



PLEASANT VALLEY

Bears Academy

Your cyber learning experience starts here!

WELCOME!

Dear PVBA Families,

Welcome to the Pleasant Valley Bears Academy! We are excited to have you join our cyber learning community. Whether you are continuing your online learning journey or starting fresh, we are here to support you every step of the way. This packet includes everything you need to get started with **Edgenuity**, understand our program expectations, and access support when needed. We look forward to a successful school year together!

Warm regards,
The PVBA Team

WHO IS A PART OF THE PVBA TEAM?

Jason Van Voorhis → “Mr. V.”

PVBA Principal and Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation

Jason Van Voorhis is the Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation at Pleasant Valley School District, where he also serves as the principal of the district’s cyber school. He transitioned into this role in April 2023 after serving as principal of Pleasant Valley Middle School. In April 2024, his title was updated to reflect his expanded responsibilities in integrating technology across the district’s academic programs. Mr. V. began his career as an instrumental music teacher and is an accomplished trumpet player! His background in music education and leadership continues to influence his approach to innovation and student engagement in the digital learning environment.

Ariana Leibenguth → “Miss L.”

PVBA K-12 School Counselor

Miss L. is in her second year as a school counselor and is certified to work with students in grades K–12. She completed internships at every grade level, giving her a strong foundation in

supporting students of all ages. As a member of Gen Z, Miss L. is comfortable with technology and has fully embraced the cyber school environment. She enjoys fantasy books and video games, which helps her connect with students who share similar interests. Miss L. can help with academic planning, career and college goals, and short-term, solution-focused counseling. She's also happy to provide resources and support whenever students need them.

Michael Birnbaum

IEP Learning Support Teacher

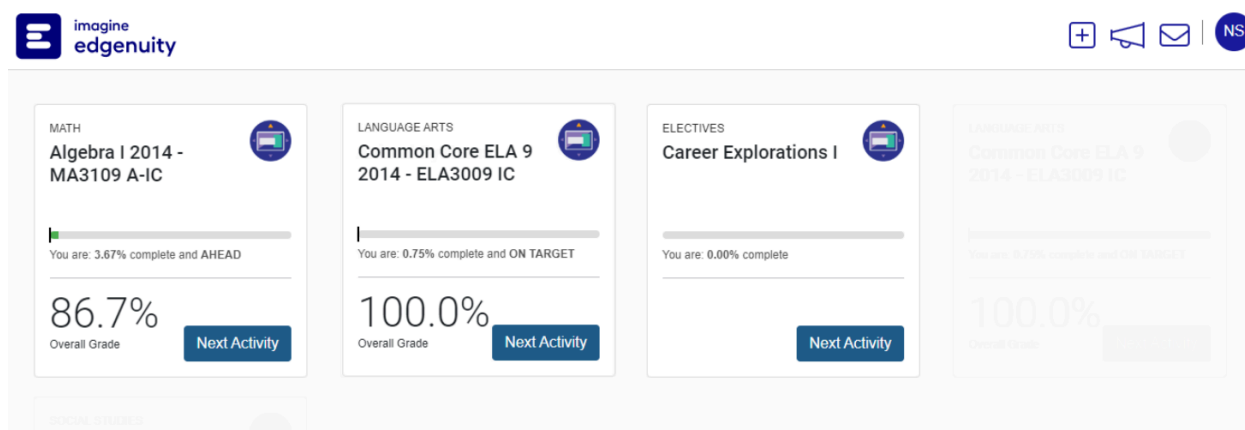
Mr. Birnbaum is the learning support teacher at PVBA, working closely with students who have IEPs to help them succeed in the online setting. With many years of teaching experience, he provides weekly scheduled sessions and creates breakout rooms for small group work and extra support. Learning support is a valuable elective credit at the high school level, offering students help with tests, essays, homework, and general academic guidance. Mr. Birnbaum is dedicated to making sure every student has the tools and support they need to thrive online.

Trevor Kresge

K-5 Online Teacher

Mr. Kresge is a certified K–5 teacher who works closely with PVBA's elementary students. In this program, K–5 instruction is delivered through the assigned curriculum. Live sessions facilitated by Mr. Kresge is designed to supplement and support the curriculum—providing Q&A, guided practice, and check-ins.

WHAT IS EDGENUITY?



Edgenuity is a robust online learning platform that provides interactive, standards-aligned instruction in core academic subjects and electives. Through Edgenuity, students can work at a personalized pace while staying aligned with state academic standards.

How the Program Works

- ❖ Self-paced learning: Students are expected to log in daily and follow a pacing guide provided in their dashboard.
- ❖ Video lessons, notes, quizzes, and tests make up the core of each course
- ❖ Progress tracking: Students and parents can monitor real-time progress and grades.
- ❖ Certified teachers and PVBA staff are available to help when needed.

Pleasant Valley Bears Academy partners with **Seneca Valley** to offer a variety of elective courses taught by certified teachers. These teachers hold regular live office hours via Zoom, where students can ask questions, get extra help, or review course material. Students can also reach out to their teachers directly through Edgenuity's built-in messaging feature for additional support.

Logging In and Navigating Edgenuity

Website: <https://auth.edgenuity.com/Login>

Username: Your PV SCHOOL ID # + [@pvbears.org](mailto:111222@pvbears.org) (Example: 111222@pvbears.org)

Password: Your PV SCHOOL password.

