



New Philadelphia  
City Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT  
Amy D. Wentworth

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
Jeffery Williams

TREASURER  
Julie A. Erwin, CPA

**To: Ohio Department of Education, Department of Community Schools**

**From: New Philadelphia City School District**

Re: 2023-2024 School Sponsor Annual Report  
Quaker Preparatory Academy (019156)  
Sponsor School: New Philadelphia CSD (044487)

Date: October 31, 2024

**DESCRIPTION:**

Quaker Preparatory Academy (019156) is sponsored by the New Philadelphia City School District (044487).

Mission Statement: To reach children throughout the state of Ohio and provide a free and challenging education through accredited courses of study, certified teachers, and state of the art technology. Working closely with parents and overseeing their children's schoolwork, Quaker Prep Academy provides a custom-made curriculum for each child.

As sponsor of Quaker Preparatory Academy, we believe evidence of the mission statement is providing varied digital curriculum to help meet the needs of the individual student which include:

1. Curriculum selected for the individual student based on academic need and level.
2. Ongoing evaluation of curriculum.
3. Utilizing Instructional Supervisors to monitor and communicate student progress to parents and guardians.

4. Providing professional development training for staff focused on research-based instructional strategies.
5. Providing tutoring services for those in need in the areas of reading and mathematics.
6. Providing a Social-Emotional curriculum through PBIS processes.

Assessment of performance for 2023-2024. Ratings are listed by area:

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**  
**Compliance Rating: 1– NOT MET**

Assessment is critical in determining whether learning has occurred and what academic interventions are necessary. Quaker Preparatory Academy uses various assessment tools to determine student needs and achievement levels as the goal is to advance each individual student to higher levels of performance.

Lincoln Empowered is the platform that QPA students use.

QPA employs a variety of assessment tools, including the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA-R), Easy CBM, UFLI, PAST, and Star assessments. Additionally, students participated in the 2023-2024 Ohio State Assessments. The academy's report card is available on the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) website. To support students requiring additional support in Mathematics, Language Arts, and Reading, tutoring services are offered. Furthermore, Quaker Preparatory Academy implements programs such as Successmaker, Lexia, and Lexia Core5 for Tier I and II interventions, utilizing various online resources to enhance academic performance in core subjects.

Quaker Prep Academy's report card does not have ratings for Graduation Rate or Prepared for Success. This is due to the amount of students needed to calculate these ratings. Quaker Prep Academy has several areas on the 2023-2024 State Report Card that are in need of improvement.

In the area of Achievement, QPA received 2 Stars (Needs Support to meet State Standards) with a score of 53.9 percent. In 2022-2023, it was 2 stars and 53.1 percent.

In the area of Progress, QPA scored 1 Star (Significant evidence that school fell short of student growth expectations by a larger magnitude) after scoring the same in 2022-2023.

In the area of Gap Closing, QPA scored 3 Stars (Needs support to meet state standards in closing educational gaps) which was an increase over the two stars from 2022-2023. Their Annual Performance was 36.8 percent, up from 29.1 percent a year ago.

In Early Literacy, QPA scored 2 Stars (Needs Support to meet state standards). Their percentage was 49.3 in 2022-2023 and is 45 percent this year, down four percent.

Overall, for the entire report card, QPA scored 2 Stars, the same as 2022-2023.

Research also shows a direct correlation between attendance and student achievement. The sponsor looked directly at attendance for Quaker Preparatory Academy. Attendance for 2021-2022 was 94.6 percent and in 2022-2023, it was 95.2. Chronic absenteeism was 11 percent, up from 9.8 percent a year ago.

QPA is working with the State Support Team 12 on Special Education, particularly in relation to graduation rate. They have also adhered to all requirements for PBIS, Science of Reading and ELA curriculum adoption.

## **FISCAL PERFORMANCE**

### **Compliance Rating: 4 -- EXCEEDS**

The Quaker Preparatory Academy financial report details sources of revenues and expenditures following the Uniform School Accounting System (USAS) and methods of coding and account number structures Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures (GAAP). The financial plan complies with Section 3314.03 (A) 15 of the Ohio Revised Code. Financial support for the academy will be derived from the existing balance, annual foundation payments for the school ADM as well as appropriate grants which may become available. The Superintendent of Quaker Preparatory Academy is authorized to apply for grants, including Title grants, and to investigate programs that will enhance participation and student achievement.

Quaker Preparatory Academy has a Board of Directors consisting of five members that are approved by the Sponsor Board. The Board meets at least once every two months to provide oversight for QPA. As oversight, the Board reviews and approves the financial reports, budgets and the 5-year forecast. They also establish policy and procedures to provide guidance and expectations to the Superintendent and Treasurer/CFO. The Board of Directors meeting agenda includes a Report of the Treasurer/CFO and Superintendent that includes management recommendations.

Additionally, QPA is audited by the Auditor of the State of Ohio. They audit the books and records to ensure Compliance with laws, as well as fiscal stability. The 2023 audit for QPA stated that QPA had no issues with noncompliance and the auditor did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that was considered as material weakness.

Quaker Preparatory Academy has shown sound business practice and operates without a line of credit even though they continue to grow and expand operations. A 5-year forecast is attached. The forecast is reviewed and approved by the QPA Board as well as the Sponsor Board.

In summary, the Quaker Preparatory Academy is financially strong and has more than a year of cash in reserves. The Superintendent and Treasurer/CFO communicate on a daily basis in an effort to be fiscally responsible and make sound management decisions. Additionally, the Assistant Superintendent works hand-in-hand with the Treasurer/CFO to work within the framework of the Federal programs and allocates money accordingly.

The above rating was reached after receiving the auditor's final report for fiscal compliance, their 5-year forecast, compliance with internal controls, various monthly fiscal reports, and Sponsor monthly financial reviews.

## **ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION**

### **Compliance Rating: 3-- MEETS**

Consistent with the mission statement are the following goals:

1. Ensure academic growth for all students
2. Ensure parent engagement in students' learning process
3. Develop, provide and maintain effective and efficient operating systems
4. Develop and maintain the highest quality of professional administration, teachers, instructional supervisors and staff

Quaker Preparatory Academy services K-8 students throughout the state of Ohio. Its educational goal is to provide for the needs individually of each student and dictates the need for a flexible learning opportunity versus the traditional school setting which is based on seat time.

In order to accomplish this goal, Quaker Prep Academy offers several curricular offerings from various accredited providers. Curriculum that is selected meets or exceeds CORE and State of Ohio requirements. Student's individual records are reviewed and curriculum is selected based on the academic need of the student. In addition, Quaker Prep Academy utilizes varied assessments and diagnostics to assess student reading and



math levels. Quaker Prep Academy has met all State of Ohio requirements for providing special education classes and supports to students identified as special needs.

Student Services provided by QPA may include school psychologist assessments, Speech Pathologist and PT services. Curriculum is selected, reviewed and adjusted when needed to meet the individual needs of the student. All student's IEPs are written to meet the online environment with a team agreement made on each IEP. The Instructional Supervisor is responsible for monitoring each individual student's progress, assisting with the student when needed and maintaining regular contact with the student and parent/guardian. In addition, Quaker Preparatory Academy provides tutoring services.

QPA is in compliance with all open meeting requirements and maintains sufficient and proper board meeting minutes. The school fulfills all governing authority training and meeting requirements. They more than meet expectations with monthly financial and enrollment reviews.

The above rating was reached based on Quaker Preparatory Academy's review of curriculum utilized, the use of supportive software for expanding student learning opportunities, sponsor site visits, and various organization and operation reports. The score is a 3 rather than a perfect score of 4 due to the lack of growth in student test scores as related to the State Report Card.

## **LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

### **Compliance Rating: 4 -- EXCEEDS**

As required by Section 3314.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, Quaker Preparatory Academy is organized as a non-profit corporation under Chapter 1702 of Ohio Revised Code. The governing authority of Quaker Preparatory Academy is the Board of Directors, which has five voting members.

The five voting members of Quaker Preparatory Academy's Board of Directors includes: Vicki Wittkop, Charles Gil Snyder, Don Kemp, Karen Sterling and Sallie Stroup.

Julie Erwin serves as the Treasurer/CFO for Quaker Preparatory Academy. The Treasurer provides Quaker Preparatory Academy Financial Statements to the sponsoring school on a monthly basis. Mrs Debra Kennedy serves as the Superintendent for Quaker Prep Academy.

