

ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO'S PREMIERE E-SCHOOL
2021-2022 Parent Informational Booklet | 2020-21 Annual Report



www.quakeracademies.org



**Quaker Academies
Chief Officers**

- Richard Varrati, Ed.D. - CEO - QDA
- Debra Kennedy, CEO - QPA
- Julie Erwin - Treasurer
- Steve Eckert - Principal - QDA

**Quaker Academies
Board of Directors**

- Mrs. Sallie Stroup - President
- Mrs. Karen Sterling - Vice President
- Mrs. Linda Ball
- Mr. Hugh Berry
- Mr. Don Kemp
- Mr. Charles "Gil" Snyder

Sponsorship

Quaker Academies are public digital schools sponsored by the New Philadelphia City School District.

Academic Goals

The State of Ohio Model Courses of Study are the basis for QDA and QPA 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 and QPA are non-profit, public online schools operating in the State of Ohio for students in grades K-12. The Quaker Academies have offices located in New Philadelphia, East Liverpool and Steubenville. Contact us today to learn how cyber education can meet your child's educational needs. QDA and QPA are state funded. There is no cost to the student. A computer is provided and internet reimbursement up to \$40 per month.

**How the Internet
is Changing How We Learn**



Digital learning provides students the opportunity to enhance their educational experience, which is often limited in a traditional classroom. This fosters the student's ability to become creative thinkers and problem solvers. Digital learning provides students the time to learn at their own pace, which enables them to comprehend content matter effectively. Students are not limited to one specific learning style, but can use interactive software internet information that meets their individual needs. There is more interaction

among teachers and learners than traditional in-person presentations; daily work tells you exactly what has been mastered and what areas still need work. Learners and teachers can come from all over the world, and they are able to form virtual communities with many friendships.

Digital learning encourages the student to use their creativity, while meeting the academic standards they are required to master, which increases their comprehension levels. In closing, digital learning allows students to learn from anywhere and at their own pace without interruptions. Digital learning is a valuable tool as no student is "left behind" in their learning.

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

Ohio Department of Education Statistics and Data

QDA Student Enrollment

	Enrollment #	Pct
All Students	501	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	NC	NC
Asian or Pacific Islander	NC	NC
Black, Non-Hispanic	13	
Hispanic	NC	NC
Multiracial	26	
White, Non-Hispanic	456	
Students with Disabilities	81	
Economic Disadvantage	349	
English Learner	NC	NC
Migrant	NC	NC

If Enrollment is less than 10, results are Not Calculated(NC).

QPA Student Enrollment

	Enrollment #	Pct
All Students	167	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	NC	NC
Asian or Pacific Islander	NC	NC
Black, Non-Hispanic	NC	NC
Hispanic	NC	NC
Multiracial	NC	NC
White, Non-Hispanic	158	
Students with Disabilities	NC	NC
Economic Disadvantage	112	
English Learner	NC	NC
Migrant	NC	NC

If Enrollment is less than 10, results are Not Calculated(NC).

A Message from Superintendent Debra Kennedy
SUPERINTENDENT FOR QPA

Quaker Academies Offer Families A Safe Environment



With the growing demand for a safe school environment, families are turning to digital learning. At Quaker Academies we provide access to systems of support in the form of family and community activities. Each month we highlight a different family fun get together to foster friendships and positive mental health. Some of these extra learning opportunities include skating, baseball games, zoo trips, museums, farms, swimming, and seasonal activities.

The staff at Quaker Academies understand that relationships are instrumental in student success. Getting to know our students and their families has proven to boost our attendance rates to 96% this past year. Through Field Trips, Zoom Calls, Competitive Contests, Tutoring, Orientations, and Daily Encouragements; we are giving our students "support for learning and mental well-being". Our Parent Liaison is available to talk with parents and connect them with support groups to enhance their experience.

The Pandemic has caused many students to have heightened anxiety about going to a school building. Add on the academic stress from assignments, tests, and even the classroom; students are facing extreme emotional health issues. Online learning allows students to go at their own pace and to study at times that work for them. Online classes foster the development of important life skills like organization, independence and self-advocacy that can help students overcome anxiety.

"People won't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

- Teddy Roosevelt



**QPA offers students a
NEW K-8 ONLINE EXPERIENCE**

To learn more about the possibilities of online learning, visit our website at qpa.education or call 1-866-968-7032.

**QDA (K-12)
and QPA (K-8)**

provides

**State-Accredited
Digital Curriculum**

and instructors
in the safety of
your home.