***If you are unsure of what your password is, please contact Miss L via email.

[Click here to watch the informational video on how to use Edgenuity.](#)

Edgenuity Parent Portal: How to Access

Family Log-In Activation

1. Go to the Parent Portal Log In Page → <https://auth.edgenuity.com/Login/Login/Family>
2. Click on **activate account**
3. Enter your email and activation code.
4. If you do not have an activation code, please email leibenguth.ariana@pvbears.org to be sent a code.
5. Click *continue*.
6. Enter a password, and confirm the password.
7. Enter a security question and an answer.
8. Log in to the Edgenuity Family Portal with your email and password you created.
9. Upon log in you can view basic information about your student, as well as information explaining the different reports available.

STUDENT Nitara Singh		SCHOOL CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL	SELECT STUDENT
RECENT ACCESS 6/15/2018 5:40:19 PM	TIME THIS WEEK None	ACTIVITIES None	



ATTENDANCE
LOG



PROGRESS
REPORT

Welcome to Edgenuity Family Portal!

Here is a quick run through of all the features available to you.

Student Snapshot

Above is a summarized view of your current student. If you are linked to multiple students, you can change which student you are viewing at any time by clicking on the "Select Student" menu. The student's name and school is displayed as well as their most recent access time, their total seat-time for the current week, and the number of activities completed during that week.

Student Reports

When viewing reports, you will be shown results for the currently selected student.

Attendance Log
View active time, idle time, and number of activities completed between any two given dates. Results are grouped by week > day > course.

Progress Report
View detailed information for each course, including: course completed (%), overall grade (%), grade weight, as well as course start and target dates.

Add Another Student Account to your Family Portal

1. Go to the Family Portal → <https://auth.edgenuity.com/Login/Login/Family>
2. Click on Activate Account
3. Enter your email and activation code for your other student.

Attendance Check

1. Log in to the Family Portal.
2. Click on the "Attendance Log" button.
3. Select a date range and click *Submit*

This will allow you to see the time spent in a class and any idle time by date and week. This report is searchable by date range and can be printed.

WHAT KINDS OF CLASSES CAN I TAKE?

[Please click here to reference our 25-26 PVBA course list!](#) Most courses align with PV standards, but PVBA *does* offer some cyber-exclusive courses.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

At PVBA, attendance is tracked through login activity and assignment completion in Edgenuity. The PVBA team has access to students' session logs, which provide detailed information on what they are working on, when they are working, and their activities during login sessions.

Full-time middle and high school students, grades 6-12, are expected to log at least 12.5 hours of work each week. To stay on pace, we recommend students spend about 2.5 hours per day, or roughly 30 minutes per course. Students should follow their assignment calendars and complete all assignments daily. While 12.5 hours is the minimum, there may be weeks where more is needed, depending on the rigor of the assignments and the student's pace of work completion.

Our attendance secretary reviews the weekly activity every Monday. Students who log 12.5 hours or more are marked present. For every 2.5 hours under that threshold, one day of absence is recorded. However, if a student is ahead in their courses and passing, we will take that into account, and an absence may not be marked.

Truancy

It's important to note that cyber students are still subject to Pennsylvania's truancy laws. Continued attendance issues can result in required SAIP (Student Attendance Improvement Plan) meetings with the counselor and principal, and in some cases, truancy referrals that may lead to court involvement and/or fines. Staying on top of your work and logging in consistently helps avoid these issues and keeps students on the path to success.

MCTI/ Diversified Occupations Students

MCTI students enrolled through PVBA have a reduced course load compared to full-time students, typically taking only 3 or 4 academic classes. Because of this lighter class schedule and the demands of their "shop" classes, their attendance expectations are adjusted accordingly. MCTI students are expected to log about 30 minutes per course each day. This adds up to approximately 1.5 to 2 hours per day, or 7.5 to 10 hours per week, depending on the number of courses they are enrolled in. Staying on top of coursework daily helps ensure students meet attendance requirements and make steady progress in their classes while attending MCTI for hands-on training.

Parent and/or Medical Notes

Parents can submit up to 10 excused absence notes for their child. They should submit directly to the email: pvbaattendance@pvbears.org. Extended absences must be communicated to PVBA staff, as a lack of engagement or missed work may result in intervention. In the event of medical emergencies or situations, please provide medical documentation to pvbaattendance@pvbears.org bronson.dayna@pvbears.org.

10-Day Drops

For students who are 18+. If a student who is 18+ is inactive for more than 10 consecutive days, they will be eligible for a 10-day drop as per PVSD policy. As best practice, the principal and/or school counselor will reach out to your family via phone or email prior to the drop to give your child a chance to log in and start completing work again.

*HOLIDAYS** - An important note*

Because Bears Academy works with the Seneca Valley School District (SVSD) as a third-party partner, the holiday and school-off schedule may not always align with the Pleasant Valley School District (PVSD) calendar, which impacts student workload and attendance.

When SVSD is **off** but PVSD is **not**, Seneca Valley will not assign new work; students are encouraged to use this time to catch up on any late assignments or work ahead, but if they are current and passing all courses, they may take the day as a break.

