

Turning the Page

on a
New Tomorrow



2009-10 QDA Annual Report and Parent Informational Booklet

“The fact is, the majority of children in this country are attending schools that don’t work for them. So it’s imperative that we take the risk to make change. Not just small change at the margin, but dramatic changes that are centered around the student. I believe the seeds of that new approach are being sewn at the high-performing charter schools.”

-Bill Gates

The future belongs to you...

Begin the building and learning process at QDA.



Letter from Dr. Richard Varrati, CEO

Welcome to QDA, where our goal is to offer the best education possible to each and every child.

Why is our enrollment steadily growing? We believe QDA exists because an educational alternative is necessary for the children of today. QDA has been a success because we are meeting the educational needs of our students.

The schools in the USA were designed 50 to 100 years ago to serve the needs of another era. I strive to design an educational plan that fits each individual child. As you will read in the publication, there are many unique students attending and graduating from QDA.

QDA is expanding and offering more each year as shown by the significantly rising number of students who attend and have successfully graduated from our school, and are leading exciting and productive lives.

We remain committed and challenged to offer the best quality education to all children enrolled in our school throughout Ohio.

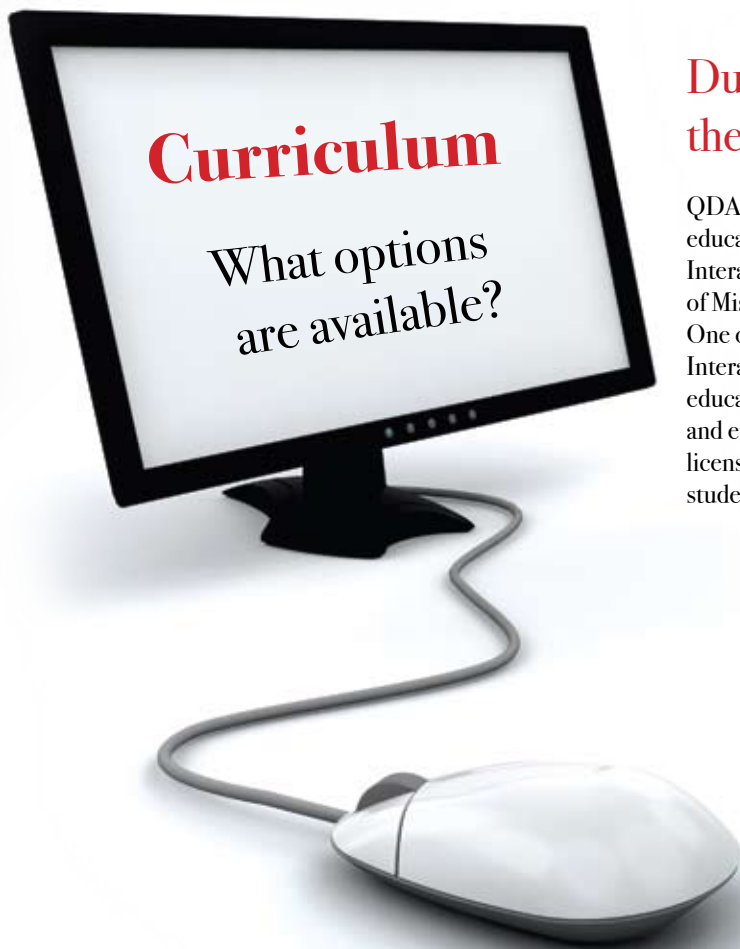
Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Varrati
Superintendent & CEO



Reach your potential,

QDA is committed to providing the resources that each student will need in order to reach his or her potential both educationally and personally.



During the 2009-10 QDA offered the following educational options:

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 of the most widely used curriculum providers by our students in Lincoln Interactive. 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.

- Web Based Programs
- Lincoln Interactive
- Little Lincoln (Kindergarten Only)
- Novel Stars
- Aventa Learning
- University of Missouri
- Book Based Programs
- Calvert
- BYU

Each student enrolled in QDA receives a computer, internet access, (up to \$40 per month) and all textbooks required for the curriculum for which they are registered.