The Board of Directors serve as the ultimate governing authority of Quaker Prep Academy. The role of the governing board encompasses:

1. Helping to create, approve, and monitor the school's annual budget
2. Developing policies to guide the operation of the school
3. Maintaining a commitment to the philosophy of Quaker Digital Academy and its commitment to serve students.

Quaker Prep Academy has met all legal requirements. In addition, the Quaker Prep Academy utilizes the legal counsel of Thomas Holmes, Esq. (over 16 years' experience in School Law) in matters dealing with digital rules compliance and legislation. Quaker Preparatory Academy utilizes the services of NEOLA in developing board policies and updating board policies to meet and comply with current legal laws and requirements.

In overview, the operations of Quaker Preparatory Academy are in full compliance with the sponsor school's expectations. Based on its site visit, the Sponsor determined that all contractual requirements and agreements have been met for the 2021-2022 school year. All necessary paperwork has been submitted to the Ohio Department of Education as required. This is further confirmed by the Ohio Department of Education's 2021-2022 Oversight of Schools -- Compliance Evaluation, which was conducted by ODE.

The above rating was reached by the Quaker Prep Academy having up to date board policies and having legal services provided by Thomas Holmes, Esq. and NEOLA while being part of an e-school legal coalition, Sponsor site visits, Sponsor legal updates, Sponsor technical assistance and a commitment to meeting all legal requirements and expectations.

## **REINFORCEMENT AND GROWTH**

Quaker Preparatory Academy is outstanding within the financial realm as well as monitoring Compliance Items and attendance. Administration is working together to create plans for students and checking in with absent students or students who are not online adequately.

An area of growth is academics. QPA has achieved 3 Stars just once in the last three years (Gap Closing in 2023-2024). Achievement has consistently been 2 stars for three years while Progress has been just 1 star for the last three years. Gap Closing improved in 2023-2024. Early Literacy improved from 1 star to 2 stars after being 2 stars in 2021-2022.

## **SUMMARY**

In overview, the operations of the Quaker Preparatory Academy are in partial compliance with the sponsor's expectations. **The sponsor feels that for the 2023-2024 school year**

the most important piece of the agreement between entity and sponsor is the Academic piece and QPA has fallen well short of expectations. All necessary paperwork has been submitted to the Ohio Department of Education as required in required areas and financial records are exceptional, garnering an award from the State Auditors.

The organization standards set by the home district have been effectively met. Communications between the sponsor and QPA are open and on-going. There are monthly meetings between the Sponsor's Administration and QPA's Administration as well as emails and phone calls. In addition, there are periodic presentations to the Sponsor Board dealing with all aspects of QPA's operation. Financial statements are provided to the Sponsor on a monthly basis as well.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jeffery Williams  
Assistant Superintendent/CAO  
New Philadelphia City School District

Attached: 5-year forecast  
QPA Formal Annual Published Report  
State Report card

# School Home

Principal  
**Stephen C. Eckert**

Address  
**400 Mill Ave SE Ste 901**  
**New Philadelphia, OH 44663-3878**

Directory information current as of the 2023-2024 Report Card publication date.

Phone  
**(330) 364-0618**

Career Technical Planning District  
**Buckeye JVSD CTPD**

Sponsor  
**New Philadelphia City**



Needs support to meet  
state standards

## Overall Rating

[Print](#)

Districts and schools receive an overall rating of 1 to 5 stars in half-star increments. The overall rating is comprised of five rated components. The College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness Component is report only and does not contribute to the overall rating on the 2024 Ohio School Report Cards.

### Achievement

This component represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall.



Needs support to meet state standards in academic achievement.

[View More Data](#)

### Progress

This component looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past performances.



Significant evidence that the school fell short of student growth expectations by a larger magnitude.

[View More Data](#)

### Gap Closing

The Gap Closing Component is a measure of the reduction in educational gaps for student groups.



Meets state standards in closing educational gaps.

[View More Data](#)

[Gifted](#)

### Graduation

The Graduation Component is a measure of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.



[View More Data](#)

### Early Literacy

The Early Literacy Component is a measure of reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade.



Needs support to meet state standards in early literacy (K-3).

[View More Data](#)

### College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness

This component looks at how well-prepared Ohio's students are for future opportunities, whether training in a technical field or preparing for work or college.

[View More Data](#)

FY24 - May 2024 submission

IRN No.: 019156

Type of School: Internet/Computer Based

Contract Term: expires 6/30/2025

County: Tuscarawas

**School Name: Quaker Preparatory Academy**

Statement of Receipt, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balances

For the Fiscal Years Ended 2021 through 2023, Actual and

For the Fiscal Years Ended 2024 through 2028, Forecasted

	Actual			Forecasted				
	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028
<b>Operating Receipts</b>								
State Foundation Payments (3110, 3211)	\$ 798,951	\$ 906,002	\$ 853,588	\$ 1,160,626	\$ 1,445,468	\$ 1,730,311	\$ 2,055,127	\$ 2,379,942
Charges for Services (1500)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees (1600, 1700)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other (1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1890, 3190)	275	15,512	2,374	14,483	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>	\$ 799,226	\$ 921,514	\$ 855,963	\$ 1,175,109	\$ 1,465,468	\$ 1,750,311	\$ 2,075,127	\$ 2,399,942
<b>Operating Disbursements</b>								
100 Salaries and Wages	\$ 191,621	\$ 426,697	\$ 443,209	\$ 501,137	\$ 700,591	\$ 721,609	\$ 743,257	\$ 765,555
200 Employee Retirement and Insurance Benefits	\$ 93,559	\$ 187,720	\$ 175,133	161,726	202,927	212,876	223,433	234,641
400 Purchased Services	\$ 125,166	\$ 231,037	\$ 233,789	285,733	220,000	222,000	222,000	222,000
500 Supplies and Materials	\$ 14,629	\$ 177,015	\$ 34,746	250,000	175,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
600 Capital Outlay - New	\$ 7,689	\$ 39,974	\$ 9,280	22,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
700 Capital Outlay - Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
800 Other	\$ 123	\$ 16,833	\$ 18,131	22,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
819 Other Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating Disbursements</b>	\$ 432,787	\$ 1,079,277	\$ 914,289	\$ 1,242,596	\$ 1,363,518	\$ 1,331,485	\$ 1,363,690	\$ 1,397,196
Excess of Operating Receipts Over (Under)								
Operating Disbursements	\$ 366,439	\$ (157,763)	\$ (58,327)	\$ (67,487)	\$ 101,951	\$ 418,826	\$ 711,437	\$ 1,002,747
<b>Nonoperating Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>								
Federal Grants (all 4000 except fund 532)	\$ 57,863	\$ 346,395	\$ 320,455	\$ 267,512	\$ 333,694	\$ 118,663	\$ 118,663	\$ 118,663
State Grants (3200, except 3211)	\$ 36,000	-	\$ 2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-
Restricted Grants (3219, Community School Facilities Grant)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-	-	1,800	1,800
Donations (1820)	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-
Interest Income (1400)	\$ 370	\$ 649	\$ 19,332	55,928	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Debt Proceeds (1900)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Principal Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and Fiscal Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers - In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Transfers - Out	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
<b>Total Nonoperating Revenues/(Expenses)</b>	\$ 94,333	\$ 347,044	\$ 341,787	\$ 325,440	\$ 393,694	\$ 178,663	\$ 180,463	\$ 180,463
Excess of Operating and Nonoperating Receipts								
Over/(Under) Operating and Nonoperating								
Disbursements	\$ 460,772	\$ 189,282	\$ 283,461	\$ 257,953	\$ 495,645	\$ 597,489	\$ 891,900	\$ 1,183,210
Fund Cash Balance Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 45	\$ 460,816	\$ 650,098	\$ 933,559	\$ 1,191,511	\$ 1,687,156	\$ 2,284,645	\$ 3,176,545
Fund Cash Balance End of Fiscal Year	\$ 460,816	\$ 650,098	\$ 933,559	\$ 1,191,511	\$ 1,687,156	\$ 2,284,645	\$ 3,176,545	\$ 4,359,755

**Assumptions****Staffing/Enrollment**

	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028
Total Student FTE	130	139	124	157	187	217	252	287
Instructional Staff	5.00	6.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	11.00	12.00	13.00
Administrative Staff	2.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Other Staff	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