Conversely, when PVSD is **off** but SVSD is **not**, Bears Academy attendance will **not** be taken, and students are **not** required to log in; although SVSD may continue to upload assignments which could temporarily mark a student as behind, the lack of attendance recording means these days will not negatively impact the student, as the primary requirement is the successful completion (100%) of all courses by the marking period's end.

Flexibility of the Course

Edgenuity courses are designed with flexibility in mind. Work is divided across a 45-day quarter, but there is no daily login requirement or fixed schedule. Students can work at their own pace, as long as Part One of the course is fully completed by the end of the quarter. For Quarter 1, this deadline is October 28th.

This means that while assignments have suggested due dates, there is no penalty for late submissions as long as all work is finished by the end of the marking period. This flexible model allows students to manage their time and create a schedule that works best for them, while still staying on track to finish by the quarter deadline.

CALENDAR

[Click here for the printable version](#) of the calendar (month by month).

Scroll to the next page for a one-page district calendar.

Pleasant Valley School District 2025-2026 School Year Calendar

August '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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						
Student: 4 Staff: 8						

August

12-13 New Teacher Orientation
 20 District-Wide Opening Day -
 No School for Students
 21 Staff Development -
 No School for Students
 25 First Day of School for Students
 29 Labor Day Holiday - No School
 For Students - Offices Open

January

1, 2 Winter Recess
 19 Dr. Martin Luther King Day
 No School for Students -
 Offices Open
 20 End of Second Marking
 Period - Tentative

January '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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
Student: 19/98 Staff: 19/100						

September '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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				
Student: 21/25 Staff: 21/27						

September

1 Labor Day Holiday - District
 Closed
 12 Act 80 Day-No School for Students

February

13 Act 80 Day - No School for
 Students
 16 President's Day - No School
 for Students - Offices Open

February '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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
Student: 19/117 Staff: 19/119						

October '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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	
Student: 23/48 Staff: 23/50						

October

13 Columbus Day/Indigenous
 Peoples' Day - Act 80 Day -
 No School for Students
 28 End of First Marking Period

March

20 Act 80 Day - No School for
 Students
 25 End of Third Marking
 Period - Tentative

March '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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				
Student: 22/139 Staff: 22/141						

November '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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						
Student: 17/85 Staff: 17/87						

November

21 Early Dismissal for students
 24, 25 Act 80 Day-No School for
 Students, Parent-Teacher
 Conferences K-12 8am-7:30pm
 as determined by appointments
 26 Thanksgiving Recess -
 10 Month Employees
 27, 28 Thanksgiving Day/Recess

April

1 Half day for Students
 2-3, 6 Spring Recess

April '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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		
Student: 19/158 Staff: 19/160						

December '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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			
Student: 14/79 Staff: 14/81						

December

1 Thanksgiving Recess
 2 Act 80 Day-No School for
 Students
 19 Early Dismissal for Students
 22, 23 Winter Recess for Students and
 10 Month Employees
 24-31 Winter Recess

May

25 Memorial Day - District
 Closed
 29 TENTATIVE Commencement

May '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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						
Student: 20/178 Staff: 20/180						

During inclement weather or a district emergency, the school district may adjust school time, implement a Remote Instructional Day, or close school for the day. If the school district closes on a day that students are scheduled to be in school, the make-up day will be added at the end of the school year.

Section 15-1502: Official local school district holidays 11/28/25, 12/1/25, 12/31/25 and 4/3/26

June

2 TENTATIVE Last Day of
 School for Students-Early
 Dismissal
 3, 4 Staff Development Day -
 10 Month Employees
 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

June '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	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				
Student: 2/180 Staff: 4/184						

- Staff Development Day/New Teacher Orientation-No School for Students
- No School for Students
- Act 80 Day - No School for Students
- 2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students
- Half Day Dismissal for Students
- End of Marking Periods - Tentative

Month	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	Total
Student	4	21	23	17	14	19	19	22	19	20	2	180
Teacher	6	21	23	17	14	19	19	22	19	20	4	184

Board Approved: 01/23/2025

Revised: 04/24/2025

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:

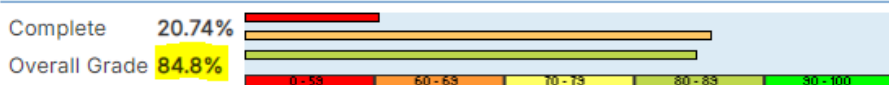
- **Overall Grade:** Represents the work that the student has handed in to the teacher and has had *graded*. This does not include any penalties for missing and/or overdue assignments.
- **Actual Grade:** The grade on the work that the student has submitted - but is adjusted based on *progress completion*. If a student is BEHIND in progress, the actual grade will factor this in and the grade may decrease.
- **Relative Grade:** This is the most important grade for parents to focus on, particularly at the end of the quarter. The relative grade is the grade that a student will receive at the end of each marking period as their FINAL grade. Relative grade takes any/all missing or incomplete assignments and factors them into the student's overall grade *as a zero*. This can seriously affect a student's grade if they do NOT 100% complete their courses by the end of each 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.