Technology

As QDA continued to expand over Ohio, the technology department was committed to keeping students connected. During the second year of operation, QDA's implementation of Google Apps for Education continued to gain active users. The robust email, calendar, and document center allowed students to access powerful productivity tools from anywhere with the reliability of Google's infrastructure. By utilizing Google Apps for Education, a free service from Google, the technology department was able to use financial resources to improve other areas of our department. One of those areas was being able to purchase notebook computer systems for our general student population. Through the use of our three year phase out policy, all students will be able to obtain a notebook computer system for their coursework within two years.

A successful pilot program was launched during the 2009-2010 school year that allowed Instructional Supervisors to tutor students remotely via conferencing software. QDA will continue to expand on remote tutoring and interested students or parents should contact the QDA office for more information.

Lastly, the technology department will be implementing a Learning Management System for the 2010-2011 school year. The QDA Learning Management System will be a centralized location for students to access curriculum, support, and information. The QDA LMS was built off the open source Joomla! Content Management System and additional components will be phased in over the course of the year, including live chat support.

Meet the Staff

Meet some of the QDA Family...

Educators Roni Leeper, Darla Cessna, Kahty Sleutz, Linda Ball and Tony Casini. Some new members for 2010-11 are: Bob Zontini and Jonathan Ludwig



Roni Leeper



Darla Cessna



Kathy Sleutz

Field Trip Highlights from 2009-10

Students enrolled in QDA had the opportunity to share educational field trips with the sponsor district, New Philadelphia City Schools. Students, along with QDA chaperone Kathy Sleutz, attended the annual Washington DC trip for 8th grade students.

Other Field Trips included: Theatrical Events, Buckeye Career Center field experience day, as well as, other enrichment activities. Plans are being made for expanded ventures for the 2010-11 school year.



Linda Ball

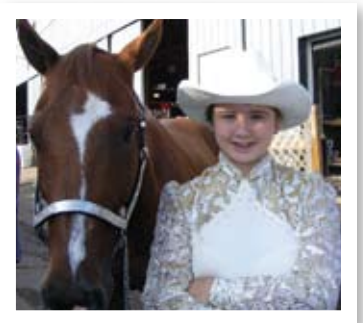


Tony Casini

Meet One of QDA's Own

One size does not necessarily fit all when it comes to high school, and Karlie Reitmann of New Philadelphia has tailored her education to allow her to graduate at the age of 16. Karlie, daughter of Steve and Stephanie Reitmann, attended New Philadelphia High her freshman year, but spent her sophomore year studying through the QDA at an accelerated rate in order to graduate two years sooner than most students.

She studied seven days a week year-round, putting in hours both day and night. With her desire to become a nurse, she was eager to enter nursing school as soon as possible. Karlie will enroll at the Tuscarawas Campus of Kent State University in the fall, and intends to finish the nursing program by the time she is 20. She completed her required course work in just two years, using self-discipline and determination. She believed students succeed if they are motivated, set goals, and aren't hesitant to ask for help when they need it.



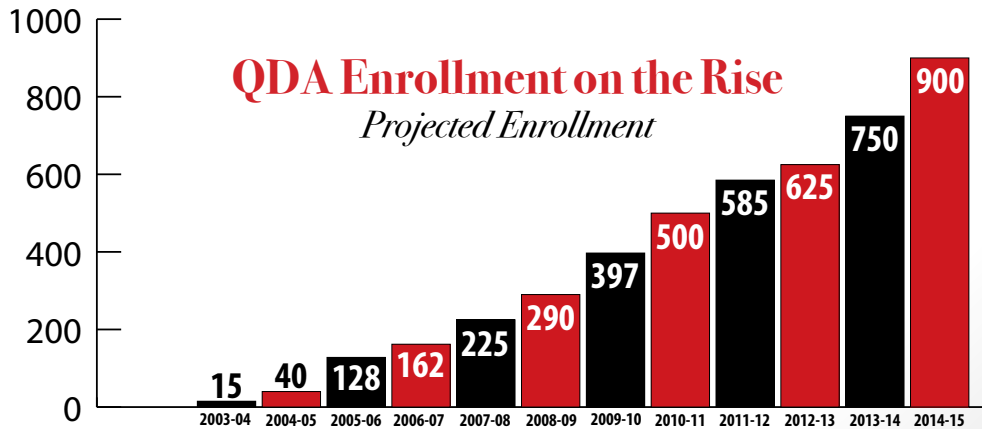
Karlie is also a longtime participant in 4-H. She competes with friends and rides in a few rodeos each year, where she specializes in barrel racing and pole bending. She tends her four horses, and had time to work with her horses while home attending QDA.