QPA Values

Our core values include
**Passion,
Accountability,
& Courage.**

We strive to impact
not only your family,
but the entire community
through our

CARE INITIATIVE.

- C** is for communication through listening and trying to understand your needs.
- A** is for affirmation through catching all the good things that happen each day.
- R** is for resources to help train and support families to be successful.
- E** is being an example of what it means to give of our time and energy to help others.

This helps our mission to support and encourage personal and academic development.

Special Services Report



Elaine Karp

Director of Special Services

Quaker Academies follows federal and Ohio guidelines regarding a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to students eligible for special education. The special education department serves as a basis for policies and procedures for the special education department. Currently we serve about 100 students in our Quaker Academies.

At Quaker Academies, we provide a remote learning environment. Special educational services from licensed intervention specialists provide individual attention to student needs. Support services in speech and occupational therapy are provided through online meeting rooms, phone meetings, and electronic communications.

Quaker Digital Academies provides online services, including the provision of supplementary aids and services determined appropriate and necessary by the child's IEP team. The intervention specialists provide nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities for children with disabilities as an equal opportunity for participation in those services and activities as provided to students without disabilities. Our intervention specialists provide individual tutoring in all subjects to assist students. Quaker Academies modifies the curriculum meeting students' individual needs in the curriculum and provides outstanding services for all students and families.



Congratulations to QDA National Honor Society Members and Junior Honor Society



Students, parents, and staff gathered at the New Philadelphia QDA Office to recognize the accomplishment of the following students:



NHS/NJHS MEMBERS

NHS 20/21

Torin Ricker
Faith Martin
Nicolette Ellis-Corle
Ava Harrold
Joseph Blair
Chloe Nolan
Ethan McGarr
Anna McGilloway

NJHS 20/21

Ava Moneypenny
Shiloh Johnson
Olivia Piccione

NHS 19/20

Brett Patterson
Emma Wirtz

NJHS 19/20

Dani Hobart
Lily Johnson QDA/QPA
Galina Spracklen

CURRENT MEMBERS

NHS

Morgan Delposen

NJHS

Noah McGarr
Sayje Hill
Evan Ernst

2021 Quaker Digital Academy Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Quaker Digital Academy Foundation awarded scholarships at the 2021 Graduation Ceremony to Lane Michael Corder, Morgan Marie Delposen, Kyra Shea McGinnis-Heath, and Jana Rae Stone.

Lane was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and plans to attend Eastern Gateway Community College and major in Forestry Conservation.

Morgan was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. She was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the College Credit Plus Program. She plans to attend Mount Vernon Nazarene University and major in Elementary Education/ Intervention (P-5).

Kyra was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and plans to attend Kent State University at



Stark and possibly major in Biology/ Veterinarian Science.

Jana was awarded a \$500 scholarship and plans to attend Kent State University at Kent and major in Business/Entrepreneurship.

Since its inception in 2018, the Quaker Digital Academy Foundation has awarded \$9,000 in scholarship monies to deserving seniors planning to further their educational and/or vocational careers.