**Purchased Services**

Rent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Utilities	450.00	1,350.00	1,080.00	1,080.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Other Facility Costs	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Insurance	12,483.00	14,961.00	16,574.00	19,180.00	20,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
Management Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sponsor Fee	36,910.00	39,347.32	37,443.91	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
Audit Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal	5,202.50	2,231.50	3,903.33	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Marketing	639.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consulting	54,420.87	950.00	500.00	3,473.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Salaries and Wages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Education Services	-	-	-	18,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Technology Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	15,060.62	172,197.47	174,287.83	200,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total	\$ 125,165.99	\$ 231,037.29	\$ 233,789.07	\$ 285,733.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 222,000.00	\$ 222,000.00	\$ 222,000.00

**Financial Metrics**

Debt Service Payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service Coverage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Growth in Enrollment	0.00%	6.92%	-10.79%	26.61%	19.11%	16.04%	16.13%	13.89%
Growth in New Capital Outlay	0.00%	419.87%	-76.78%	137.07%	104.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Growth in Operating Receipts	0.00%	15.30%	-7.11%	37.29%	24.71%	19.44%	18.56%	15.65%
Growth in Non-Operating Receipts/Expenses	0.00%	267.89%	-1.51%	-4.78%	20.97%	-54.62%	1.01%	0.00%
Days of Cash	0.00	0.43	0.71	0.75	0.87	1.27	1.68	2.27

**Assumptions Narrative Summary**

QPA has no debt.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Projected Debt					
Description	Beginning Year Balance	Principle Retirement	Interest Expense	Ending Year Balance	Debitor/ Creditor
FTE Review	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Loan A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Loan B	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Notes, Bonds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Capital Leases	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Payables (Past Due 180+ days)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
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**STATE FOUNDATION:**

The enrollment is projected to increase slightly between fiscal year 2024 and 2028. The estimated increase was calculated using the annual amount per student times 97% (FTE evaluation) times the increase in enrollment. The increase in Foundation Revenue is due to the adoption of HB110. The calculations are as follows:

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Prior Year total Foundation (A)	\$ 906,002	\$ 853,640	\$ 1,160,626	\$ 1,445,468	\$ 1,730,311	\$ 2,055,127
Revenue Per Student	\$ 7,350	\$ 8,242	\$ 8,242	\$ 8,242	\$ 8,242	\$ 8,242
FTE percentage based on QPA FY23 Actual	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%
Projected increase in revenue for each student	\$ 7,130	\$ 7,995	\$ 7,995	\$ 7,995	\$ 7,995	\$ 7,995
Projected increase year-over-year per student	-13	33	30	30	35	35
Expectation of Increase in revenue (B)	\$ (94,466)	\$ 263,826	\$ 239,842	\$ 239,842	\$ 279,816	\$ 279,816
Foundation Revenue Posted to 3110	\$ 811,536	\$ 1,117,466	\$ 1,400,468	\$ 1,685,311	\$ 2,010,127	\$ 2,334,942
Foundation Revenue Posted to 3218 (Student Wellness)	\$ 42,104	\$ 43,160	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Net Foundation	\$ 853,640	\$ 1,160,626	\$ 1,445,468	\$ 1,730,311	\$ 2,055,127	\$ 2,379,942

**SALARIES AND WAGES:**

In fiscal year 2024, there were three Part-Time Instructional positions added and a Part-Time Parent Ambassador. In fiscal year 2025 there will be one Part-Time Instructional positions added and Part-Time Special Education Coordinator. The addition of employees were due to the growth of enrollment. Fiscal year 2024 salaries are per the board adopted schedule and there is a 3% increase forecasted for salary in fiscal year 2025 thru fiscal year 2028.

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Superintendent & Curriculum Director	\$ 127,223	\$ 134,984	\$ 139,034	\$ 143,205	\$ 147,501	\$ 151,926
Treasurer & Asst Treasurer	\$ 49,005	\$ 55,308	\$ 56,967	\$ 58,676	\$ 60,436	\$ 62,249
Teachers & Other	\$ 266,981	\$ 310,845	\$ 504,590	\$ 519,728	\$ 535,320	\$ 551,380
	\$ 443,209	\$ 501,137	\$ 700,591	\$ 721,609	\$ 743,257	\$ 765,555

**EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE:**

Benefits are calculated based on the salaries. Health insurance is for Full Time employee in fiscal year 2023 and beyond. There was an increase in health insurance premiums in fiscal year 2024 in the amount of 6.9%. The increase for fiscal year 2025 will be 13%. The increase in health insurance premiums is forecasted to be 8% for fiscal year 2026 through 2028.

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Salaries	\$ 443,209	\$ 501,137	\$ 700,591	\$ 721,609	\$ 743,257	\$ 765,555
Benefits @ 16% of salaries	\$ 70,913	\$ 80,182	\$ 112,095	\$ 115,457	\$ 118,921	\$ 122,489
Pickup on Super and Treas	\$ 9,747.00	\$ 12,656	\$ 13,036	\$ 13,427	\$ 13,830	\$ 14,244
Annual Health Insurance	\$ 92,071.52	\$ 68,528	\$ 77,436	\$ 83,631	\$ 90,322	\$ 97,548
Annual Life Insurance	\$ 359.76	\$ 360	\$ 360	\$ 360	\$ 360	\$ 360
Total Estimated Benefits:	\$ 173,092	\$ 161,726	\$ 202,927	\$ 212,876	\$ 223,433	\$ 234,641

**PURCHASED SERVICES:**

Audit Fees are listed in the USAS Manual under the 800 Object code. They are not included in purchase services. All other purchase services are projected in the section labeled as such. QPA will use the space in QDA during the first three or four years. The decrease in purchase services from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025 is projected because the ESSER money will be spent and the grants will be completed.

**SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS:**

Supplies and materials are projected to remain constant throughout the forecast.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY:**

All equipment costs are shown under the 600 expense code. The Capital Outlay is expected to remain constant throughout the forecast.

# QUAKER ACADEMIES

THE FREEDOM TO LEARN FROM ANYWHERE



2023 - 2024

## PARENT ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO'S PREMIERE E-SCHOOL

[WWW.QUAKERACADEMIES.ORG](http://WWW.QUAKERACADEMIES.ORG)





QDA (K-12) and QPA (K-8)  
provide State-Accredited Digital  
Curriculum and instructors in  
the safety of your home.

### Administration Team

Dr. Richard Varrati  
Debra Kennedy  
Julie Erwin  
Diane Fearon  
Elaine Karp  
Steve Eckert  
Denise Grimm  
Casey Havens  
Mike Ciereszewski

### Quaker Academies Board of Directors

Don Kemp- President  
Vicki Wittkop - Vice President  
Gill Snyder  
Karen Sterling  
Sallie Stroup

### Sponsorship

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

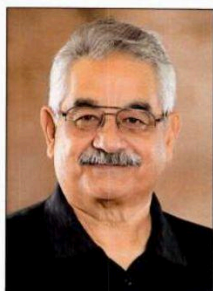
### Academic Goals

The State of Ohio Model Courses  
of Study are the basis for QDA and  
QPA K-12 curriculum. The Acad-  
emies implement these resources, as  
well as a variety of exceptional curricular  
options. Our teaching staff is comprised of  
caring, highly qualified and licensed teach-  
ers, counselors, and administrators.

QDA and QPA are non-profit, public on-  
line 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 Steuben-  
ville. Contact us today to learn how cyber  
education can meet your child's education-  
al needs. QDA and QPA are state funded.  
There is no cost to the student. A comput-  
er is provided and internet reimbursement  
up to \$40 per month.

A Message from Superintendent Richard Varrati  
CEO FOR QDA

## Looking Towards the Future



As Quaker Academies continue to adapt to the changing landscape  
of education and the workforce in the 21st century, we are excited  
to introduce new programs aimed at meeting the diverse needs  
and goals of our students and families. We understand that  
traditional educational paths may not suit everyone, which is why  
we are expanding our offerings to provide alternative pathways to  
success.