■ Student Ahead
 ■ Student Behind
 ■ Student On Track
 ■ Target Completion

Select Course
 Current Courses ▼
Get Progress

(Leventopoulos) 4212V Physics - 4th 9 Weeks



Complete (Count):	25.27%	Relative Grade:	13.1%
Start Date:	3/25/2025	Actual Grade:	24.5%
Target Date:	5/29/2025	Target Completion:	71.79%
Est. Time Remaining:	14h 33m	Daily Goal:	1h 7m

	Quiz	Test	Assignment	Lab
Taken	3		19	1
Tested Out				
Total	15	1	72	3
Graded	3		3	1
Score	87%		89%	63%
Weight	25%	20%	45%	10%

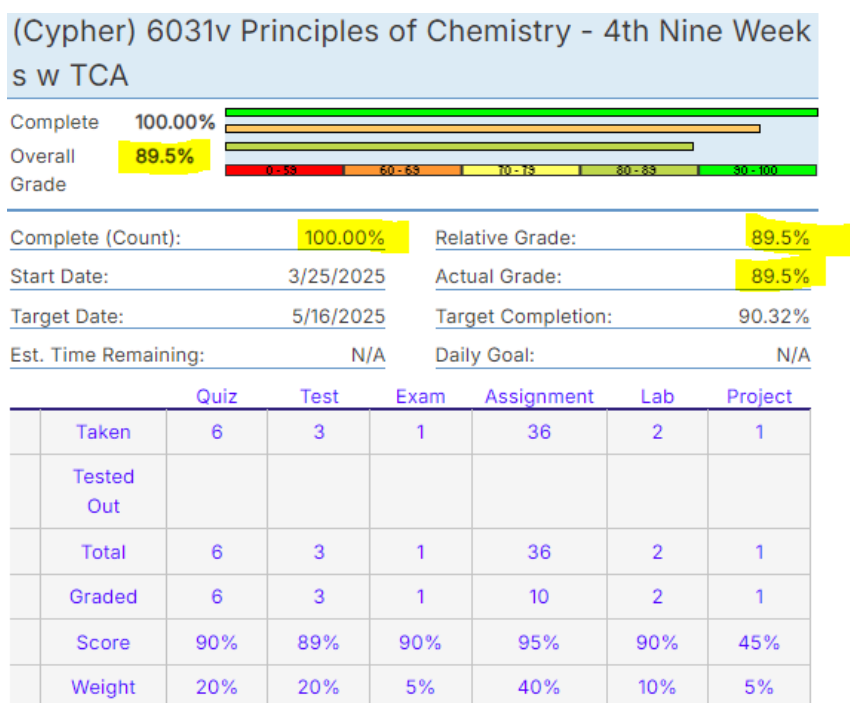
All three grades WILL match if the student is 100% complete with their course at the end of the marking period.

Please see the screenshot to the left of the 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 where Edgenuity predicts the student *should be* at this point in the marking period. “Target Completion” is listed above at 71.79%. Therefore, it is clear that this particular student is significantly behind in their work.

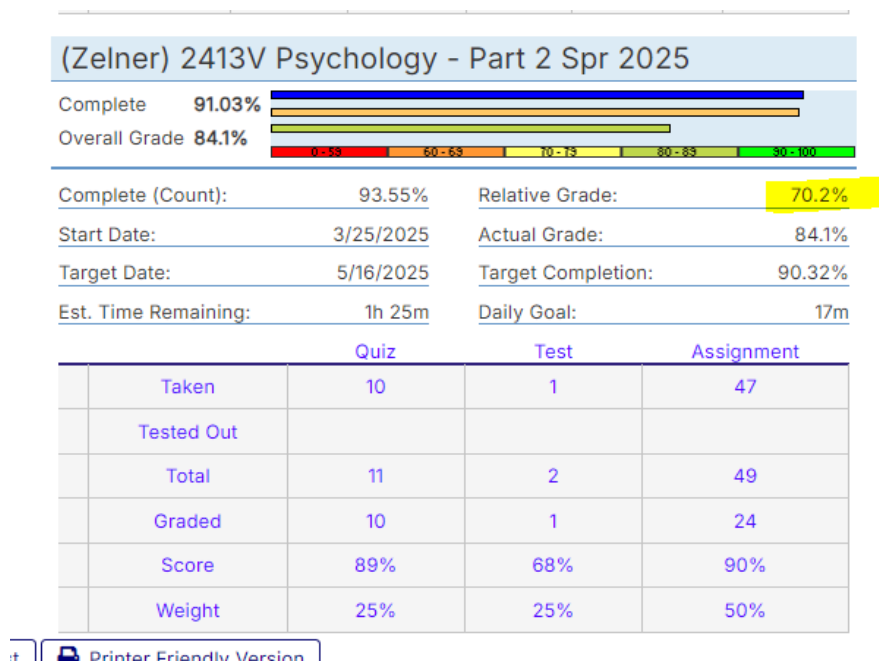
The student’s overall grade is very good at an 85%, but take note of the relative grade. It is only **13.1%**. Because the student is very behind with their work, all unfinished/incomplete assignments have been entered as a *zero*. If the student *did* complete the course in full by the end date of 5/29/2025, the student would receive a grade of 85% (as all three grades will match). If the student stopped at 20% completion, they would receive a 13% as their grade for the marking period.

The image to the right is of a student who 100% completed their course. As you can see, all three grades match. Their progress bar is green, indicating they are ahead of schedule. This student finished their coursework early and was treated to an “early summer.” The student to the left here has a BLUE progress bar, meaning they are exactly on pace. See the completion bar (72.34%) matching closely with the “Target Completion” of 71.79%.