The QDA Educational Foundation



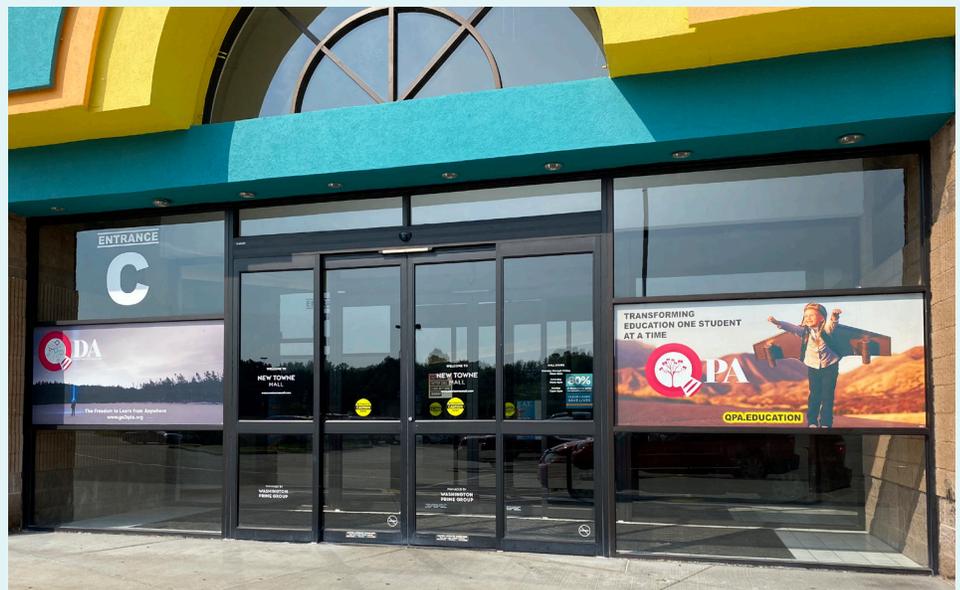
Tom Farbizo

The Quaker Digital Academy Foundation (a non profit 501(C)3) was formed in 2015 to encourage and assist QDA students to further their educational future. Fund raising opportunities take place throughout the year to support this effort. Mr. Tom Farbizo, Foundation Fundraising Chairman, coordinates the following advertising sponsorships:

- City of New Philadelphia Sanitation Truck Advertisers
- Electronic Advertising Sign (located at Broadway and Front)
- Window Ad Campaign - Harry Clever Field
- New - Window Ad Campaign located at the QDA Entrance of New Towne Mall

The Foundation would like to salute our current advertisers:

- Harry Clever Field Windows:
- Buckeye Career Center
 - East Central Ohio - Educational Service Center
 - Kennedy Insurance
 - Quaker Digital Academy
 - City of New Philadelphia



- Ferris Chevrolet Buick Cadillac
- Kimble Companies
- New Philadelphia City Schools
- VASCO Sports Contractors

Sanitation Truck Advertisers:

- Simpson Heating and Cooling
- R & B Motors
- Martin Mobile Glass
- Lightning Signs & Decals, LLC
- G & S Home Solutions
- Shawna Musick Heid-Howard Hanna

Openings are available for advertising at New Towne Mall located at Entrance A, B,

and C. A sample of the new ad is shown located at Entrance C near the Quaker Academy Offices.

The Foundation was pleased to award three \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships this spring to deserving QDA graduates to assist them as they further their education through college or a technical school. Ten scholarships have been awarded to date, totaling \$9,000. Your support enables QDA students succeed on their path to a brighter future. To advertise or donate to the QDA Foundation, please contact Tom Farbizo at tfarbizo@go2qda.org or call the New Philadelphia Office at 330-364-0618.

Quaker Academies and Communication



Steve Eckert
Principal

The first importance of effective communication is that it helps to build and maintain relationships. When people are communicating well, and information is flowing seamlessly, people are drawn to each other, and productivity levels also tend to be higher. Effective communication means positive encounters with students, parents, guardians, and staff.

While much of our work is focused on educating our students, here at Quaker Academies, we realize the importance of maintaining and constantly improving communication with parents. Research in recent years proves the benefits of involving families more deeply in the educational process.

In the past year alone, literally thousands and thousands of different types of communication are documented here at Quaker Academies. We use many types of communication tools since our families have their own preferences. Those communications include items sent through the mail, our chat feature on our website, our Facebook page, texts, emails, video conferencing, email notification blasts through our Student Information System, phone calls, messaging within the students' curriculum program, in-person conferences, and tutoring sessions.

Essentially, communication strategies create a much stronger bond between parents, students, and Quaker Academies' staff to form a strong community that works together to produce the best in education.

Student Highlights...



Sayje Hill shares her journey...

I am 14 and have just finished my freshman year of high school at QDA. I've been attending since I was in kindergarten, and plan to continue. I've met many great people who have always been kind, supportive, and helpful, which is in part why I've kept up my straight A grades and 4.0 GPA. This is my third and final year in the NJHS and I am looking next year to make NHS as well, and I enjoy doing community service and have also worked to tutor other younger QDA students through it. I've also played softball for almost 9 years, and I was involved in my old church in multiple different ways, and plan to be in my new one as well. This school year was especially great, as my teacher has been very helpful, like in learning to navigate high school and the road to college. I am not entirely sure what I want to go to college for yet, but I do know that I want to take Cosmetology my junior and senior year at BCC as something to do while in college, which was actually a suggestion by my teacher/supervisor. The school and all its amazing people have helped me so much throughout the years and have been so supportive, and I plan on staying with them all the way through high school.



Meet Evan Ernst...

Evan is beginning his Freshman year with QDA. He has been inducted into the Junior National Honor Society, where last year they were able to join in monthly Zoom meetings. Evan has enjoyed everything with his QDA experience and completed his last semester with straight As. He was part of a weekly Math Group, lead by Mr. Morales, that enriched his math skills. In his spare time, Evan enjoys playing both indoor and outdoor travel soccer.



