



Frequently Asked Questions for Parents & Students

The Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy is an exciting new program that we are offering resident students in grades 7-12 in the fall of 2010. As you already know, cyber school and online learning can be a powerful and effective form of education. The Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy will utilize a revolutionary model in which full-time students enrolled in our Cyber Academy can earn a Gettysburg Area School District diploma from their homes while being able to enjoy all of the extra-curricular activities/events that take place after the school day.

- **How is Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy different from the 11 Public Cyber Charter Schools that are sanctioned by the PA Department of Education?**

The most significant difference between Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy and the 11 Cyber Charter Schools is that we use our very own curriculum, as opposed to off-the-shelf ("canned") courseware. This allows your student to receive the same quality education that all of our students receive in the traditional classroom. In addition, your student remains a member of the school district community, participates in all extra-curricular activities and events (including graduation ceremonies!) and earns the school district diploma.

- **Is it a charter school?**

No, although charter schools are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, they are self-managed and operate free of many educational mandates. Cyber charter schools do not have to follow the local school district's curriculum. Our cyber school is an integral part of this district's educational system.

- **What curriculum does the Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy use?**

The curriculum used in Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy mirrors the curriculum used in our school district...that's why Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy students earn our school district's diploma.

- **Is the curriculum accredited?**

Of course! Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy uses the same accredited curriculum as our traditional bricks & mortar school so it MUST be accredited.

- **What grade levels are available?**

Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy can offer curriculum from 7th through 12th grade.



- **Is my student eligible?**

As long as your student is of school-age and a resident of the school district he or she is eligible to attend Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy.

- **Will the school district provide the computer equipment necessary for my student to attend the Cyber Academy?**

Yes, the school district will provide you with the Cyber School in a Box™ bundle which includes a notebook computer, an all-in-one printer/scanner and all other hardware, software, and technical support that your student needs to be successful in cyber school. Parents only need to provide high-speed internet access.

- **Is there an attendance policy and if so, how will my student be monitored?**

Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy follows the same attendance policy as the school district. Attendance is taken every day by the homeroom teacher where it is documented and communicated to the school district's Cyber School Coordinator.

- **How much time will my student spend doing school work?**

Your student should expect to work for at least 5.5 to 7 hours per day on school work and studies. Homeroom teachers will encourage students to find and establish a consistent daily routine to help ensure success in the cyber program.

- **Will my student still need textbooks?**

Yes, because the cyber school curriculum follows our traditional classroom curriculum, we will provide the appropriate textbooks, workbooks, and other materials necessary to complete coursework.

- **Can my student work at his/her own pace?**

Yes. The flexibility of the cyber setting does allow students to work at his or her own pace. However, unlike most cyber charter schools, we will collaborate with the parent, student, and cyber teachers to determine the pacing plan that would be best suited for him/her based on individual needs.

- **What if my student needs help on assignments after the regularly scheduled teacher hours are over?**

One of the most valuable resources at the student's fingertips is the tutor.com link. Not only do students have access to regularly scheduled online class sessions with cyber teachers, but they also have a live tutor available to them from 2:00 PM to 1:00 AM every day.



- **Will my student get a report card?**

Yes, you will receive a report card and/or all other progress information just as if your student were attending the traditional classroom.

- **Can I view my student's progress and activity in classes?**

Yes. Parents will be able to log on to an online gradebook at any time to view missing and completed assignments as well as graded work.

- **How will I know if my student is not progressing in his/her classes?**

Not only will you have 24 hour access to the cyber gradebook which tracks completed & missing assignments and grades, but our school district's Cyber Facilitator will have full access to student progress and direct contact with cyber teachers. The Cyber Facilitator will be provided with an academic mid-term report every 4.5 weeks and a quarterly report every 9 weeks, progress, and any other issues that may have occurred during the week. At no time should you be guessing how your student is performing at Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy.

- **Does a teacher grade my student's work or does the computer?**

The subject area teacher does the majority of grading of student work. A very small percentage of student work is assessed in a multiple choice format which is graded by the computer before being reviewed and recorded into the grade book by the subject area teacher.

- **Who is the Cyber Facilitator and what is his/her role?**

The Cyber School Coordinator is a school district staff member who coordinates all curriculum decisions, monitors student performance based on progress, and facilitates distribution of computer equipment, textbooks, and other materials. They also communicate regularly with homeroom teachers and cyber student parents.

- **Are there live classes? How do students get help from their teachers?**

Yes! Students attend synchronous (live) online class sessions as directed by their cyber teachers. Students also meet with their homeroom teacher in regularly scheduled sessions EVERY DAY.

- **What does the Homeroom Teacher do?**

Homeroom teachers are the main point of contact between students, parents, and schools. Students meet with the homeroom teacher each day for a brief period of time to discuss progress, daily goals, missing assignments, and cyber school announcements. The homeroom teacher is the student's primary contact.



- **Are teachers available?**

All courses are taught by highly qualified, Pennsylvania certified teachers in specific subject areas. These same teachers will grade your student's essays, projects, quizzes, and portfolio work.

- **How will my student socialize while attending the Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy?**

Your student can participate in all extra-curricular activities because he/she is a Gettysburg Area School District student!

- **Why is the Cyber School in a Box™ required?**

The school-issued Cyber School in a Box™ has all of the software and settings configured specifically for the students' coursework and can be accessed remotely by the technical support staff to resolve any issues.

- **Is there a cost to me?**

Your student can attend the Gettysburg Area Virtual Academy for free!