were visited last fall: Newark Earthworks and Flint Ridge. The Newark Earthworks are the largest set of geometric earthen enclosures in the world. Already a National Historic Landmark, in 2006, the state of Ohio designated the Newark Earthworks as "the official prehistoric monument of the state." Flint Ridge revolutionized the way the Hopewell people lived. The Hopewell learned to quarry, shape, and trade flint. Flint Ridge was a busy place for thousands of years and played an important role in the lives of the Mound Builders.

Last October, students and families enjoyed a tour of the Ashtabula Maritime Museum and Hubbard House. The maritime museum contains models, paintings, maritime artifacts, photos of early Ashtabula Harbor, ore boats and tugs, along with miniature hand-made brass tools and the world's only working scale model Hulett Ore Unloading Machine. At the Hubbard House, students learned about the Underground Railroad and toured an original Underground Railroad home. The Hubbard House served as a northern terminus, or end point, of the UGRR. Hubbard House, once code named *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard* and *The Great Emporium*, is listed on the US Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places.

QDA scheduled a visit to Ramseyer Farms near Wooster. Students and parents enjoyed a hayride to the pumpkin patch and picked their own pumpkin to take home. The last two field trips of the year were the Ohio River Museum in Marietta and the Toledo Zoo.

Quaker Digital Academy is proud to offer educational and fine arts experiences, which also provide socialization opportunities for our students and their families.



# Field Trips for 2017-18



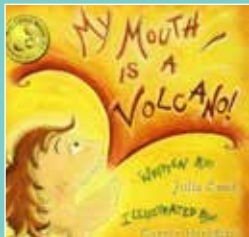
## Historic Roscoe Village

Coshocton, OH | Thurs., Sept. 14, 2017 | 10-4 pm

Tour will include the following activities:

- Canal Town Journey Tour
- Monticello III Canal Boat Ride
- 2 hands on crafts
- Tour of Johnson Humrickhouse Museum

## My Mouth is a Volcano



Kent State Performing Arts Center  
Tues., Oct. 10, 2017 | 12:30 pm

Based on the award-winning book by Julia Cook, "My Mouth is a Volcano" teaches children the value of respecting others by listening and waiting for their turn to speak.



## Maize Valley

Hartville, OH  
Thurs., Oct. 12, 2017  
11-2 pm  
11:30 am scheduled wagon



## National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Wright-Patterson AFB  
Dayton, Ohio  
Oct. 17, 2017 | 11-2 pm  
Experience more than 100 years of aviation history.

## Peter and the Wolf

Kent State Performing Arts Center | Thurs., Nov. 2, 2017



Subtitled a "Symphonic Fairy Tale" by the composer Sergei Prokofiev, "Peter and the Wolf" was written in 1936. Performed with a narrator, the musical work serves as an introduction to the instruments of the orchestra as well as the basis of a delightful ballet.

## Solve It Cyrus and the Aftermath of Math Class

Kent State Performing Arts Center  
Thurs., Jan. 25, 2018 | 12:30 pm



Cyrus can solve anything - whether it be puzzles, mysteries or riddles! If there's a problem to be solved, Cy's your guy! But in this original musical, produced by Stars Within Reach, Cyrus meets his match: Math Class.



## How to Survive Middle School

Kent State  
Performing Arts Center  
Thurs., Feb. 1, 2018

An absorbing, authentic, and fun program to help students ride a roller-coaster time in their young lives - brought to you by an acclaimed performer and comic genius who started out absolutely hating school. Robert Post.



## Freedom Riders

Kent State Performing Arts Center | Wed., Feb. 28, 2018 | 12:30 pm  
"Freedom Riders" is a play with music by Mad River Theater Works which explores the valiant and courageous personalities behind one of the most critical chapters in the history of the civil rights movement.

## Hale Farm and Village

Bath, OH | March 21, 2018

QDA students and families will have the opportunity to participate in two events at Hale Farm and Village: Maple Sugar Festival and Kids in the Community Long Ago.



PITTSBURGH ZOO

Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Thurs., May, 17 2018



# did you know?

## ACT RESULTS

English	<b>18.7</b>
Math	<b>16.7</b>
Reading	<b>23.6</b>
Science	<b>19.3</b>
Composite	<b>19.9</b>



## 12 Different Curriculum Available

Students may choose from:

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



## 2017 Average Enrollment

GRADE	# STUDENTS
K	19
1	24
2	25
3	38
4	34
5	42
6	44
7	57
8	47
9	57
10	102
11	124
12	31



**699** Graduates to Date

**96** 2017 Graduates

## QDA Employs:

- 4 Administrators
- 1 Director of Technology
- 1 Computer Technician
- 48 Teachers (Part Time & Full Time)
- 19 Support Staff
- 2 Special Services
- 13 Tutors, Substitutes & Testing Staff



**5** QDA Students Participated in College Credit Plus

**10** Students Attended a Career Center in 2016-17



**3** Students were inducted into National Honor Society in 2016-17

**1** Students were inducted into Junior National Honor Society



### 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

### STUEBENVILLE, OH

2228 Sunset Blvd., Suite 2B  
Steubenville, 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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