Morgan sets the pace...

Morgan Delposen had an amazing year at QDA. She graduated a few months early and confirmed her plans to attend Mount Vernon Nazarene University in the fall of 2021. Her goal is to major in early childhood and minor in special education. When asked about her time at QDA, she said, "QDA was honestly the best decision I could have made to finish out my senior year. It offered me amazing flexibility to complete my courses, not only at my own pace, but in a way that worked best individually for me. The opportunities provided there have set me up for success, and it's an honor to be a QDA graduate!"

RJ enjoying QPA...

Mrs. Metzger shares time with one of her 3rd grade students: RJ is an enthusiastic and determined 3rd grade student. He has worked hard all year to do well with his coursework. He also has managed to supplement his coursework with extra curricular activities, such as golf, riding his bike, and planting a raised bed garden. During our Zoom meetings he would share many facts he has learned. I look forward to working with him next year and see how the garden worked out and if he hit a hole in one!

- Mrs. Metzger, IS



Striving to meet his goal...

Congratulations to Skylier Roberts who recently graduated from QDA with a 4.0 GPA. He was awarded a scholarship from the New Castle School of Trades in East Liverpool and just received his welding certification today! He is already on the job.

- Casey Havens, IS

2021 QDA Graduation Ceremony Honors the Classes of 2020 and 2021



Jill Westbrook
QDA Counselor

The Quaker Digital Academy Graduation Ceremony for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 was held on June 5, 2021, at New Towne Mall at 2 p.m. The graduating students from the Class of 2020 were invited to participate in the ceremony because their graduation ceremony was cancelled due to COVID. Quaker Digital Academy issued 104 diplomas to students graduating in the Class of 2021 and 159 diplomas to students graduating in the Class of 2020.

The facility was filled to near-capacity with friends and relatives attending to honor the graduates. Sallie Stroup and Karen Sterling, QDA Board of Education members; Dr. Richard Varrati, CEO; Steve Eckert, Principal; Tom Farbizo, member of the Quaker Digital Academy Foundation; Jill Westbrook, Counselor; and several Instructional Supervisors were present to recognize and congratulate the graduates on their academic achievement.

Tom Farbizo and Jill Westbrook presented the 2021 Quaker Digital Academy Foundation Scholarships to five students in the Class of 2021. Three students were awarded \$1,000 scholarship each and two students were awarded \$500 scholarships each.

In addition, members of the National Honor Society received gold tassels and several students received Honors Cords in recognition of their academic excellence.

Since QDA's inception, 1176 diplomas have been issued—which also includes 92 adults who have completed requirements and earned their high school diploma through the Adult 22+ High School Diploma Program.



Meet the Curriculum Staff



Denise Grimm

Denise graduated from New Philadelphia High School and the University of Akron. She earned her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University. Her career began in Houston, Texas, where she spent nine years. For the past 21 years, she has been teaching in the Dover City Schools. During her 30 year career, she taught in grades 2 - 6 and this past year for Dover's online academy. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling, antique auctions, and entertaining her two cats, Josie and Penelope.



Megan Brannon

Megan Brannon is the new Curriculum Director for Quaker Digital Academy. She has over a decade of experience in K-12 education from a variety of settings, including both regular and intervention classrooms. She earned her Masters of Education in Instructional Technology from Kent State University in 2013 and is currently a PhD candidate in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Educational Technology at Kent State. While at Kent, Megan earned a certificate in Online and Blended Teaching and Learning as well. Her PhD dissertation will investigate the impact of design thinking instruction on the four components of creativity in preservice teachers. Megan's most recent academic writing was a book chapter on the relevance of coding in mathematics instruction. Outside of academia, Megan and her husband Tyrone are getting ready to adopt their two foster children (ages 2 and 3). They also own a small farm outside of Stone Creek called Olde Tyme Farms and are very involved in local agriculture. Megan's hobbies include reading, exercising, cooking, and gardening. She also loves traveling with her family.