Beginning next school year, we will be launching three new  
programs designed to offer students various avenues to meet  
graduation requirements and prepare them for the demands of  
today's job market:

1. Virtual Welding Program: This program will enable students to earn 12 industry  
credentials toward graduation, equipping them with the skills necessary for a  
successful career in welding.
2. The Rise-up Industry Credential Program: Students enrolled in this program will have  
the opportunity to earn 12 industry credentials toward graduation focusing on  
Customer Service, Sales, and Retail Industry Fundamentals, preparing them for  
diverse roles within these sectors.
3. The Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal: Through this program, students will develop 15  
professional skills essential for success in the workplace, ensuring they are well-  
prepared for their future careers.

These initiatives are just the beginning of our commitment to providing students with  
expanded opportunities for academic and career success. We are continuously exploring  
additional programs and resources to further support our students in achieving their goals.

At Quaker Academies, we believe in empowering students to reach their full potential, and  
these new programs are a testament to that belief. We look forward to working closely with  
students, parents and community members to ensure each individual's unique needs are met  
as they embark on their educational and professional journeys. ■

Dr. Richard Varrati,

Superintendent and CEO of QDA, has worked for 46 years in the field of education.



## Ohio Department of Education Statistics and Data

### QDA Student Enrollment

	Enrollment #
All Students	594
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2
Asian or Pacific Islander	4
Black, Non-Hispanic	2
Hispanic	57
Multiracial	56
White, Non-Hispanic	803
Students with Disabilities	181
Economic Disadvantage	397
English Learner	17
Migrant	0

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

### QPA Student Enrollment

	Enrollment #
All Students	182
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0
Asian or Pacific Islander	0
Black, Non-Hispanic	8
Hispanic	4
Multiracial	18
White, Non-Hispanic	157
Students with Disabilities	31
Economic Disadvantage	105
English Learner	1
Migrant	0

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



QPA SUPERINTENDENT  
QDA ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

## Student Wellness and Success



By Debra J. Kennedy

In Ohio, parents, educators, and community leaders understand that student learning and success depend on more than academics alone. Ohio's Whole Child Framework puts the student at the center of the plan, where each component works harmoniously to support a whole-child approach. This plan broadens school focus beyond academics to include meeting students' social emotions, physical, and safety needs. In the infographic, the five com-

monly held beliefs to student success in life and learning are shown in green surrounding the whole-child star.

In 2019, Governor Mike DeWine signed legislation that established Ohio's Student Wellness and Success Fund to invest in student well-being through our schools. Each school has to select from a list of acceptable activities and partner with reputable organizations to establish their initiatives. Allowable uses of funding include mental health services, physical health services, mentoring programs, family engagement and support services, afterschool programs, and services for homeless and child welfare-involved youth. As an online school, we were able to make our spending decisions based on how we can make the greatest impact.

Both Quaker Academies' student wellness and success plans includes the following goals:

1. Promote mental health awareness and provide accessible digital resources for emotional support, as well as having a nurse and family ambassador
2. Encourage physical well-being through fitness and nutrition programs
3. Foster responsible digital usage
4. Support work-life balance for educators and staff
5. Strengthen community engagement by connecting with community organizations and through virtual initiatives

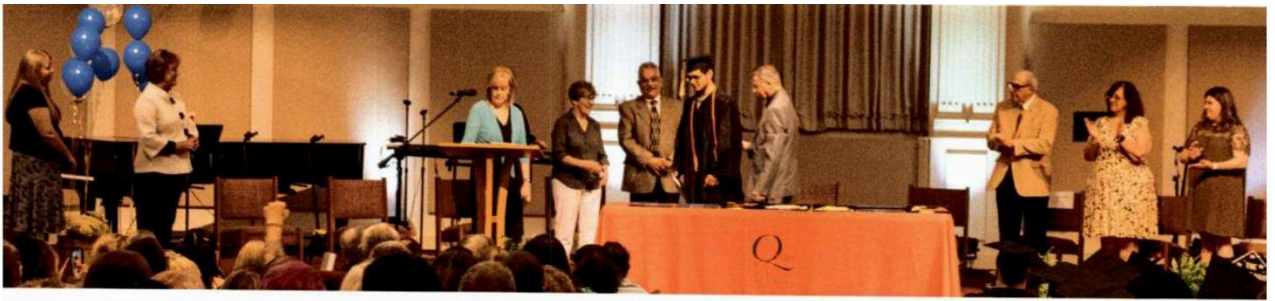
In order to accomplish our goals, we hired a parent ambassador to oversee and implement the plan. Here are some of the activities in which we have participated in this year:

- We hired three part-time counselors to help with small group sessions, specialized coaching, and scheduling.
- Resource guides for different counties were established for family referrals in need of housing, medical, food, and pet resources and placed on our website under the support tab for safety and wellness.
- A partnership with Tuscarawas YMCA was established and students enjoyed hours of exercise in the winter months.
- Tuff Bags were offered to families through our partnership with Tuscarawas United Feeding our Future Organization.
- Lifetouch pictures established different settings around Ohio for our students to have spring portraits sittings.
- We donated items such as gift baskets to the Nutcracker Village in Coshocton and hams to Homeless Shelters, as well as Coats, Mittens, Shoes, and Gift Cards to students.

It is our belief that a well-rounded student has access to great academics, as well as social and emotional support whenever they need it. Our online program plays a crucial role in providing students the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and stable environment. Our program is set to contribute to positive outcomes such as better attendance, improved behavior, better academic outcomes, increased physical fitness, and increased graduation rates. ■







## QDA Graduation Ceremony Honors the Class of 2024



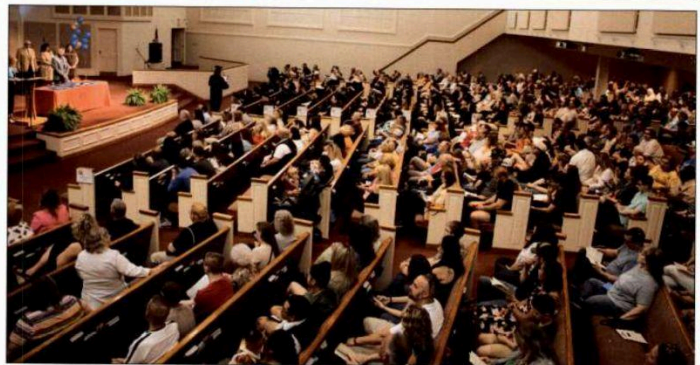
**Jill Westbrook**  
QDA Counselor

The Quaker Digital Academy Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2024 was held on May 18th, at The First Baptist Church in New Philadelphia at 2 p.m. Eighty students participated in the ceremony.

The facility was filled to capacity with friends and relatives attending to honor the graduates. Karen Sterling and Vickie Wittkop, QDA Board of Education members; Dr. Richard Varrati, CEO; Debra Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Eckert, Principal; Casey Havens, Assistant Principal; Tom Farbizo, member of the Quaker Digital Academy Foundation; Jill Westbrook, Counselor; Julie Erwin and Diane Fearon, Treasurers; and numerous Instructional Supervisors were present to recognize and congratulate the students on their academic achievement.

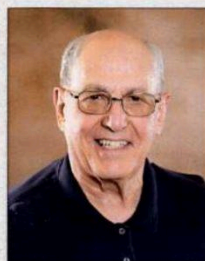
Tom Farbizo and Jill Westbrook presented the 2024 Quaker Digital Academy Foundation Scholarships to nine students in the Class of 2024. Two students received \$1,500 scholarships, four received \$1,000 scholarships, and three received \$750 scholarships.

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





# 2024 QDA Educational Foundation Scholarship Recipients

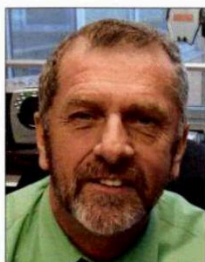


**Tom Farbizo**  
Quaker Digital  
Academy Foundation

The QDA Education Foundation awarded nine scholarships to students in the Class of 2024. Two recipients received \$1,500 each, four received \$1,000 each, and three received \$750 each. This year's scholarship recipients are:

- Victoria Gliba - \$750 Scholarship. Victoria plans to attend Kent State University at Kent and major in Psychology.
- Benjamin Pivor - \$750 Scholarship. Ben plans to attend Ohio University and major in Marketing.
- Miracle Redding - \$750 Scholarship. Miracle plans to attend Wright State University and major in Elementary Education.
- Grace Alley - \$1,000 Scholarship. Grace plans to attend the Cleveland Institute of Art and major in Animation.
- Aarial Boyer - \$1,000 Scholarship. Aarial plans to attend Wright State University and major in Psychology.
- Taylor McKain - \$1,000 Scholarship. Taylor plans to attend Kent State University at Tuscarawas.
- Elexus Warner - \$1,000 Scholarship. Elexus plans to attend Wheeling University and major in Nursing.
- Hannah Conkle - \$1,500 Scholarship. Hannah plans to attend Youngstown State University and major in creative writing.
- Sayje Hill - \$1,500 Scholarship. Sayje plans to attend Cedarville University and major in Social Work.