When a student is ON-PACE, their overall and actual grade will match. This student has not completed their course yet, and has an estimated time remaining of 2 hours and 27 minutes. The relative grade is still pretty low, as the student isn’t close to finishing the course.

Essentially, a student can stop working in their online courses once they reach the minimum passing score of 65%, and they will essentially “pass” regardless of whether they complete the course. Despite this, it is recommended that all students complete their courses to the fullest extent to achieve the best grade possible.



In the image to the right, this particular student's relative grade is at a 70%. They have successfully passed the course for the marking period. If they stopped all work now, they would receive a 70% as their grade for the marking period.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents are automatically enrolled to receive daily Edgenuity progress reports via email—usually around 5 a.m. These reports include all three types of grades: **overall**, **actual**, and **relative**. They also show your child's progress bar, which helps indicate whether they are on track with their coursework.

Here's how to read the progress bar:

- **Green or Blue Bar:** Student is on track (blue) or ahead (green)—great job!
- **Red Bar:** Student is behind and needs to complete more work to stay on pace. Encourage them to catch up.

It's important to check progress reports at the end of the day, not first thing in the morning. That's because Edgenuity automatically enters assignments early in the morning (often before students are awake), and any work not yet completed is temporarily marked as a zero. This can make grades look lower than they actually are until your child logs in and completes the assignments. If you're not receiving progress reports, please reach out to Miss L. to get enrolled. These reports are a valuable tool for staying informed and supporting your child's success in the cyber environment. To counter this, we recommend students work at least one to two days ahead so they never fall behind.

Parents - PLEASE check your child's progress regularly via the Progress Reports to ensure that your student is on track. You may also check your child's progress reports via the Edgenuity Parent Portal (instructions located on pg 4).

SCHEDULES

PVBA's courses align with our brick-and-mortar schools.

Elementary (K-5 with Mr. Kresge)

- ❖ Grades K-5 are taught via live instruction with Mr. Kresge! Parents should expect to be learning coaches, *not teachers*.
 - Students will complete their coursework on Imagine Learning. Please click here to access Mr. Kresge's informational [Welcome Letter](#).

Middle School (6-8)

- ❖ Grades 6-8 are a standard curriculum.
 - 6th Graders will take their (4) core classes (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies) on Edgenuity.
 - They will not take their specials online; instead, Edgenuity will provide your child with an asynchronous **specials packet** that you will need to submit to a teacher.
 - 7th Graders (unless transferring in after Q1) will take the following standard curriculum:
 - English 7
 - Math 7
 - Life Science 7
 - American History 7
 - *Specials:*

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Physical Education 7	Coding	Exploring Technology 8	Family and Consumer Science 7
Health 7	Computer Technology 7	Intro to Spanish	Visual Arts 7

- 8th Graders will take the following standard curriculum:
 - English 8
 - Math 8
 - Physical Science 8
 - American History 8
 - *Specials:*

●

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Physical Education 8	Informational Processing 8	Digital Marketing	Family and Consumer Science 8
Health 8	Exploring Technology 8	Intro to French	Visual Arts 8

**Please note that these electives are not subject to change. However, you may elect for your child to participate in Honors Level English and Social Studies if their performance warrants the extra rigor.*

Failing a Middle School Class

Failing two or more classes in middle school may result in your child needing to participate in **summer school**. Summer school runs for 3 weeks in June each year, and there may be costs associated with it. Your child will complete the coursework online through Edgenuity, but a Pleasant Valley teacher will be there to guide them. The teacher will also hold live office hours via Google Meet, so students can get help or tutoring if needed. If your child ends up failing three or more core classes, there's a chance your child may be retained.

High School

Grades 9-12 will take all of their courses through Edgenuity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS - Class of 2026	CREDIT REQUIREMENT
ENGLISH	4
MATHEMATICS	3
SCIENCE	3
SOCIAL STUDIES	3
1 ADDITIONAL CREDIT FROM SCIENCE, MATH, OR SOCIAL STUDIES	1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	0.5
HEALTH	0.25
CAREER EXPLORATIONS	0.25
WELLNESS COURSE(S)	1
ELECTIVES	8
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED=	24

COURSE REQUIREMENTS - Class of 2027	CREDIT REQUIREMENT
ENGLISH	4
MATHEMATICS	3
SCIENCE	3
SOCIAL STUDIES	3
1 ADDITIONAL CREDIT FROM SCIENCE, MATH, OR SOCIAL STUDIES	1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	0.25
HEALTH	0.25
CAREER EXPLORATIONS	0.25
WELLNESS COURSE(S)	1.5
ELECTIVES	8
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED=	24

COURSE REQUIREMENTS - Class of 2028	CREDIT REQUIREMENT
ENGLISH	4
MATHEMATICS	3
SCIENCE	3
SOCIAL STUDIES	3
1 ADDITIONAL CREDIT FROM SCIENCE, MATH, OR SOCIAL STUDIES	1
WELLNESS & HEALTH	2
FINANCIAL LITERACY	0.5
ELECTIVES	7.5
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED=	24

COURSE REQUIREMENTS - Class of 2029	CREDIT REQUIREMENT
ENGLISH	4
MATHEMATICS	3
SCIENCE	3
SOCIAL STUDIES	3
1 ADDITIONAL CREDIT FROM SCIENCE, MATH, OR SOCIAL STUDIES	1
WELLNESS & HEALTH	2
FINANCIAL LITERACY	0.5
ELECTIVES	7.5
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED=	24

You can reference the Pleasant Valley High School 2025-2026 Program of Studies [here](#). Please reference pages 9-10 for required grade level courses.