2021-22 Field Trips

SPONSORED BY QDA

Dates are Tentative



August 20, 2021:
Back to School Bash (Canton, OH)
 North Canton Skate & Entertainment Center:
 5475 Whipple Ave NW
 North Canton, OH 44720



September 17 2021:
Akron Rubber Ducks Baseball Game (Akron, OH)
 Canal Park:
 300 South Main Street
 Akron, OH 44308



October 12, 2021:
Ramseyer Farm (Wooster, OH)
 4000 Ramseyer LN
 Wooster, OH 4469
 No Field Trip in Nov & Dec 2021



January 14, 2022:
McKinley Museum (Canton, OH)
 800 McKinley Monument Drive NW
 Canton, OH 44708



February 18, 2022:
YMCA Swimming (Dover, OH)
 600 Monroe St, Dover, OH 44622



March 25, 2022:
COSI (Columbus, OH)
 333 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215



April 29, 2022:
Greater Cleveland Aquarium (Cleveland, OH)
 2000 Sycamore St, Cleveland, OH 44113



May 2022:
The Farm at Walnut Creek (Walnut Creek, OH)
 4147 CO RD 114, Sugarcreek, OH 44681

Family and Friends Day at Tuscora Park

Quaker Academies ended the school year in June at Tuscora Park in New Philadelphia with students bringing friends and family members together for a day of fun. Staff and students enjoyed a picnic lunch including some ice cream for dessert. Raffle drawings were held every 30 minutes for special baskets and prizes. Students were able to ride park attractions, swim, and play miniature golf all afternoon as part of the festivities. In order to find friends, all students were provided a special Quaker Academy t-shirt to quickly identify fellow students. Debra Kennedy, Superintendent of Quaker Prep Academy commented, "Although there was a little spritz of raindrops on our day; families and staff were able to mingle and reminisce about the school year before beginning summer break."



Educational Field Activities

QDA and QPA offers educational field activities throughout the school year. COVID lockdowns have made opportunities more challenging, but efforts were made to enhance and enrich our student's education in a safe environment.



Mad Science Presentation

Over 40 students and family members participated in a fun STEM experience of science, technology, engineering, and math. The program featured creative thinking and problem-solving skills while watching different wacky experiments in a safe environment. Due to COVID, many of the hands-on experiments were handled individually to ensure the safety of the participants.



Akron Zoo

The children and their parents enjoyed their educational trip to the Akron City Zoo. The Zoo is home to 1,000 animals and features Tiger Valley, Legends of the Wild, Grizzly Ridge and much more. The staff was so welcoming and informative.



Summer School Camps

Summer Camps were a great opportunity for students to share, have fun, and learn some pretty exciting new skills. Students participated in Mrs. Miller's Neighborhood, Rock Painting, Tye Dying, Water Fun, and made Friendship Bracelets. The New Philadelphia Office and Steubenville Offices coordinated a terrific two-week event. Check out these fun activities. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of many new summer camps for next year!



tech updates



Mike Ciereszewski

The 2021-22 school year was a unique and challenging school year for the Quaker Digital Academy Technology Department. Like many school districts across the country, our school operation was constantly changing due to COVID-19. Luckily, the systems and resources in place allowed our department to quickly adapt to situation as needed.



Scott Kimble

The IT department started the school year with half of the staff in office and half remote. By the end of the first nine weeks, COVID-19

had all of our staff working from home. Powered by a virtual network infrastructure and phone system, the Quaker Academy staff was able to work from anywhere similar to our students!

Throughout the pandemic, our department has continually reviewed, upgraded, and replaced systems to ensure students can get the support they need. New for the 2021-22 school year is a live chat feature available on our websites. This tool will allow families to quickly and easily contact the office staff by simply clicking the "Let's Chat" button at the bottom right of our website. Additionally, our phone system received its first major upgrade since 2015 that connects all of our staff members on one platform. Regardless of who you need to contact, simply give us a call at 1-866-968-7032 to be connected to a staff member.

We look forward to another year of supporting students, their families, and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact us for all of your technical support needs!

QDA Across America

Toni Casini

Instruction Supervisor, QDA

Mr. Casini will be sharing this once-in-a-lifetime experience with students throughout the school year:

Two years ago, a group of sixth graders located in Mill Creek, Oklahoma, was wondering if anything exciting had ever happened in their small town. Their teacher at the time, Mr. Jones, challenged them to research and discover a historic event that occurred in Mill Creek.



What they discovered reached back to almost eighty years to the onset of WWII and brought total strangers together in remembrance of a fatal midair collision. Eleven men, including my uncle and namesake, Anthony Thomas Casini, perished in a B-17 accident at Ardmore Army Base on February 12, 1944.

These eleven students, under the guidance of their 8th grade teacher, Julie Kirkpatrick, were determined to honor these veterans by estab-

lishing a monument. They were able to raise approximately \$8,000 through donations and fundraisers during a two-year span.