## Wellness Club



**Richard Page**  
Parent Wellness  
Ambassador

We are proud to announce that Richard Page was named our Parent Ambassador for wellness, serving both staff and students. This dedicated individual has made a significant impact on our school community through his various initiatives.

Every Friday, Mr. Page met with students at the Dover YMCA for a fun-filled afternoon of recreational activities including basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and swimming. These events not only promoted physical activity, but also provided opportunities for socialization and team-building.

In addition to his YMCA activities, Richard also organized community service projects with the Humane Society. Students had the opportunity to participate in activities such as cleaning litter boxes and sweeping out cages, teaching them valuable lessons about responsibility and compassion.

Richard also facilitated walks at the Norma Johnson Center, providing a safe and healthy environment for students and families to bond and enjoy nature together.

Furthermore, Richard collaborated with Tuscarawas County's Tuscarawas United Feeding our Future (TUFF) program, which provides free weekly "TUFF Bags" to residents in Tuscarawas County. This initiative has been a game-changer for many families in our community, providing them with essential food items. ■



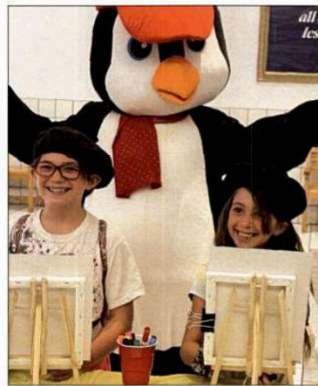
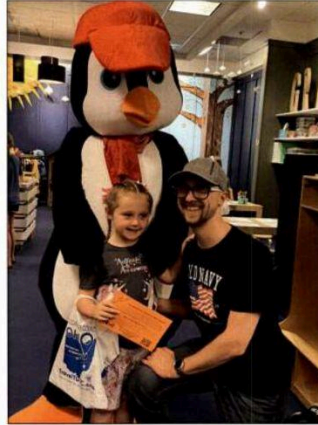


# Student Activities

## Newsymom Zoo Day

Quaker Preparatory Academy (QPA) partnered with Newsymom to bring excitement and joy to the annual Zoo at New Towne Mall. This beloved event has become a cherished tradition, and this year's edition did not disappoint. QPA's very own Q the Penguin, the star of our published children's book, made a special appearance, delighting children of all ages as they eagerly lined up to take pictures with their new feathered friend. The adorable penguin's presence was a highlight of the day, and the kids couldn't get enough of snapping photos with their new buddy.

The fun didn't stop there, as the mall was filled with a variety of activities and attractions. A rubber duck pond was set up, where kids could pick a duck and watch it float away, with the chance to win prizes for their favorite basket. The highlight of the event was, of course, the zoo itself, featuring real animals from around the world. Families also enjoyed exploring the various vendors offering free take-home goodies, as well as savoring a wide range of delicious foods from around the globe. The combination of interactive activities, adorable animals, and tasty treats made for a memorable day out for all who attended the Quaker Preparatory Academy and Newsymom's annual Zoo at New Towne Mall.



## Edupalooza

As the new academic year kicked off, students in the East Liverpool community immersed themselves in the spirit of learning at the annual Edupalooza Back to School Bash, held in front of the East Liverpool Office in August. This event, aimed at welcoming students back to school after a rejuvenating summer break, proved to be a success. The day was full of smiles, music, and a strong sense of community. Sponsored by Quaker Academies, the event spanned over four hours, during which 380 bags filled with donated school supplies were distributed to families in need. These bags contained essential items such as paper, folders, pens, pencils, highlighters, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, and even some pencil pouches. Furthermore, an additional 30 bags packed with supplies were delivered to local school districts to support students in need once classes resumed. The success of the 2023 Edupalooza Back to School Bash was made possible through the collaborative efforts of local businesses, community organizations, and dedicated volunteers who generously contributed their time, resources, and heartfelt compassion for local students. With anticipation, we eagerly await the festivities of next year!



## Coding Camps 2023-24

### Project Based Camps

QDA and QPA partnered with Code With Us. We had a total of 30 students from grades K-8 sign up. Two camps were created (grades K-5 and 6-8) that alternated weeks. Each camp had a total of 12 one-hour sessions.

With the guidance of the instructor, our students learned to design interactive games using Scratch, an easy to learn block-based visual coding language developed by MIT lab. Scratch's drag-and-drop interface with colorful blocks made it easy for students to learn and get introduced to coding concepts. As students designed with Scratch, they learned to think creatively, work collaboratively, and reason systematically.





## Tuscora Park Olympic Family Day Celebration: A Memorable End to the Year and Beginning of Summer

On June 14, staff and families had the pleasure of spending a wonderful day at Tuscora Park, celebrating the end of the year and kick-starting the summer season. The day began with a delightful lunch, featuring hot dogs and hamburgers, which was enjoyed by all.

Following lunch, the group participated in various games, using a passport system to earn tickets for the prize basket drawings. The kids had an absolute blast playing games such as can toss, scavenger hunt, cornhole, and a hot walk around the pond. After collecting their tickets, they eagerly anticipated winning prizes in the drawings.

After the prize drawings, the group spent the afternoon enjoying the park's many activities. The kids were particularly enthusiastic about putt-putt golf, laughing and competing with each other to achieve the best score. A refreshing swim in the pool provided a welcome break from the sun, before ending the day with thrilling rides on the carnival attractions. The event was a fantastic way to cap off the year and usher in the summer season.

## Steubenville Office

The QDA Steubenville Office has been actively involved in various community events and initiatives throughout the year. One of the notable events was the establishment of a community lending library, both in the office and at an outside location. This endeavor aimed to provide access to essential resources and information to the community.

In addition, the office participated in Trinity Hospital's Trunk or Treat, a popular event that attracted hundreds of local families. The event was a huge success, allowing Quaker Academies to connect with the community and promote its services.

The office also demonstrated its commitment to giving back to the community by donating Christmas gifts and hams to three local families in need. The New Philadelphia office kindly donated hams and educational games to the families, further emphasizing the importance of community support.

The Steubenville office also took part in several fairs and festivals,



including the Jefferson County and Belmont County fairs in August and September. At these events, families were able to learn about QDA's services and take away promotional gifts. The booths were well-received by the community, with hundreds of families participating in both events.

Furthermore, the office participated in First Friday, a street festival in Steubenville, on two occasions in August and September. The purpose of this initiative was to recruit new enrollments and promote Quaker Academies services to the community. The event was a huge success, with hundreds of families participating and learning more about our programs.

## Summer Camp Fun: Bird Houses

At the summer fun camp, the kids were thrilled to spend their afternoon making and decorating bird houses. With the guidance of their counselors, they carefully crafted the houses using wooden materials, learning about the importance of providing shelter for birds and their habitats. As they worked, their creativity shone through as they began to paint their masterpieces, adding vibrant colors and designs to make their birdhouses truly unique. The finished bird houses were a testament to their imagination and creativity, and the kids beamed with pride as they took their handiwork home, eager to share their new creations with their friends and family.





# National Honor Society Ceremony

National Honor Society Academies celebrated a significant milestone as it inducted 12 outstanding students into the prestigious National Honor Society (NHS). The induction ceremony marked not only a recognition of academic excellence, but also a celebration of the students' commitment to scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The induction ceremony served as a testament to the values upheld by Quaker Academies and the NHS alike. Family members, faculty, and fellow students gathered to honor the achievements of the newly inducted members and to inspire them to continue their pursuit of excellence in all aspects of their lives.

Each of the 12 students selected for induction demonstrated exemplary academic performance, maintaining a high GPA and exhibiting a genuine passion for learning. Beyond academic achievement, these students also demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, both inside and outside the classroom. Each inductee showcased a commitment to making a positive impact on the world around them.

