Dear OHVA Parents and Community Stakeholders,

We are excited to share our news of the 2011-2012 school year. The Ohio Virtual Academy continued to be a popular choice by Ohio parents. In 2011 approximately 13,600 students attended OHVA. Our October, 2011 attendance snapshot shows an enrollment of over 13,000 students. This continued growth demonstrates that OHVA has become an important option for many Ohio families. We feel honored by the trust parents have placed in our school. We cherish the fact that we can partner with parents to provide an exciting educational experience for our students.

This edition of the Ohio Virtual Academy Annual Report provides an understanding of our school’s academic achievements, student activities, and finances for the 2011-2012 school year.

Through continued Race to the Top funds, Title 1 federal funds, and state funding we have been able to serve you and your child in a variety of ways while continuing to provide exceptional curriculum and individualized support to help students grow academically. The funds were used to provide supplemental programs such as Study Island and AIMSweb, as well as other programs individualized for grade level needs. They also assisted in providing additional training for our teachers to use programs to help identify student placement and to understand the coming Common Core Standards Ohio will be implementing next year.

We are extremely excited that OHVA continued to provide support to parents and students in several distinctive programs such as STAR and the Family Cohort. Middle School provided a specialized instruction for students through their LINK program and continued to work with families to acclimate middle school students to our high school platform. OHVA teachers worked passionately to serve our students and used many tools and interventions to support our student’s individual needs. Teachers used ClassConnect sessions to meet with students in large group, small group, and individual sessions to help remediate and provide academic instruction in reading, writing, math, history and science.

These sessions were well attended, and parents and students provided feedback that they continue to find them helpful and informative.

During the 2011-2012 school year OHVA continued providing several programs piloted during our 2010-2011 school year. The Cohort Academy helped to provide specific guidance and support for students who entered high school later in the school year. This program was very successful, and continues to be offered during the current school year. Third through fifth grades as well as eighth grades offered a synchronous teaching model which allowed students to work from the K-12 curriculum with OHVA teachers providing instruction to the students. Students and families found these programs to be beneficial and shared that the synchronous instruction helped students to grow exponentially in their academic skills. The success of this program has allowed OHVA to extend the possibilities of the program to more students.

As always it has been a pleasure serving our OHVA families, and the OHVA team looks forward to continued partnership with the students and parents who are enrolled with us. It is my hope that the remainder of this report provides you with a thorough overview of the Ohio Virtual Academy and the success we achieved in the 2011-2012 school year.
AIMSweb used in Grades K-2

During the 2011-12 school year kindergarten through 2nd grade OHVA teachers were able to effectively place students within the K12 curriculum. Upon enrollment, every student was evaluated with the AIMSweb online assessment to determine their math and phonics level. Our virtual model allows students to work at their own academic ability level. Students working above grade level are enrolled in courses that stimulate their minds. Students in need of remediation are given courses to support their academic learning.

AIMSweb benchmark assessments are administered to all K-2 students three times throughout the school year: fall, winter, and spring. These evaluations provide useful reading and math instructional direction to both teachers and learning coaches. The assessments help establish learning targets for students who may need more assistance. They also offer timely checkups to make sure that consistent academic growth is taking place throughout the school year.

This past school year, all K-2 students were provided Reading Eggs, a pre-reading and early reading skills program. As a supplement to the K12 curriculum, Reading Eggs presents letter recognition and letter/sound associations in a fun interactive way. If students were already readers, they could utilize Reading Eggspress, an online tool designed to build reading fluency and comprehension skills at 2nd – 7th grade skill levels.

Our teachers realize the value of face to face interaction with our young students. During the 2011-12 school year each teacher provided outings to our K-2 students on a monthly basis all across the state of Ohio. Kindergarten Recognitions hosted by our kindergarten teachers are a wonderful example of these connections. To recognize the achievement of both parents and students completing their first formal academic year of the students’ education, we held 20 Kindergarten Recognitions across the state of Ohio.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers provide daily class connect sessions for students who need phonics remediation. Just about anything that can be done in a brick and mortar classroom can be done in our online classrooms. Our teachers make learning exciting and interactive by providing circle time, reader's theater, story time, show and tell and many other fun, engaging, and theme-based activities.

