

Pleasant Valley Bears Academy



Excellence in Education, A Community Commitment

What is PVBA?

The Pleasant Valley Bears Academy is our district's virtual learning program, designed to offer students a flexible, personalized, and supportive online learning experience.

- Provides curriculum aligned with PA standards
- Serves students K-12
- Offers Credit Recovery opportunities, enrichment, and full-time virtual enrollment
- Offers a flexible, asynchronous learning style
- Built to support different learning styles, life circumstances, and academic needs!



Who are we?

At PVBA, we strive to be more than just a virtual school – we are a close knit team of dedicated educators who are committed to helping students thrive in online learning environments through support and accountability.

- **Jason Van Voorhis - PVBA Principal & Director of Instructional Technology**
 - Serves as the primary administrator for the program
 - Leads with a student-centered mindset, is supportive to his staff, and helps shape a flexible, inclusive learning environment tailored to the diverse needs of our students
- **Ariana Leibenguth - K-12 PVBA School Counselor**
 - Supports students academically through graduation planning, credit tracking, and academic guidance
 - Provides brief, solution-focused counseling for social-emotional needs (anxiety, motivation, grief, peer issues, etc).
 - Offers resources and referrals for students who may need more support
- **Michael Birnbaum - PVBA's Special Education Teacher**
 - Supports students with IEPs in the online setting, providing online learning support sessions tailored to individual student needs
 - Helps ensure that accommodations and modifications are followed in the virtual setting
- **Trevor Kresge - K-5 PVBA Teacher**
 - Leads daily virtual sessions for cyber elementary students, creating a consistent and engaging routine for young learners.



Curriculum Alignment

- All courses are aligned to PA state standards, ensuring age appropriate content.
- Students learn through Edgenuity, a district-approved platform, which offers standards-based curriculum across all core subjects and electives
- Lessons include videos, interactive content, assignments, and tests designed to build mastery and engagement.
- Our courses are customized as needed to mirror our brick and mortar curriculum ensuring consistency across our schools.
- ***Students are expected to meet the same graduation requirements as traditional brick and mortar students, ensuring their diplomas reflect the same level of rigor and achievement.***

K-5

- Elementary students learn through the Imagine Learning portal, a platform designed for young virtual learners
- Mr. Trevor Kresge is the dedicated K-5 PVBA teacher. He leads virtual daily sessions to help keep students engaged, connected, and supported from home.
- Students receive organized learning materials including printed packets and books to support hands-on learning at home.
- Great option for families seeking flexible, structured alternatives to in-person learning, especially for students who thrive in quieter, more individualized settings.
- Imagine Learning is a rigorous platform that requires hands on activity to offset screen time.
- Parent involvement is **key**, as K-5 virtual learning works best when a parent/guardian is home to support daily routines as a learning coach.

Imagine Learning Example

Student App

Courses To-do List Activity Stream ²

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Health 5-A

5 A Health

8/26/24 - 1/22/25 3:59 AM

348/350 **99.42%**

Current score Progress

Language Arts 5

5 A Language Arts (PA)

8/26/24 - 1/22/25 3:59 AM

93.46%

Current score Progress

Math 5

5 A Math (PA)

Current

8/26/24 - 1/22/25 3:59 AM

96.09%

Current score Progress

PE 5-A

Social Studies 5

Science 5

Calendar

December 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Tue Dec 3, 2024

- 5 A Health
 - ✓ 3.2 Quiz
- 5 A Language Arts (PA)
 - ✓ Reading Drama Quiz
- 5 A Math (PA)
 - > Module 5: Money and Decimal Operations (1 of 3 activities completed)
- 5 A Science (PA)
 - > Module 5: Sound and Light (0 of 2 activities completed)
- 5 A Social Studies (PA)
 - > Module 4: The Colonial Age (1 of 2 activities completed)
- Scratch Coding
- Game Time

Courses

- 5 A Health ✓
- 5 A Language Arts (PA) ✓
- 5 A Math (PA) ✓
- 5 A Physical Education ✓
- 5 A Science (PA) ✓
- 5 A Social Studies (PA) ✓
- Scratch Coding ✓

6-12

- All students grades 6-12 complete their work through the Edgenuity platform
- Learning is asynchronous, allowing students to work at their own pace.
- PV partners with Seneca Valley SD; students can message their teachers directly within Edgenuity to gain access to support
- Students can meet with their virtual teachers during their live Zoom office hours if they need additional support and/or guidance.
- Students can meet with their counselor virtually via her Google Booking calendar.
- In grades 6-8, coursework is designed to be basic, consistent, and streamlined for foundational learning.
- In grades 9-12, students have greater flexibility in choosing courses, including electives, advanced options, and even *credit recovery* when needed.