Course Offerings

Additionally, PVBA offers a wide array of courses, some exclusive to only PVBA! [Take a look at our 2025-2026 Course Offerings List here.](#)

Failing a High School Class

In high school, students are not typically held back year to year. Instead, they are encouraged to stay with their graduating class (cohort) and work toward earning the 24 credits required for graduation. If a student doesn't earn enough credits, they must repeat their senior year until they meet the credit requirement. If a student fails a core class, they may have the opportunity to recover the credit through summer school. Last year, summer school courses were offered through Edgenuity and taught by Pleasant Valley teachers, who were available during live office hours to support students. These credit recovery courses had a cost of \$200 and were only available to students who had earned at least a 50% in the failed class.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students with IEPs

At Pleasant Valley Bears Academy, we are committed to supporting all learners, including students with IEPs. Students must have their IEPs revised to reflect a cyber setting. **New, incoming IEP students MUST have their IEPs revised by a case manager PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT!**

Learning Support

Our virtual learning support services are led by Mr. Michael Birnbaum, the K–12 case manager for special education. Mr. Birnbaum serves as the virtual learning support teacher and works closely with students to ensure their IEP goals and accommodations are fully met in the online setting. Mr. Birnbaum holds virtual sessions multiple times a week through Google Meet, where he provides direct support with homework, essays, tests, and even graduation requirements. High school students who attend and participate in these learning support sessions earn elective graduation credit for the course. In addition to academic support, Mr. Birnbaum monitors student performance, conducts IEP meetings, and ensures accommodations are properly integrated into the cyber learning environment. At the start of the school year, he will email students their scheduled support times and Google Meet links. During sessions, students may also be placed into breakout rooms to work collaboratively with peers—creating opportunities for connection and interaction in the virtual space. We are proud to offer this dedicated support to help students thrive and meet their goals in a flexible, online learning environment.

[Please see Mr. Birnbaum's Welcome Letter here.](#)

Students with 504s

For cyber students with a 504 Plan, Miss L. serves as the case manager and point of contact. Each year, she offers families the opportunity to review and renew the plan through an annual meeting. Meetings can be held virtually, in person, or—if no changes are needed—Miss L. can simply send the updated plan electronically for digital signatures. This flexible approach ensures that students continue to receive the support and accommodations they need to succeed in their learning environment.

SENIORS - CLASS OF 2026

Academic Requirements

- ❖ **English:** 4.0 credits
- ❖ **Social Studies:** 4.0 credits
- ❖ **Math:** 3.0 credits
- ❖ **Science:** 3.0 credits
- ❖ **Additional Core Credit:** 1.0 credits
- ❖ **Physical Education:** 0.5 credits
- ❖ **Health:** 0.25 credits
- ❖ **Career Explorations:** 0.25 credits
- ❖ **Wellness:** 1.0 credits
- ❖ **Electives:** 8.0 credits

Total required credits for graduation: 24 minimum credits

***If you need a copy of your unofficial transcripts, please email Miss L. to request them. Transcripts are updated over the summer, and then again in January after Semester One.*

Career Artifacts Requirements

As part of the state's career readiness initiative, all Pennsylvania students must develop a career portfolio that includes a minimum of **eight career artifacts** by the end of their senior year in order to be eligible for graduation. Pleasant Valley's career readiness database is called **Kuder Navigator**. Students log in through their **Clever Portal**.

- **The 8 required artifacts are:**

- Take the Career Interests Assessment
- Take the Skills Confidence Assessment
- Take the Work Values Assessment
- Write a resume
- Create a cover letter
- Gather 2-5 references
- Write a one-paragraph personal reflection related to career exploration
- Submit your high school education plan

[Please reference this step-by-step presentation on how to complete your 8 required career artifacts in Kuder Navigator.](#)

Act 158 Graduation Pathways

Act 158 provides multiple ways for students in Pennsylvania to meet graduation requirements beyond passing standardized tests. All Pleasant Valley seniors must demonstrate readiness for graduation through **one of five pathways**:

1. **Keystone Proficiency Pathway**
 - Score Proficient or Advanced on all three Keystone Exams: Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.
2. **Keystone Composite Pathway**
 - Score at least **one Proficient** and meet a **combined total score of 4452** across all three exams.
3. **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway (MCTI ONLY)**
 - Complete a CTE program and show readiness through industry-based assessments or NOCTI/NIMS tests.
4. **Alternative Assessment Pathway**
 - Provide evidence of postsecondary success, such as acceptance into a 4-year college, scoring a 31+ on the ASVAB, or scoring a 970+ on the PSAT.
 - i. Note: PVHS hosts the PSATs for *free* at the high school in October. Contact Miss L for more information.

- ii. Note: PVHS hosts the ASVAB testing at the school 3 times for free. Seniors get first priority in the first two testing sessions, and the third session would be open to juniors as well.