Extended Day Program

Through our School Improvement Grant, grades 3-6 were provided with extended day opportunities. All grade levels participated in the SIG Skills Academy Monday through Thursday. This additional two hours of school focused on grade-level content standards. Students are provided an opportunity to listen to a team of teachers using direct instruction, and then have access to one on one tutoring on a particular topic to get additional support. Students that participated in Ohio Virtual Academy’s extended day also used Study Island as a supplemental program to test what was learned throughout the sessions. Students earned blue ribbons in math and reading to prepare for the Ohio Achievement Assessments. In addition to completing the curriculum, students are expected to earn 100% of the blue ribbons at their grade-level.

www.ohva.org
**Synchronous Teaching – OHVA’s STAR Program**

OHVA is excited to see interest in the STAR (Synchronous Teaching Achieves Results) program grow. Our STAR teams partner with the Learning Coaches to provide daily synchronous instruction for students. Using the team approach means everyone wins especially the students.

During the 2011-2012 school year, our STAR program grew from 5th grade to include grades 4, 5 and 6.

A team of teachers, using the K12 curriculum as their basis, develop Math lessons to be taught to the students in a daily synchronous teaching session on Blackboard Collaborate. This team approach allows the online teachers to immediately see if the student is grasping the material and they can provide assistance when it is determined a student is struggling.

Through this program, a sense of community is developed between the online teachers, learning coaches and students. Students developed friendships across the state and learning coaches have the opportunity to share experiences and get advice in the group conferences.

Because of parent input the program will grow to include grade 7 in the 2012-2013 school year. Our seventh grade program will include synchronous teaching in both Math and English Language Arts. We are excited to continue reaching for the STAR’s with our students as they soar to new heights academically!

**Middle School**

The first annual Middle School Mania events were held in May. The events were held at two separate locations around the state: Westlake, Cleveland suburb, and Springfield. All 7th and 8th grade students were invited to attend the fun-filled nights of games, dancing, and connections. Close to 150 people attended the Westlake event. Around 100 people attended the Springfield location. Families were also welcomed to attend and make connections as well. Families traveled from all over Ohio to attend the Middle School Mania events. One family who attended the Springfield event traveled from over 2 hours away. They earned a Walmart gift card for “farthest traveled.”

All attendees enjoyed the giant inflatables, including jumpers and bouncy houses, and carnival games with prizes of gift cards to Walmart. A DJ hosted the event at both locations, providing attendees with excellent music as well as opportunities to mingle with peers during social game activities. There was also plenty of festival-like food for the mania attendees with students and families enjoying freshly made popcorn and cotton candy.

The middle school students didn’t just have fun with their peers and families, they also got to meet and play games with their teachers. Over 20 teachers played games, danced the electric slide, and shared popcorn with the 7th and 8th grade students. The connections made between students, families, and teachers will last a life-time.

The students and families thoroughly enjoyed the events and requested more locations around the state this school year. Amy Bowman and Donnie Kline worked hard to ensure families enjoyed themselves during the first Middle School Mania event, and they are excited for the possibilities of this year’s events. Please be sure to attend a Middle School Mania event near you.
Have Telescope, Will Travel!

Middle School science teacher, Roger Gluckin, is set to travel across Ohio, bringing his love of astronomy to students this year. He was awarded an 8-inch reflector telescope through the “Future Galileos Project”, a joint effort of NASA and the Cincinnati Observatory. His was the first proposal approved from outside the greater Cincinnati area. The Observatory was impressed by his drive to share astronomy with students all over Ohio.

He is taking the telescope to monthly field trips offered by the Middle School science department. The outings will take place in a different part of the state each month. The field trips combine a science activity with a star gazing event. These events provide opportunities to challenge students academically, while providing social interaction with their teachers and fellow students. Hands-on learners will especially benefit. Roger sponsors the K12 International Astronomy Club, which draws students from all over the U.S. He has brought in guest speakers from NASA to interact with club members. Now he can use the telescope to inspire their scientific curiosity.