Her father says she has matured and supports her decision without reservation. He is grateful she had the opportunity to graduate through QDA. "I love the program, it's the future in education."



New Approach to Education...

Utilizing a truly cutting-edge approach, QDA combines modern technology and traditional academic excellence to deliver high quality educational choices to students and families. Through QDA students receive increased learning opportunities for students, innovative teaching methods, parental school choice, and school accountability for meeting measurable academic standards. QDA also provides the computer and textbooks necessary for your child's education.



Enrollment Statistics

Based on an Average

RACE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	2	2
Black, Non-Hispanic	2	2	4
Hispanic	0	1	1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	2	3
Multiracial	2	3	5
White, Non-Hispanic	182	190	372
Totals	187	200	387

Economically Disadvantaged **59.9%**

Attendance Rate for the 2009-10 School Year **94.3%**





Family Matters...

Guiding a child through the early school years is becoming more difficult. Parents are taking a hard look at whether brick-and mortar schools are the best choice for their families. With increased and confusing academic demands of schools, and rising costs for private education, many parents are looking for an alternative approach for their young children. QDA provides that choice, and at no cost to the family.

Many parents are coming to realize that, with the support and guidance of a cyber school, they can not only meet their children's educational needs, BUT parents CAN become more active in developing their children into mature, creative, independent thinkers.

Excerpt from Tuscarawas County Publication...

Imagine setting your own schedule and working from anywhere. Imagine having work projects personalized to fit your needs and optimize your chance for success all while having help just a mouse click away. Sound too good to be true? It's a reality for students of the New Philadelphia City School System's Quaker Digital Academy (QDA), which offers students in grades kindergarten through 12 the freedom to learn from anywhere.

After its humble beginning with 25 students in January 2004, QDA currently has about 400 students (mostly from a five-county area), and enrollment has doubled every year for the past three years. Thanks to the school's philosophy of focusing on students and their families and placing students at learning levels that will build their self-esteem, QDA is an attractive option statewide. "Our main focus is the student," explained Dr. Richard J. Varrati, QDA CEO/executive director. "We have teachers who really like kids and are positive. Our teachers aren't handling huge caseloads, so they can provide students with lots of personal attention."

Although QDA is a non-traditional school that is just celebrating the one-year anniversary of moving to its New Towne Mall, New Philadelphia location, students get a high quality education. "Everything that's done in a brick and mortar school, we do here," noted Dr. Varrati. "The biggest misconception... is that people think this school is easy. Not all students learn the same way or at the

QDA's students enjoy the ability to learn at their own pace and be free from the drama and peer pressure of traditional schools. Brittany Davenport, 18, of Mineral City, just graduated from QDA in March. "QDA gave me a chance to be my own person," she shared. "It allowed me to graduate early so I can get a jumpstart on college.

Karlie Reitmann, 16, of New Philadelphia, is an equestrian competitor who enjoyed the freedom to travel to competitions and get her school work completed at the same time. Reitmann has earned enough credits through QDA to graduate this May and will begin the nursing degree program at Kent State University Tuscarawas early.

Andy Russell, 15, of New Philadelphia, is active in the Faith Christian Church worship band and really enjoys being a QDA student. "It gives you more freedom to do more on your own and become more prepared for college," he said. "I like being able to work on stuff whenever I want to."

Dr. Varrati said the average QDA student logs about 5.5 hours of study each day, five days a week. Students can work at their own pace and work during the typical school year or year-round on any day of the week. "I've even had kids log in on Christmas Day," he said. "It's up to the student."

Students who need help with lessons can access certified teachers online or stop at the QDA computer lab located at New

Towne Mall where teachers are available to provide personalized assistance. QDA allows students to participate in any extracurricular activity at New Philadelphia City Schools, from band and drama to football, wrestling and more. Gage Able, 12, of Dover, enjoys being a QDA student because he plans to play seventh-grade football for New Philadelphia this fall. His dad played football for New Philadelphia, and Able plans to follow in his dad's footsteps.

QDA also offers educational field trips for kindergarten through eighth-grade students and their parents, including an eighth-grade field trip to Washington, D.C.



Left to right - Andrew Russell, Gage Abel, Christina Baker, Karlie Reitmann, Brittany Davenport, Dr. Varrati

same time. We provide our students an accredited curriculum, teachers for support and guidance, and allow them to learn in an environment that benefits them which enhances success. We (staff of 54 teachers and counselors) want to be the best at what we do."