The induction ceremony symbolizes not only a recognition of past achievements, but



also a call to action for the future. As they embark on this new chapter of their academic journey, the inductees are encouraged to continue striving for excellence, to lead by example, and to make a positive difference

in their communities and beyond. Their induction into the National Honor Society serves as a testament to their hard work, dedication, and potential to shape a brighter future for themselves and others. ■

## National Junior Honor Society

Quaker Digital Academy inducted 5 new members and Quaker Preparatory Academy inducted 3 new members on May 9, 2024, into the National Junior Honor Society. It was a great evening recognizing the achievements of these outstanding young people.

Instructional Supervisors introduced each new member by sharing the ways their student exhibits the qualities valued by the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Students showed excellence in academic achievement by working independently to earn grades of a 3.0 or higher. Service achievements ranged from hours spent volunteering at parks and churches to helping coach younger children. Another important quality of members, leadership, was shown by being vice-presidents, team captains, and directing choir. It is no wonder that many were described as being committed, responsible, hard-working, and respectful in the area of character qualities.

New members were pinned by current



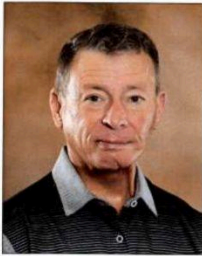
members, who made the trip to New Philadelphia with some driving over 2 hours to be there. A special part of the ceremony was seeing a sibling pin a younger sibling and a friend pin another friend as relationships have

been built in a mostly online environment.

Students stood together and recited the NJHS pledge, officially making them a part of a group of outstanding young citizens whose futures we know will shine. ■



# Quaker Academies and Communication



**Steve Eckert**  
Principal

tion is constructed. Their unwavering dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence pave the path for future generations.

At the heart of every thriving society lies the transformative power of education, and teachers are its architects. They are the guiding lights illuminating the minds of the

Celebrating teachers is not merely an act of recognition; it's a profound acknowledgment of their indispensable role in society. Teachers serve as the bedrock upon which the edifice of knowledge, values, and inspiration is constructed.

Beyond imparting knowledge, teachers are mentors, counselors, and confidants. They provide a haven where students can explore their potential, confront challenges, and dare to dream. Through their mentorship, teachers instill values of integrity, compassion, and responsibility, shaping not just scholars, but also exemplary citizens.

The impact of teachers extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. They are the unsung heroes who plant the seeds of change, nurturing the leaders, innovators, and visionaries of tomorrow. Their influence transcends borders, cultures,

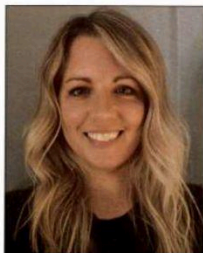
and generations, leaving an indelible mark on society.

Celebrating teachers is a testament to their selfless commitment and tireless efforts. It's a recognition of the countless sacrifices they make, often going above and beyond their call of duty to ensure the success of their students. From early mornings to late nights, from lesson planning to grading papers, their dedication knows no bounds.

As we celebrate teachers, let us reaffirm our collective responsibility to support and empower them. Let us invest in their professional development, provide them with the resources they need, and recognize the invaluable contribution they make to our communities. Today and every day, let us honor and celebrate these extraordinary individuals who shape our minds and mold our future. ■



## Wayne the Warrior



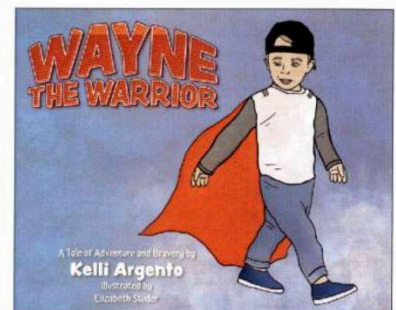
**Kelli Argento**  
Instructional Supervisor

der, was born in 2018. He was born with an undetected congenital heart defect called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. This required

Hello, my name is Kelli Argento and I am an Instructional Supervisor for QDA. I am a former 4th grade teacher and began working with Quaker Academies in 2022. Before that I took a few years off when my son, Ryder, was born in 2018. He was born with an undetected congenital heart defect called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. This required

him to undergo 3 open-heart surgeries as well as many other procedures. Needless to say, we have spent a lot of time in the hospital. If I had to guess, we are approaching close to 200 days spent there in his short life. In 2022 I wrote and published a children's book titled, *Wayne the Warrior*. It is inspired by my son and tells a tale of bravery and adventure while being a patient in the hospital. My dear friend, and nurse, did the illustrations for me. The characters are true to us and you'll see some of our favorite nurses and doctors in it.

With the help of some wonderful people and businesses, I have been able to donate over 300 copies (and counting) to children that are in-patient across the country. The



book is a very special project to me and one that I hope continues to be a great resource for others for many years. ■



# Student Highlights

Two students from the Quaker Digital Academy turned a Christmas gift into a unique learning opportunity. A camera, given to them as a present, sparked an investigation into the fascinating world of birds. By monitoring the bird's behavior, they were able to identify different species and document their eating habits, as well as the pecking order within the bird community. Additionally, they set out to solve a real-world problem, devising ways to prevent sneaky raccoons from stealing the bird food. This creative project not only fostered their curiosity and critical thinking skills but also provided a hands-on learning experience.



Jeffery and Jaide Endres



## The Bird Chronicles

Published by: Jaide and  
Jeffery Endres

Volume 1, Issue January 2024

# A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



FEMALE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

### The Importance of Birds

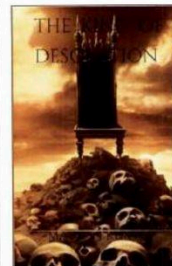
Birds are seen nearly everywhere. They are small creatures that have an impact on the ecosystem. You may be wondering how such a small creature can help the environment, but they certainly prove that no matter how small you are you can always make a difference. Have you ever been outside on a warm summer day only to be bitten by a mosquito and wished the insect would go away? Have you ever seen a random new plant sprouting and wondered how it got there? The answer to these questions just might be for the birds. Many bird species dine on insects in the warmer months. Many birds can even catch insects mid-flight. This dietary choice may not seem very appetizing to humans, but that doesn't mean it doesn't help the ecosystem and humans. Birds who eat insects help control the insect population and that includes mosquitoes. Birds also pollinate plants and aid in spreading seeds. By dropping seeds birds help introduce plant life into new areas. These natural bird habits help keep the ecosystem running smoothly.



### Feeding Wild Birds

Feeding wild birds in the winter can be important as it aids in the birds' survival. In the winter food sources are less abundant for birds so they rely on being assisted. A feeder doesn't have to be elaborate. In fact you can make a feeder from something as simple as an old milk jug. Keep in mind if you do set a feeder out that it can take some time for your feathered friends to find it, but once they do as long as you keep it well stocked they will become return visitors to your feeder. Many different types of seed can be used, but in order to get the most variety of birds it is best to offer mixed seed. Not all birds like sunflower seeds, but many do. Some birds prefer peanuts over anything and some like safflower seeds. You should keep in mind that other wildlife such as squirrels and raccoons also like bird seed. A good deterrent for unwanted visitors can be as simple as feeder placement. By putting the feeder away from trees it may help prevent unwanted visitors as they won't be able to gain access.

You may also try baffles or blocking devices around the feeder. Another great method is to simply offer seed that only the birds will like. For example, squirrels aren't particularly fond of safflower seed. Mammals also do not like spicy food, so offering your feathered friends a spicy variety can help ensure that only birds will be guilty of emptying your feeder. No matter what you decide to offer in your feeder remember to be patient as you wait for your first visitor. It is also important to prevent the spread of diseases, so be sure to clean your feeder regularly.



**Mayson Kukwa**, a talented student with a passion for storytelling, has achieved a remarkable feat by publishing his debut book, "The King of Desolation: Book one of The Ballad of Gods and Men". This impressive accomplishment is a testament to Mayson's dedication to his craft and his ability to craft engaging narratives. As a student, he has demonstrated remarkable creativity and perseverance, and his book is sure to inspire others to pursue their own literary endeavors. With "The King of Desolation", Mayson has set the stage for an epic adventure, inviting readers to join him on a thrilling journey through the realm of Nastomar.

**Hannah Conkle** is a senior at Quaker Digital Academy who has been working diligently to hone her creative writing skills. She has published numerous books on [www.wattpad.com](http://www.wattpad.com) and has over 300 followers. Many of her followers have left comments in the margins of her books which she has taken seriously. She recognized that having a writing coach would be an asset to achieve further development of her growing skills.