5. Evidence-Based Pathway

- Submit a combination of 3 career artifacts– letters of recommendation, work experience, and other documents showing career readiness.

Please refer to [page 14 in the Program of Studies](#) for more detailed information on Act 158 and the qualifications for a pathway. If you're unsure of your Keystone Scores, please contact Miss L. or Ms. Natalie Alvarez, the PVHS guidance secretary, to request them from Performance Matters. If you're unsure of what pathway would be right for you, please contact Miss L to discuss.

Required Senior Meetings

At PVBA, all seniors are required to meet with Miss L. during the first marking period to review important graduation-related information. This meeting will cover your credit count, progress toward graduation, Act 158 graduation pathways, and your post-secondary plans—whether that includes college, career training, military, or entering the workforce. This meeting ensures you are on track for graduation and supported in planning for life after high school.

While this meeting is required, **students can choose the format that works best for them:**

- ❖ Phone Call
- ❖ Google Meet
- ❖ In-Person at Pleasant Valley High School

Book Your Senior Meeting Here

[Please fill out the Senior Meetings form.](#) Within the form (before clicking submit), you will be provided with links to **schedule your senior meeting**.

HELP! COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The Importance of Communication

At PVBA, strong communication between the school, students, and families is essential for success in a virtual learning environment. Our **primary method of communication is email**, so it is important that both students and parents have access to a working email address that is checked **regularly**. In addition, parents should have access to a working phone with an active voicemail box to ensure they can receive important calls or messages from school staff.

Upon enrollment, students and guardians agree to stay connected by checking email frequently for updates, progress reports, teacher messages, and school announcements. Students must check their school-issued email daily, and parents are expected to respond to school communications as needed. Missing messages can result in falling behind or missing important information. Staying connected ensures we can support students effectively throughout the school year!

Parent/Guardian Involvement

- Parents/guardians should **monitor grades and progress reports regularly**, and email their students' teachers and/or Miss L if concerns arise.
- If you are not currently enrolled to receive progress reports, email Miss L to get set up.
- If you cannot access PowerSchool, please submit a **support ticket** to the PV Technology Department.

Academic Help

Live Edgenuity Teacher Office Hours

(Please note the hours listed below are from last year and are subject to change at the start of the 25-26 school year. We will update this as soon as we receive the new times.)

Students have access to live office hours run by their Edgenuity teachers. Students should reach out to their teachers prior to attending any office hours to ensure that their teachers are aware of their desire to meet.

[Please click here to access your respective teacher's office hours.](#)

Note: If your teacher is NOT listed here for office hours, please message them to ask about their live Zoom hours. If they do not get back to you, then please email Miss L. at leibenguth.ariana@pvbears.org.

Varsity Tutor

Pleasant Valley has teamed up with Varsity Tutors to offer students FREE, unlimited, live academic support from highly qualified tutors. This partnership includes real-time help in all core subjects, self-study tools, and even fun extracurricular classes. If your child is struggling with the self-paced nature of cyber learning or just needs extra support, this is an excellent resource!

Students can connect with tutors in live sessions, using a shared digital whiteboard to collaborate—whether it's editing essays, solving math problems, or reviewing assignments together. This service is completely free for PV students. To learn more or get started, visit the Pleasant Valley High School website.

[Please click here to navigate to the **Frequently Asked Questions** page for Varsity Tutor.](#)

Credit Recovery

Edgenuity's credit recovery system is designed to help students make up previously failed courses and stay on track for graduation. Unlike traditional full-length courses, credit recovery focuses only on the content a student has not yet mastered, allowing them to complete the coursework more efficiently. The course must be a core class, and the student must have failed with a 50% or greater. If the student's final grade is lower than 50%, they may not be eligible for credit recovery.

If eligible, students take a pre-test at the beginning of each unit, and if they demonstrate proficiency, they can skip certain lessons. So, the better the student does on the pre-test, the less work in the course they will need to do. Sometimes students can even completely **test out** of courses! This targeted approach helps students focus on their specific learning gaps while earning back the credit they need. At Pleasant Valley, credit recovery courses are supervised by certified teachers who provide support, monitor progress, and hold live office hours for additional help. During the school year, these teachers are from our partner district, Seneca Valley, and during summer school, the courses are facilitated by Pleasant Valley teachers.

Technology Support

If you are experiencing any technical difficulties with your Chromebook or technology, please use the [online ticketing system](#). This will allow you to place a ticket for any technology-related issues that you are experiencing to ensure a prompt response and resolution from the IT team. If the link provided does NOT work, please EMAIL **pvsupport@pvbears.org**.

If you have an issue with your Chromebook itself, please call 570 402 1000 ext. 4040.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources

As the PVBA School Counselor, Miss L. is here to support students in a variety of ways! Miss L. can assist with academic planning, career exploration, and college preparation, as well as provide short-term, solution-focused counseling for personal or social concerns. Whether you're setting goals, navigating challenges, or planning for the future, I'm here to help every step of the way.

The fastest way to reach me is via email, but I am *also* available for virtual meetings, phone calls, and in-person meetings.

Schedule a Google Meet

[Please click here to access my video-conferencing Booking Page.](#) Use this link to request a virtual meeting with Ms. L. Students will use this link for scheduling meetings, senior meetings, and other purposes. Video conferences can be made a minimum of 6 hours in advance.