Attendance: How do we keep kids accountable in an online setting?

- Attendance is taken at the end of each week as our platform is primarily asynchronous.
- Attendance records are pulled Sunday and recorded on Monday morning.
- Our primary goal is for our students to remain **ahead and passing** their courses.
- If a student is **behind and/or failing**, attendance is closely monitored and will count towards intervention.
- Time-on-task can be tracked through Edgenuity's session logs, which show exactly how long students are engaged with their coursework (or are idle!)
- Aligned with our brick and mortar schools, ongoing attendance issues may lead to→ SAIP meetings, truancy filings (for students under 18), and automatic withdrawal after 10 consecutive absences for students 18+
- Students can not join PVBA to "hide" from accountability.

How PVBA Supports for Students

- Teacher office hours
- Varsity Tutor
- Live Learning Support
- Live teaching K-5
- Accessible and dedicated school counselor and administration
- Open Google Booking Calendar for counseling
- Multiple ways to communicate with PVBA staff and teachers

- e. [Mathematics](#)
 - i. Jay Roman - 8-9 pm on Mondays
 - ii. Cam Palmer - 7-8 pm on Tuesdays
 - iii. Katie Langley - 8-9 pm on Tuesdays
 - iv. Chad Robertson - 3-4 pm on Wednesdays
 - v. Lance Frederick - 5-6 pm on Thursdays
 - vi. Larry Wendereusz - 8-9 pm on Thursdays
- f. [Physical Education and Health](#)
 - i. Jennifer Durst - 4-5 pm on Mondays
 - ii. Jim Pyle - 8-9 pm on Mondays
 - iii. Skylar Meier - 7-8 pm on Tuesdays
 - iv. Megan Meeder - 7-8 pm on Wednesdays
- g. [The Sciences](#)
 - i. Matt Durst - 3-4 pm on Mondays
 - ii. Liz Porco - 5-6 pm on Mondays
 - iii. Crystal Cypher - 3-4 pm on Tuesdays
 - iv. Traci Kuntz - 6-7 pm on Wednesdays
 - v. Dean Leventopoulous - 8-9 pm on Wednesdays
 - vi. James Comunale - 3-4 pm on Thursdays
 - vii. Marlesse Hames - 8-9 pm on Thursdays
- h. [Social Studies and History](#)
 - i. Andrew Parker - 3-4 pm on Mondays
 - ii. Lilia Pries - 4-5 pm on Mondays
 - iii. Dave Zelner - 5-6 pm on Mondays
 - iv. J.P. McFeeley - 7-8 pm on Tuesdays
 - v. Jim Bull - 3-4 pm on Wednesdays
 - vi. Michael Henry - 8-9 pm on Wednesdays
 - vii. Jason Farone - 6-7 pm on Thursdays
- i. [Technology](#)
 - i. Bruce Clark - 4-5 pm on Tuesdays
 - ii. Ken Macek - 4-5 pm on Thursdays
 - iii. Steve Wolfe - 5-6 pm on Thursdays
- j. [World Languages](#)
 - i. Heather Sibeto (German) - 6-7 pm on Mondays
 - ii. Jessica Ott (Spanish) - 3-4 pm on Wednesdays
 - iii. Amy Seelbaugh (Latin) - 4-5 pm on Tuesdays
 - iv. Andrew Russell (Spanish and French) - 5-6 pm on Wednesdays



How PVBA Supports Parents

- Daily progress reports are automatically emailed to parents each morning so they can monitor their child's academic activity and course pacing.
 - Parents also have real-time access to grades and pacing in Edgenuity via the *family portal*.
- The school counselor, teachers, and administration communicate with families through mass emails and individual outreach when additional support or information is needed.
- Phone calls and/or virtual meetings are scheduled as needed to address concerns or celebrate successes.
- PVBA publishes and emails a weekly newsletter on Fridays called **The Weekly Growl**, keeping families informed about upcoming dates, events, and announcements.
- Report cards, grades, and scheduling information can be found in PowerSchool.