Jennifer Demuth
Graphic Enterprises Writer

Value-Added Measure



Overall Composite



Scores reflect grade level and overall composite ratings for the 2008-2009 school year.

	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading				✓	✓
Mathematics				✓	✓

Note: Value-Added is not computed for High Schools



Your school's Value-Added rating represents the progress your school has made with its students since last school year. In contrast, achievement scores represent students' performance at a point in time. A score of "Above" indicates greater than one year of progress has been achieved; "Met" indicates one year of progress has been achieved; "Below" indicates less than one year of progress has been achieved.

Value-Added results are computed only for buildings that include sufficient testing data for students in any grade 4 through 8.

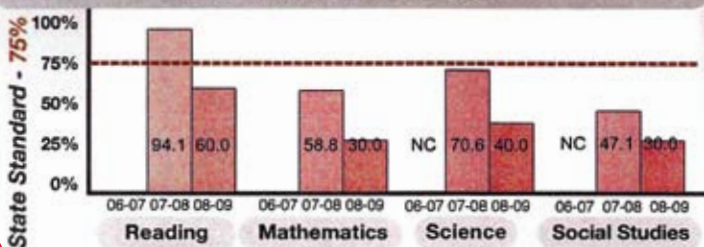
Legend

- + = Above Expected Growth
- ✓ = Met Expected Growth
- = Below Expected Growth

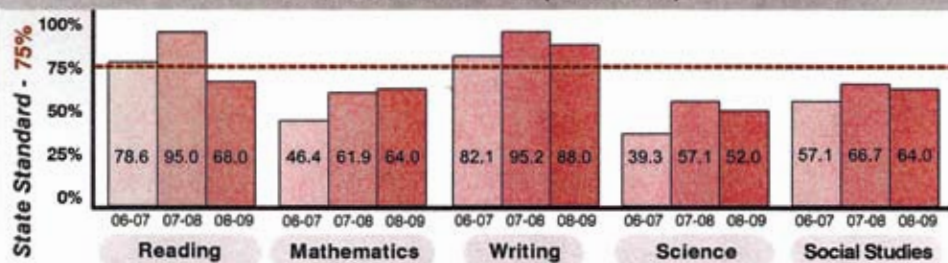
QDA Assessment Over Time

All Students in the school for a full academic year are included in the results.

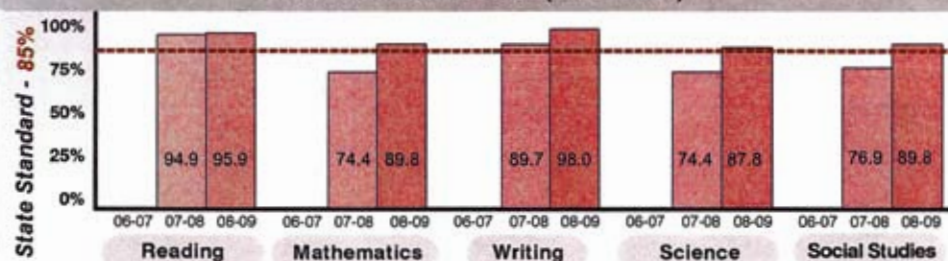
8th Grade Achievement



Ohio Graduation Tests (10th Grade)



Ohio Graduation Tests (11th Grade)*



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.

Beginning their New Tomorrow as Graduates of



High Quality Alternative...

"There is a strong need among Ohio families for high-quality alternatives to traditional public education. Superintendent & CEO, Dr. Richard Varrati stated, "That's what QDA provides, QDA has become a leader and innovator in the field of Internet-based education. At QDA we connect great teachers with families who need, want, and deserve them."

Enrollment is open to students statewide, and QDA students receive free tuition, a nationally-accredited curriculum, computer, books, Internet reimbursement and personal attention from certified teachers. For more information or to enroll, call the QDA offices at 330-364-0618 or 866-968-7032 or visit www.go2qda.org. Enrollment applications are

Visit the QDA Offices located in
New Towne Mall, 400 Mill Ave. SE, Suite 901, New Philadelphia
330-364-0618 • Toll Free: 1-866-968-7032
OR
2230 Sunset Boulevard, Steubenville • Toll Free: 1-877-427-2863
Monday-Friday – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