She spoke with her Instructional Supervisor, Robin Ludwig, about taking a creative writing course and to have tutoring sessions to further work on her books. While she is enrolled in Edmentum creative writing courses, she concurrently works with Dr. Kathleen Cintavey specifically to revise some of her books. To date, *The New Rainbow Squads, Book 1*, *Cyborg Gamer Girl* and *Purple Ninja* have been worked on. Hannah has composed additional books, including *Cursed House*, *Celestial Symbiosis*, *The Artists Game* and *Girl vs. The Undead*.

Hannah follows a schedule which sets aside specific time daily to work on her creative writing. She melds together her observations from her various interests, thinks deeply about them, then works to create characters, plots, settings and themes that will appeal to audiences. Her goal is to become a published author.

Kathleen Cintavey - 3/1/24



# Science of Reading



**Denise Grimm**  
*Curriculum Director*

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the state of Ohio has launched a new literacy initiative centered on the science of reading. The focus of this initiative involves understanding how our brains process written language and create meaning out of the words we see. Ohio has embraced this approach to teaching reading in order to increase student achievement. Reading involves several interconnected processes that work together to help individuals make sense of written language. These can be grouped into five main components:

- **Phonemic Awareness** is the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. You can strengthen a child's phonemic awareness by playing rhyming games where children identify words that sound alike (e.g., cat, hat, mat). You can also ask students to segment or blend sounds in words (e.g., "What sounds do you hear in the word 'cat'?").
- **Phonics** is a method of teaching reading that emphasizes the relationship between letters and their sounds. It helps readers to sound out words by breaking them into smaller phonetic components. Students can use letter-sound cards and match the letter with the corresponding sound or play word-building games where they form words by combining individual sounds.
- **Vocabulary** Understanding the meanings of words is crucial for comprehension. Readers need a good vocabulary to comprehend

the meaning of sentences and passages. Knowing the meanings of words and understanding how words relate to each other. You can introduce new words through reading and discussions. Encourage the use of context clues to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words. Create word charts or vocabulary cards with definitions and examples.

- **Fluency** is the ability to read smoothly and with expression. It involves recognizing words quickly and accurately, allowing readers to focus on understanding the meaning of the text. Have children read short passages aloud, emphasizing expression and pace. Use timed reading exercises to improve speed while maintaining comprehension.
- **Comprehension** is the ultimate goal of reading. It involves understanding the meaning of individual words, sentences, and the overall message of a passage. Effective readers use various strategies, such as predicting what will happen next, asking questions, and summarizing to enhance their understanding of the text. Discuss stories or passages after reading. Ask questions about the characters, plot, and main ideas. Encourage children to summarize what they've read in their own words.

The science of reading involves a combination of skills, strategies, and cognitive processes that work together to help individuals become proficient readers. At Quaker Academies, we are working together to align our reading instruction through professional development and coursework. Our team is dedicated to improving their understanding and teaching techniques in the area of literacy. ■

# Tech Updates



**Mike Ciereszewski**  
*QDA Asst.  
Superintendent  
of Tech and Data*

During the 2023-24 school year, Quaker Academies witnessed numerous system upgrades aimed at enhancing the student experience. Our Maestro Student Information system underwent one of the most significant user experience enhancements since its implementation in 2017. As Quaker Academies continues to see end users transition from traditional desktop and laptop usage to mobile devices, our upgrades have focused on improving the mobile user experience. MaestroSIS 5.0 continues this trajectory, providing all users with access to the same features and resources through its new

responsive design. Maestro serves as our centralized student information system, enabling students and their families to conveniently access essential announcements, student documents, academic records, and attendance information from a single location.

Parents and guardians can view their student's information through their personal accounts. For additional information, please contact the technology department.

Our second major enhancement was the integration of Clever for students. Clever utilizes the data stored in Maestro to grant students entry to various online educational platforms and resources using their MaestroSIS login credentials. The initial phase of our Clever integration connected students with tutoring services, math and reading intervention programs, and empowered our investment club trading platform. Clever allows our staff to efficiently allocate these resources to students, ensuring prompt and accurate access. We plan to broaden our Clever offerings further and establish a seamless single sign-on integration, enabling students to access Clever through Maestro with a single click.

The technology department is expanding the support channels available to our families. We now provide support through our online form, email, text message, phone, and remote access to school-issued devices. If you have any questions, suggestions, or require assistance, please visit [help.quakeracademies.org](http://help.quakeracademies.org) to connect with us. ■

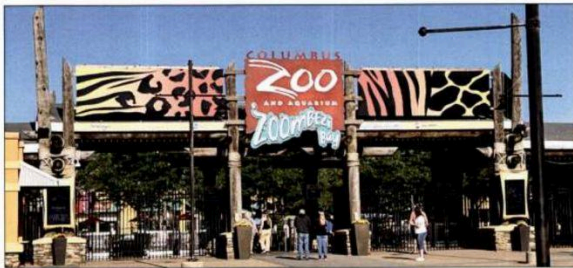


# 2023-2024 Field Trips

## Columbus Zoo

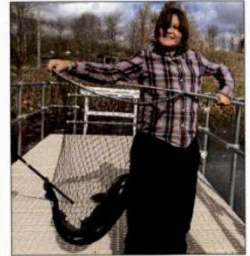
In May, over 200 students, parents, and staff members from Quaker Academies visited the Columbus Zoo, where they were treated to a wide range of animal encounters and educational experiences. The zoo's beautiful spring surroundings provided a stunning backdrop for the visit, which also supported the zoo's conservation efforts. The trip was designed to promote learning and appreciation for the natural world, while also providing an opportunity for socialization and bonding among students, parents, and staff.

During the visit, many families took advantage of the zoo's picnic facilities, enjoying a meal together at one of the shelters. This relaxed atmosphere allowed for meaningful conversations and memories to be made among group members. A group photo was taken to commemorate the special occasion, serving as a lasting reminder of the fun and educational experience.



## A Day at Deerassic Park

Quaker Academies students enjoyed a brisk, sunny day in Cambridge, Ohio, at Deerassic Park on Wednesday, November 1st. The pristine facilities included a Welcome Center with a gigantic replica of the head of a white-tail deer. Students were able to learn through touch and sound as they explored and learned about the animals native to Ohio. The day was filled with hands-on educational activities that included a log cabin nature center with live amphibians and reptiles that students could touch as they heard about the special characteristics of each one. A short hike took students to the creek to find dragonfly nymphs and salamanders. A highlight of the trip was fishing to catch bluegill and catfish. A special session included learning about how to tell an animal from its scat with many rubber examples to see. Students' competitive side came out during safe archery to see who could hit the target first. Deerassic Park was a hit with students and families and memories were made—especially for one student who caught a 26 inch catfish!





## Ramseyer Farms Field Trip 2023

The annual first field trip for Quaker Academies was at Ramseyer Farms on September 27, 2023 in Wooster, Ohio. Over 220 parents, students, and teachers attended for a fun-filled day. Participants enjoyed an educational wagon ride through the fields, learning about all the products that are made with corn like Corn Flakes, crackers, and corn syrup. As everyone bumped along, we learned about the growth of a pumpkin and where to find a pumpkin's belly button. Our last stop was a huge orange field to pick a pumpkin to take home.

The main event was the Ohio corn maze. Once inside you could follow the path that aligned with actual roads and rivers in Ohio. Students could follow the map and guide to find stamps and learn about the great state of Ohio's history.

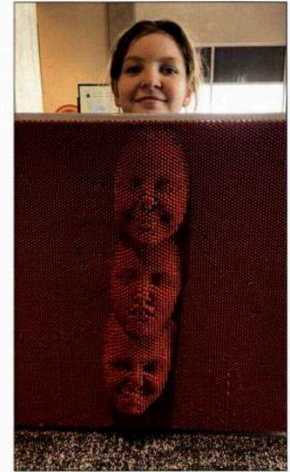
There were over 50 additional activities available to enjoy, like one of the largest barns filled with corn for jumping and playing, giant bubble makers, animals, duck races, pedal carts, a tire patch playground, jump pad, and many more.

It was a great day of connecting teachers with students, building friendships, physical activity and learning!