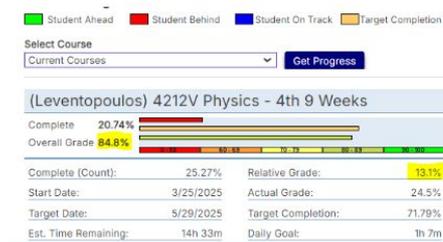
How does Grading Work?

In Edgenuity, there are three types of grades students may encounter: overall grade, actual grade, and relative grade. Each one offers a different perspective on a student's progress:

- **Overall Grade:** This is a snapshot of how the student is doing in the course, based on completed assignments and assessments. However, it does NOT affect the final grade entered into the gradebook.
- **Actual Grade:** This reflects the student's true performance based on completed coursework. However, it only matters if all the coursework is finished by the marking period deadline.
- **Relative Grade:** This is the most important grade for parents to focus on. The relative grade is what gets recorded at the end of each marking period. If a student hasn't completed all of their coursework by the end of the marking period, the relative grade will be used. If the relative grade is 65%, it means the student has "passed at the bare minimum," but if they don't finish more work, that will be their final grade for the marking period.]

Edgenuity works by uploading assignments daily for students to complete. These uploaded assignments are **automatically entered as zeros** until the student goes in to complete these assignments, in which the zero is then overwritten with the student's graded work. If a student doesn't complete the entire course by the end of the marking period, the **relative grade** will be recorded in the gradebook. This is because any unfinished assignments will remain as zeros, which can significantly drop the relative grade. As a result, the relative grade often ends up being much lower if the student hasn't finished all their work by the deadline.

All three grades WILL match if the student is 100% complete with their course at the end of the marking period.



Please see the screenshot to the left of a student's course. The TOP RED BAR shows the student at 20.74% completion. If the progress bar is RED, that means the student is BEHIND with their work. If it is GREEN, the student is ahead. If it is BLUE, the student is exactly on pace with where they need to be in the course.

The second bar is the target completion bar. This bar dictates



Benefits of PVBA

- Flexible, asynchronous schedules and coursework
- Learn from anywhere with internet access (perfect for those with health concerns, travel needs, or non-traditional routines)
- Access to a K-12 online curriculum aligned with both PA state and PV district standards
- Multiple course options for students, including honors courses, AP courses, and career-focused elective options
- District-issued Chromebooks and learning materials are provided to all students
- Structured routines with accountability, but enough freedom to promote self-management and independence
- ***Stay part of PVSD - PVBA students can still attend school dances, participate in clubs & sports, and graduate with their class!***

Graduation Tracking for Seniors

Summarize this

C	D	E	F	G	H
IEP/504?	Pathway	Civics Exam	Kuder Assignments	Coming to Graduation?	Documentation of Call
N/A	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Proficiency	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	4-Year College	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	4-Year College	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	ASVAB	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	NOT-GRADUATING	Complete	Incomplete	Yes, coming	Ineligible for graduation
N/A	ASVAB	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Evidence-Based	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
IEP	NOT-GRADUATING	Complete	Incomplete	Not-graduating	Ineligible for graduation
IEP	4-Year College	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
IEP	NOT-GRADUATING	Complete	Incomplete	Not-graduating	Ineligible for graduation
N/A	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Evidence-Based	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	NOT-GRADUATING	Incomplete	Incomplete	Not-graduating	Ineligible for graduation
N/A	4-Year College	Complete	Complete and approved	No, not coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Proficiency	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Proficiency	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Keystone Composite	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	Evidence-Based	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!
N/A	4-Year College	Complete	Complete and approved	No, not coming	GOOD TO GO!
IEP	ASVAB	Complete	Complete and approved	Yes, coming	GOOD TO GO!

Analyze this data

- 62 Seniors FT PVBA
- 27 Seniors MCTI/PVBA
- Of the students who did not graduate this year, most were credit deficient coming in to PVBA. While they had a successful school year, it was not enough to cover the full amount of credits needed.

- PVBA graduation rate = 89%
- Statewide Average = 87%
- CCA graduation rate = 64%
- PA Cyber Charter = 61%
- Insight PA cyber = 68%
- 100% of PVBA students with IEP's who had senior status coming into PVBA graduated on time for the second year in a row!



Questions about
PVBA?

Contact us at:

vanvoorhis.jason@pvbears.org

leibenguth.ariana@pvbears.org

