

Is PVBA THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU?

Choosing the right educational environment is a huge decision. The Pleasant Valley Bears Academy (or, PVBA) offers incredible flexibility – BUT, online asynchronous learning requires a very specific set of habits to be successful. Here is a realistic checklist to help you and your family determine if PVBA is the right fit for you:

PVBA May be the Right Fit For You If:

- **You are highly self-motivated.** You don't need a teacher standing over your shoulder to make you open your laptop and complete your lessons.
- **You need scheduling flexibility.** You have work commitments, family obligations, or pursue intense extracurricular activities (like high-level athletics or arts) that make a traditional school day difficult.
- **You enjoy working ahead.** You enjoy moving at a quick pace. If you understand a concept quickly, you appreciate the ability to finish modules early and secure credits ahead of schedule.
 - PERK: Students aren't required to log in if coursework is passed and completed in full before the end of each marking period. Some students even enjoy extra holiday time, or early summer breaks!
- **You have strong parental support at home.** You have a parent or guardian who is ready to actively log into the Parent Portal and/or monitor daily progress reports, track progress, and act as your at-home accountability partner.
- **You thrive in quiet environments.** You find the social or sensory environment of a traditional brick and mortar distracting and prefer to learn in a quieter, more independent space.

PVBA May NOT be the Right Fit For You If:

- **You struggle with procrastination.** If your habit is to leave assignments until the last minute, an online curriculum will *quickly overwhelm you*. Once you fall behind, it is very hard to get back on track due to the backlog of assignments that can build up with a lack of progress.
- **You struggle with low motivation.** Without a fixed daily routine or an in-person instructor directly encouraging you, maintaining the daily drive to log-in and teach yourself through instructional videos and other virtual assignments can become very difficult and overwhelming.
- **You struggle with due dates and pacing.** If managing a completely open schedule paralyzes you, an asynchronous model of learning will not be a good fit for you. Even though you can work when you want, the courses contain a fixed number of assignments that must be completed in order and by the end of the marking period. Falling behind

and/or failing to complete coursework by the end-date will result in extremely low final grades.

- **You need daily classroom structure.** If you rely on the physical bell schedule, face-to-face teacher support, and/or the social routine of a school building to stay focused, an asynchronous model may feel isolating and unstructured.
- **You want a “shortcut” or an “easier” workload.** PVBA is NOT an easier schooling option just because we offer more flexible scheduling; our curriculum delivers the exact same rigorous academic standards as the traditional classroom. For a traditional full-time student, we require 12.5 hours of active participation per week.
 - MCTI students are required to log 7.5 hours weekly.
- **You struggle to work without supervision.** If a parent or guardian is not available to check your daily progress and assist in keeping you on track, it is incredibly easy to fall behind across multiple subjects without realizing it.
- **You struggle to ask for help when you need it.** Since your teachers are virtual, they cannot see you looking confused at your desk or give you immediate support. If you get stuck on a difficult topic or assignment and tend to shut down, PVBA is NOT the right fit for you. Students will need to **advocate** for themselves by reaching out to teachers and the counselor via email, and attending live office hours with teachers if they need assistance.
- **You rely on external help or plan to use AI to get by.** PVBA enforces a strict academic integrity policy. With advanced backend tracking for copy-pasting, cheating, or using AI tools like ChatGPT, shortcuts will result in zero credit or removal from the program.

PVBA is an incredible tool for independence, but it is a *partnership*. If you have the drive to log-in daily and a support system to back you up, you will thrive in an asynchronous online environment. If struggle with motivation or need external structure to succeed, our brick-and-mortar building remains the best educational placement for you to succeed.