

# QDA Annual Report

*“The freedom to learn from anywhere”*



*Believe*

*dream*

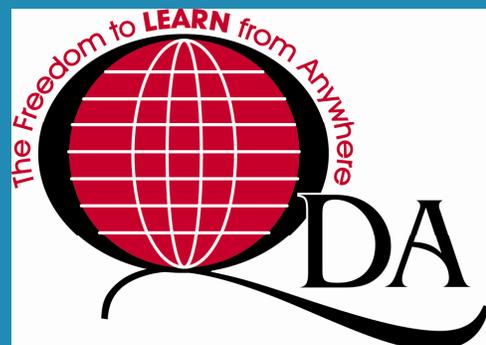
*achieve*

*goals*

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

*A non-profit charter public school*

*2008-09*





## SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS



Excerpts from a speech given by Sarah Ruby, a recent QDA graduate at the Open House Ceremony held May, 2009.

..QDA Principal Mr. Eckert, and my teacher Mrs. Leeper, especially, have been a great positive influence on my life. They showed me love and compassion. They encouraged me and went far beyond the extra mile.

Mr. Eckert was always there if I had a need. He furnished me with a computer and Mrs. Leeper has been like an angel in disguise. She has loved me and pushed me when I needed it. She counseled me and printed off work and gave me pep talks. Most of all she helped me to see the beauty in myself. Thank you God, Mr. Eckert, Mrs. Leeper and the QDA staff for showing me anything is possible.

Miss Ruby recently received her high school diploma through QDA. She is planning on continuing her education and QDA is proud to honor her on the Wall of Fame. A tribute to all 2009 QDA graduates.

The QDA staff have been a very positive influence in my life

-Sarah Ruby

## WHY HOME SCHOOL?

Top reasons cited by parents

- |                                                                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Concerns about the school environment (including safety, drugs, peer pressures): | 88% |
| 2. A desire to provide religious or moral Instruction:                              | 83% |
| 3. A dissatisfaction with instruction or other Schools:                             | 73% |
| 4. An interest in non-traditional approach:                                         | 65% |

Source: Top home-schooling reasons

Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey



## Computer Technical Support

Each student enrolled in QDA receives a computer, internet access and all textbooks required for the curriculum for which they are registered.

QDA's technical support is available to assist our students.

## QDA Student Mike Mahaffey

Mike Mahaffey, a 16 year old QDA student, is once again taking part in the AMA National Amateur Motocross Championships for 2009. Mike is one of 20,000 riders, who spent the last four months qualifying for the event. The sport keeps Mike traveling a large part of the school year. QDA offers him the freedom to continue his education while pursuing his dream of racing.



QDA offers the latest Curriculum Program Offerings for Kindergarten Students

## CURRICULUM

QDA offers a wide variety of curriculum opportunities to meet the individual educational needs for each child. Curriculum providers such as Lincoln Interactive, Educational Options, Calvert, Aventa Learning, BYU, and University of Missouri are nationally recognized and provide us with a strong K-12 program. One widely used by our students are the Lincoln Interactive courses. Lincoln Interactive provides students with an innovative, effective educational experience while utilizing state-of-the-art technology, an interactive and engaging curriculum, and the guidance and support of highly qualified, licensed instructors. A wide range of curriculum selections are available to our students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

## QDA Celebrates Grand Opening



QDA Open House Ceremony  
New Location  
New Towne Mall  
400 Mill Ave SE  
Suite 901  
New Philadelphia Ohio

# Steve Eckert, Principal

QDA is committed to make a difference by providing a quality educational alternative. We offer parents and students a comprehensive academic program that emphasizes the pursuit of excellence. We strive to provide an opportunity for students to work independently, but under the supervision of highly qualified teachers licensed by the State of Ohio. Students at QDA 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 QDA they have the skills to be life-long learners.

- QDA provides a  
**Free Public  
Education  
designed for each  
Kindergarten  
through Grade 12  
Student**



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

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009

Beginning Cash Balance \$ 1,262,480

### Revenues

State Foundation \$ 1,317,480

Investments \$ 20,926

Other \$ 3,296

Total Revenue \$ 1,341,702

Revenue Over Expenditures \$ 180,787

Ending Cash Balance \$ 1,443,267

### Expenditures

Purchased Services \$ 994,892

Supplies & Materials \$ 54,744

Capital Outlay \$ 107,182

Total Expenditures \$ 1,160,915



# QDA Superintendent and CEO

## Dr. Richard Varrati

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to QDA, Ohio's premier cyber school. QDA offers students and parents an educational choice. We are providing students throughout the State of Ohio with an excellent alternative to the brick and mortar school setting.