## Great Lakes Science Center

Quaker Academies enjoyed taking on the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland mid-March. The students got to explore extraordinary science exhibits, such as the plasma ball and the elliptical pool table, as well as watching a "Predators" movie about wildlife and survival inside the DOME theater! What a wonderful time Quaker staff and families had.



## 2024-2025 Tentative Field Trips

QDA and QPA have planned a variety of exciting field trips for the 2024-2025 school year! Here are some details of each trip:

### September Kuchta Farms (Braceville, Ohio)

A day of outdoor fun on a family farm with activities such as a 10+ Acre corn maze, wagon rides, a fall pumpkin patch, and an adventure zone.

### October Deerassic Park Education Center (Cambridge, Ohio)

A focus on outdoor education and encouraging students to appreciate nature and the environment.

### December Barberton Magical Theater (Barberton, Ohio)

A trip to a professional theater company that provides shows for young audiences and families.

### May Cincinnati Zoo Field (Cincinnati, Ohio)

A visit to the world-class Cincinnati Zoo, where students can observe animals up-close and learn about conservation and sustainability.

### May Ohio State House Tour (Columbus, Ohio)

The Ohio Statehouse is the state capitol building and seat of government for the U.S. state of Ohio.



# Special Services



**Elaine Karp**  
*Director of  
Student Services*

## Child Find

Federal, state and local regulations require all Ohio schools to conduct annual child find activities. Child Find is the process of locating, evaluating, and identifying children with suspected disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services.

and need special education and related services. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Director of Special Services, Elaine Karp, at [KarpE@go2qda.org](mailto:KarpE@go2qda.org).

## Tips For Parents

Here's a list of popular resources and apps to help students along their educational journey.

### What is the Purpose of Child Find

- To promote public awareness of disabilities.
- To alert parents, professionals and the public to children who may have special needs.
- To assist school districts in finding children who may have disabilities and who otherwise may not have come to their attention.
- To enable children and families to receive the special education and related services that are needed.

### What does a Disability Mean?

For ages three through five – A documented deficit in one or more of the following developmental areas: communication, vision, hearing, motor skills, social emotional/behavioral functioning, self-help skills, and/or cognitive skills. For ages five through twenty-one – A disability, in this instance, means such conditions as autism, deaf/blindness, multiple disabilities, deafness/hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment/blindness, specific learning disabilities, preschoolers with a disability, emotional disturbance, cognitive disabilities, speech and language impairments, orthopedic and other health impairments or traumatic brain injury.

### Under Section 504

In addition and in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment of 2008, Quaker Academies is participating in Child Find efforts to locate, evaluate and identify all children who have a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity who may because of disability, needs or is believed to need special education, related services or aids or accommodations/modifications. If a parent or guardian suspects that a child may be eligible under this federal definition, please contact the Director of Student Services office.

### Who Can Help?

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are used to help school districts find any child, ages three through twenty-one, who may have a disability

- **ClassDojo** is a distance learning app that allows students, teachers, and families to stay connected digitally through photos, videos, and messages about what they're learning together and at home.
- **Kahoot!** is a free game-based learning platform that lets your students grow academically through fun interactive games. Games are categorized by level and subject, so you can recommend games based on your individual students' needs.
- **Padlet** can help your classroom share answers and information by using a digital bulletin board to which every student can see and contribute.
- **Flipgrid** is a website that allows you to create "grids" to lead video discussions with your students. Each grid is like a message board where you can pose questions and then have students post video responses for their classmates to watch and for you to respond to.
- **Audiobooks** are perfect for students who are learning reading skills, allowing them to follow along independently while you're teaching remotely.
- **Word prediction software** can help special needs students engage with writing assignments on their own. While various word prediction programs exist, you can find specific ones to help your students with dyslexia, motor skill issues, spelling difficulties, and more.
- **Zearn Math** helps math make sense. Students explore math through pictures, visual models, and real-life examples.
- One to One tutoring with Intervention Specialists
- **Freckle** - is available helps students practice academic skills
- **Exact Path**- students will get a personalized learning path to reinforce skills.
- Collaborate with Your Therapists-Service providers such as speech occupational and physical therapists will work with your students. Parents should plan schedules to accommodate all of their services.

# Testing Reporting



**Kim Harriman**  
Testing Coordinator

Performance Distribution, By Test Group: Quaker Preparatory Academy, 2023-2024

Filtered By **Test Reasons:** All Test Reasons | **Sorted By:** Date Last Taken

## Ohio's State Tests Mathematics

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Tests Taken: 105 Date Last Taken: 04/26/2024



## KEY:

**RED:** Needs significant support to meet state standards in academic achievement.

**YELLOW:** Needs support to meet state standards in academic achievement.

**GREEN:** Meets state standards in academic achievement.

**BLUE:** Exceed state standards in academic achievement.

**PURPLE:** Significantly exceeds state standards in academic achievement.

## Ohio's State Tests ELA

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

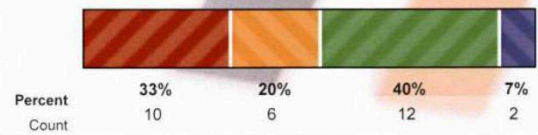
Tests Taken: 129 Date Last Taken: 04/26/2024



## Ohio's State Tests Science

Grades Tested: 5, 8

Tests Taken: 30 Date Last Taken: 04/26/2024



# Reporting

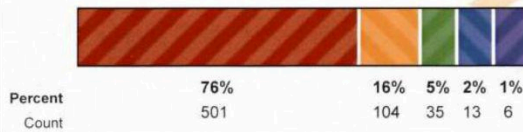
Performance Distribution, By Test Group: Quaker Digital Academy, 2023-2024

Filtered By **Test Reasons:** All Test Reasons | **Sorted By:** Date Last Taken

## Ohio's State Tests Mathematics

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,11,12,9

Tests Taken: 659 Date Last Taken: 06/27/2024



## Ohio's State Tests Science

Grades Tested: 5, 8, 10,11,12,9

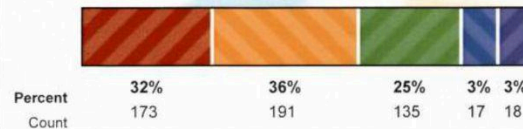
Tests Taken: 321 Date Last Taken: 05/10/2024



## Ohio's State Tests Social Studies

Grades Tested: 10,11,12,9

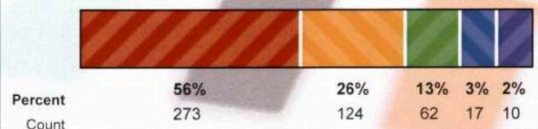
Tests Taken: 534 Date Last Taken: 04/26/2024



## Ohio's State Tests ELA

Grades Tested: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,11,12,9

Tests Taken: 486 Date Last Taken: 04/26/2024





# did you know?



## 2023-24 Average Enrollment

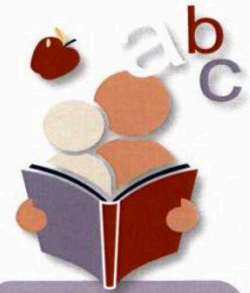
GRADE	QDA	QPA
K	9	16
1	8	18
2	8	13
3	8	31
4	10	12
5	10	16
6	27	21
7	51	21
8	75	17
9	153	
10	158	
11	166	
12	138	

## School Mission

Quaker Academies will enhance and facilitate student learning by combining state-of-the-art digital curriculum and instruction with access to local school resources that complement that instruction and prepare students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

**1636** Total Graduates

**186** 2024 Graduates



Number of  
CCP Students:

**12**

- KSU at Tuscarawas
- KSU at East Liverpool
- Walsh University
- University of Akron Wayne Campus

## School Vision

Quaker Academies engage students to become their own advocates in education through high expectations and goal setting and help instill in the enjoyment and commitment to continuous learning throughout one's lifetime.

**91%**

of the  
Senior Class  
Graduated  
in 2024



## Colleges 2024 Graduates will be Attending:

- KSU at Tuscarawas
- Cedarville University
- KSU at Kent
- Ohio University
- Wright State University
- Cleveland Institute of Art
- Wheeling University
- Youngstown State University
- Mount Union University

2023-24 Adult  
22+ Program

**3**

**GRADUATES**

 **Quaker Academies**  
Ohio Online Education



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

**STEUBENVILLE, 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



1-866-968-7032 ■ [www.quakeracademies.org](http://www.quakeracademies.org)