Schedule a Phone Call

[Please click here to request a phone call at a scheduled time.](#) You may choose from the time-slots available and provide the number you'd like Miss L. to call. Phone call requests can be made a minimum of 2 hours in advance.

*If this is an emergency call, please dial 911.

*If this is a non-emergency, but time-sensitive, please email Miss L. for a faster response.

Schedule an In-Person Meeting

[If you'd like to meet in person, please use this booking calendar to schedule from the available timeslots.](#) Meets can be made a minimum of 48 hours in advance. Please provide a description of the meeting so that the team can prepare to best support your needs. My office is located in Pleasant Valley High School (JCM wing), so all in-person meetings will take place there.

Mental Health Resources

Please navigate to the Guidance Website to [check for local mental health resources.](#)

- Carbon Monroe Pike Mental Health and Development Services - 1-800-338-6467
- New Perspectives Crisis (Local) - 1-570-992-0879
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255
- Suicide Prevention Text Line - Text "Hello" to 741741
- National Warm Line - 1-855-284-249

GO GUARDIAN - BEACON ALERT SYSTEM

The GoGuardian Beacon alert system is a safety tool used on PV school Chromebooks to help keep students safe while they're online. It quietly monitors for signs that a student may be struggling—such as searching for topics related to self-harm or feeling overwhelmed—and sends an alert to school staff who can reach out and offer support. Sometimes the alerts flag innocent things, such as homework searches— but if your child sets off a concerning Beacon Alert, parents should expect a call from the school to check in. The goal is to make sure no student feels alone and to connect them with help when they need it most.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN AN ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Cyber-schooling platforms offer flexibility and independence, but they also require strong time management and self-discipline. Keep reading for tips and strategies to help students stay on track and excel in their online coursework.

1. Establish a Routine

- a. Set a consistent daily schedule for completing coursework.

- b. Treat online classes like in-person school by dedicating specific hours to studying.
 - i. Example: Establish a daily routine of working from 9 am to 12 pm, and take a break by lunchtime.
 - c. Take regular breaks to stay focused and avoid burnout.
 - i. Get up and move around if you need to - staring at a screen can be tough!
 - d. Stick to the schedule - consistency is key!
- 2. Stay Organized**
 - a. Use your *Assignment Calendar* in Edgenuity to track assignments, deadlines, and exams. Check the pacing guide to ensure you're staying on track with the course progress.
 - b. Get yourself a planner, or start writing out your assignments and due dates in a notebook.
 - c. Set reminders for important due dates and teacher office hours.
- 3. Create a Dedicated Work-Space**
 - a. Find a quiet, well-lit place to study where you can focus without distractions.
 - b. Keep it organized and ensure you have all the necessary materials for schoolwork.
 - c. Put your phone away/on silent, close unnecessary tabs on your computer, and let family members know you need some quiet time.
- 4. Prioritize and Manage Time Effectively**
 - a. Start with the most challenging tasks. Tackle more difficult assignments when you're most alert!
 - b. Break down large assignments into smaller, more manageable chunks.
 - c. Set daily and weekly goals for yourself, and aim to complete a certain number of activities/lessons each day.
 - d. Avoid procrastination; don't put your assignments off until the last minute.
- 5. Stay Connected and Communicate!**
 - a. CHECK your Edgenuity email and PV email regularly. Stay informed about announcements and assignments.
 - b. COMMUNICATE with your teachers - if you are having trouble with an assignment, it is your responsibility to reach out to your teacher via email or the messaging tool in Edgenuity.
 - i. If you have trouble getting in contact with them, you can email Miss L.. But ALWAYS ask your teachers first!
 - c. Attend your teachers' live office hours. Don't be afraid to ask questions or seek help when needed - take control of your academics!

FAQ's

- 1. When is the first day of school?**
 - a. Monday, August 25th, 2025.
- 2. What time do I have to log in each day?**
 - a. PVBA is an asynchronous program; students will NOT need to log in for live virtual sessions at any point (unless choosing to attend a teacher's office hours). Students can do their work at any time of the day.

3. **What if one of my courses is missing from my schedule in Edgenuity?**
 - a. If this happens, email Miss L at leibenguth.ariana@pvbears.org *right away*. I will work quickly to fix the situation.
4. **When is the add-drop period?**
 - a. 10 days after the first day of school (September 5th, 2025). All schedule changes must be approved by Miss L.
5. **What if I'm struggling in a course and/or falling behind?**
 - a. First, reach out to your teachers to see if they can provide help. Attend their live office hours if you can!
 - b. Then, reach out to Miss L either by email, or by scheduling an appointment to talk. We can discuss options for additional academic support and set goals.
6. **When do I have to finish my course?**
 - a. Your Edgenuity courses follow the Pleasant Valley School District marking periods. You will need to complete **100%** of your course by the end of each marking period. If your courses are incomplete, your grade will **drop** drastically.

IN CONCLUSION...

We're happy to be back!

We're excited to welcome you to a new school year at PVBA! Whether you're just starting out or getting ready to graduate, this year is full of opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed. As we begin the year together, remember to stay safe online, practice smart digital habits, and always do your best work. We're here to support you every step of the way—no matter your grade level or learning goals. Let's work hard, stay positive, and make it a great year! We're looking forward to learning and growing with you.

GO BEARS!