QDA is proud of their highly qualified and certified teachers. Our support staff is always there for you and your child. Our goal is to see that your child is successful. We firmly believe that every student can succeed, as evidenced by over 100 students who have successfully received their high school diplomas through QDA.

We understand that each child is unique and deserves a personalized program built to fit their needs.

Upon enrolling in QDA, each student receives a personal computer, high speed internet reimbursement, personalized instruction from

state approved Ohio teachers and access to a curriculum that provides the richest and most diverse set of courses available.

We are proud to be named the only cyber school that was rated as "Effective" by the Ohio Department of Education for 2007-08. As you look through this Annual Report, I believe you will share with me the excitement I see each day working with our students. Our students are achieving and learning each day in a venue that is exciting and challenging. I am pleased to note that many of our graduates are going on to further their education through college, the military or into successful careers.

"Technology is changing, education is changing, and we are pleased to keep pace by providing the best for our students in all areas. "



## NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent and CEO of QDA, Dr. Varrati attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Charter Schools Conference on June 21-24, 2009 in Washington D.C. Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan was a keynote speaker and spoke on the importance of offering students alternative educational opportunities.

This conference allowed Dr. Varrati to meet with school leaders from around the country who provide alternative educational opportunities for students. In addition, he was able to view the latest technology and curriculum programs.

Dr. Varrati met with Congressman Charlie Wilson's staff and discussed (QDA) Quaker Digital Academy and its role in helping students obtain a high school diploma in Ohio. Superintendent Varrati presented at the National OCEPA conference in San Antonio, Texas. He conducted a round table presentation with co-presenter, Dr. Anita M. Varrati, Associate Professor from Kent State University on the topic *Public School Administrators Leading in a Virtual World: What is the Role of Leadership Preparation*. This conference draws educators from across the country.

## STUDENT DATA

Kindergarten	5	Grade 6	7
Grade 1	6	Grade	10
Grade 2	4	Grade 8	18
Grade 3	7	Grade 9	37
Grade 4	4	Grade 10	36
Grade 5	4	Grade 11	62
		Grade 12	16

## ETHNIC DATA

Asian	1
Black	1
Hispanic	0
Multiracial	4
Caucasian	120

Disadvantaged/Poverty: 216

## ENROLLMENT FIGURES

Quaker Digital Academy opened its doors in January, 2004.

Enrollment figures show steady growth in enrollment

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
September	34	118	141	232	221
October	36	124	158	244	227
November	43	144	173	231	235
December	41	148	183	235	228
January	41	147	190	244	219
February	39	138	192	240	238
March	46	140	199	239	227
April	43	138	192	220	227
May	42	133	172	205	216



### Attributes of a QDA Student

- A need for opportunities distinct from those offered by traditional brick and mortar schools
- A caring and supportive family
- The flexibility to use a dynamic online curriculum

# Education is Changing—QDA is Changing

...It's an exciting time to be a student. Technology and innovation are reshaping our world. Opportunities are unfolding like never before. At QDA, we put the student first. Our goal is to prepare our students for the 21st century.

## U.S. Department of Education study

In May 2009 entitled: Evaluation of Evidenced-Based Practices in Online Learning

A Meta-Analysis and Review of Online Learning Studies found that:

Online learning has roots in the tradition of distance education, which goes back at least 100 years to the early correspondence courses. With the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the potential for reaching learners around the world increased greatly, and today's online learning offers rich educational resources in multiple media and the capability to support both real-time and asynchronous communication between instructors and learners. Enrollments in these courses (which included two-way interactive video as well as Internet-based courses), were estimated at 506,950, a 60 percent increase over the estimate based on the previous survey for 2002-03 (Selzer and Lewis).

Online learning has become popular because of its potential for providing more flexible *access to content and instruction at any time, from any place*. A systematic search of the research literature from 1996 through July 2008 identified more than a thousand empirical studies of online learning. *The meta-analysis found that, on average, students in online learning conditions performed **BETTER** than those receiving face-to-face instruction.*

### 2008-09 State Report Card Data

2007-08            Effective

2008-09            Continuous Improvement

QDA has met Average Yearly Progress in all Areas. Students in Grades 7 and 8 met the expected growth for Value-added in Reading and Mathematics

Information specific to QDA is found at the State of Ohio Department of Education Website at [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us) - Community Schools Testing Data and at [reportcard.ohio.gov](http://reportcard.ohio.gov)

**QDA**

**400 Mill Avenue SE**

**Suite 901**

**New Philadelphia OH 44663**

POSTAL



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

**Toll Free: 1-866-968-7032**



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.