My journey began on June 2nd with excitement and anticipation traveling by car for 18 hours to Mill Creek. While traveling through multiple states, I was able to share interesting facts with my students as a way of encouraging their extended learning opportunities. Thus, the idea of QDA Across America was launched. The objective of each video was to report historical facts and trivia regarding each state I traveled through, which included: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

On June 5th, we arrived in Mill Creek and were extremely honored to be there. The ceremony was both somber and heartwarming. The determination and pride demonstrated by the students and their teacher was inspirational.

There were approximately 200 people in attendance, including five other members of my family. As part of the memorial, there was a National Guard Quintet, and honorary speeches provided by Col. Robert Walker, and other dignitaries representing the armed forces.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Richard Varrati for providing me with the opportunity to share this monument dedication with my students and allowing me to demonstrate that learning can be fun and truly does happen "anywhere"

Quaker Academies Community Outreach

Humane Society Fund-Raiser

The Tuscarawas County Humane Society was the recipient of a fund-raiser sponsored by the Quaker Academy staff this spring. The staff donated food, blankets, treats, toys, and other items as part of the Spring Jean Day Friday Donation program! Topaz, who was up for adoption, stopped for a visit too! If you would like to adopt or donate, please visit the Humane Society at www.tuschumanesociety.com.

Christmas Donation

Quaker Academies took part in the Share-a-Christmas campaign this winter and was pleased to be able to provide toys to local children in need.

Edupalooza

This QDA sponsored back-to-school event took place August 30. Approximately 200 students visited our local park in East Liverpool. Each student who attended received a bag full of school supplies and another 200 were presented to area students after the event. Instructional Supervisor, Casey Havens, prepares and submits a grant each year to assure the students within the community are barrier-free when it comes to school supplies. Thank you to Walmart for continuing this grant opportunity.

All Aboard the Academy Train

The Quaker Academies took time to share with the community the online educational opportunities available to area students through their participation in the July 4th Community Parade. Staff walked along and rode the "Train" and were able to hand out candy and information about the school.



did you know?



**The Adult
22+ Program**

92
GRADUATES

87%
of Senior Class
Graduated in 2020

3 **Three Different Curriculum Available - Edmentum, Edgenuity, Lincoln**

QDA offers:

- General Education
- College Credit Plus
- Many World languages, including Rosetta Stone

Number of CCP Students: 10

- University of Akron
- KSU at Tuscarawas
- Walsh University
- Stark State College
- Zane State

**2020-21
Average
Enrollment**

GRADE	QDA	QPA
K	3	26
1	4	25
2	5	21
3	11	23
4	11	19
5	11	28
6	26	7
7	35	10
8	52	8
9	72	
10	80	
11	98	
12	93	

Welcome new academy board member:
Linda Ball

1176 Graduates to Date

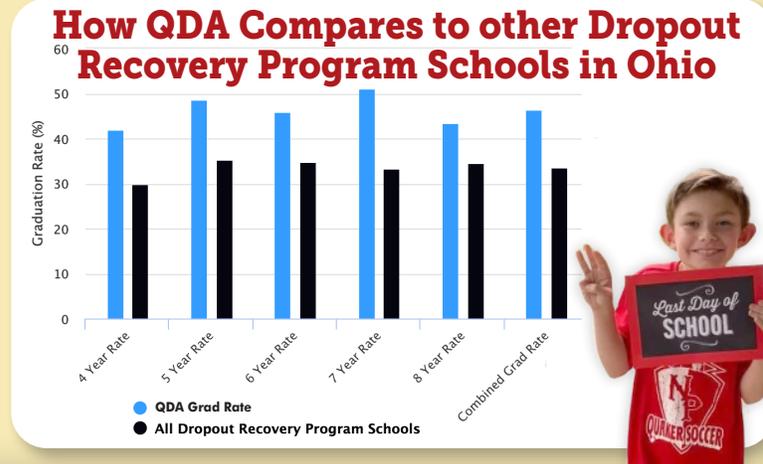
104 2020-21 Graduates

QDA STAFF

Administrators	4	Special Services	8
Curriculum Director	2	Instructional Supervisors (Part Time & Full Time)	30
Director of Technology	1	Tutors, Substitutes	1
Computer Technician	1	Counselor	1
Support Staff	17		

Colleges 2021 Graduates will be Attending:

- Stark State College
- Lakeland Community College
- KSU at Tuscarawas
- Eastern Gateway Community College
- Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- KSU at Stark
- Cleveland State University



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

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

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