He feels that astronomy is a way to fire up students’ imaginations. “With a telescope, the Moon becomes an actual place, not just a light in the sky. Our first event, in September, was a rather cloudy night. When the clouds parted and revealed the Moon, students were jumping up and down. When kids see the rings floating around Saturn, they are just amazed!”

What’s next for OHVA star gazers? Roger wants to contact OHVA families who already own telescopes and develop a family astronomy club. This grass-roots organization will help families across Ohio share the wonders of the cosmos.
Ohio Virtual Academy Graduation – Class of 2012

The Ohio Virtual Academy honored its 2012 graduates during a ceremony that took place at The Palace Theater in Columbus on Saturday, June 9. The graduating class is one of the brightest in school history, and amassed a total of over $1.5 million in college scholarship money offered. The final tally, after students graduated through the summer totaled 431 graduates. The ceremony was planned by a committee of graduating seniors led by Katie Collins and featured a speech from 16 years old Valedictorian Jenny Wu. While completing a rigorous school curriculum, Jenny maintained a 4.05 GPA, taking honors and advanced placement courses. She graduated a year early after participating in the Peer Mentor Club, Cardinal Chirp Newsletter, Creative Writing Club and an award-winning mock trial group. Jenny is an accomplished writer, with books published in the U.S., U.K. and Canada and has participated in animation camp at UCLA, writing an original web comic.

Salutatorian of the graduating class was Marley Wilder. Marley plans to attend John Carroll University and has been accepted into the school’s honors program. Her interest lies in business/marketing. During high school, she was secretary of the National Honor Society, played softball, volunteered at a food pantry in Cuyahoga County and also worked part-time.

“We’re proud to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of each of our graduates,” said Jay Wollenburg, Principal at OHVA. “OHVA is more than just a top-notch school; we’re a community. Our teachers work to motivate students academically while building up their character and commitment to excellence in all that they do. During the graduation ceremony we recognized not only the achievements of the students and teachers, but also the encouragement and support of their families, who directly contributed to crafting such an amazing program.”

Some of the colleges chosen by this year’s graduating class include:

- Arizona State University
- Ashland University
- Baldwin-Wallace College
- Bowling Green State University
- Brigham Young University
- Cleveland State University
- Colorado Christian University
- Denison University
- John Carroll University
- Kent State University
- Lorain Community College
- Miami University of Ohio
- Ohio University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- North Carolina State University
- Roanoke College- Virginia
- The Ohio State University
- University of Akron
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado
- University of Dayton
- University of North Carolina
- University of Toledo
- Wilmington College
- Wittenberg University
- Wright State University
- Xavier University
- Youngstown State University
Race to the Top and School Improvement Grant

Ohio Virtual Academy has continued to utilize both Race to the Top (RttT) and School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to improve instruction and increase student achievement.

Race to the Top is a 4-year competitive grant funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) dollars. Currently, OHVA is in Year 3 of our RttT funding and we have been awarded a total of 1.6 million dollars. This amount has the potential to increase throughout the life of the grant based on the number of participating schools/districts around Ohio. If OHVA is awarded additional dollars due to other districts removing themselves from competition, we will notify OHVA families directly. Some Race to the Top areas of focus are Standards and Assessments - getting our students college and career ready and Using Data to Improve Instruction - making student achievement data available to teachers and families to drive instruction and remediation. Our Family Success Liaisons are funded through Race to the Top monies and their efforts were recently highlighted in the Ohio Department of Education's RttT News and Views statewide publication.

The School Improvement Grant (SIG) is also funded through ARRA and non-ARRA federal funds. Through the use of SIG dollars, OHVA has been able to establish Professional Learning Communities for our teaching staff to collaborate face-to-face to make educational decisions that drive school policies. OHVA teachers are also all involved in Teacher Based Teams which meet weekly to assess student data and modify teaching strategies and remediation as needed. Our school day has been extended to offer additional time from our HQT staff in core curriculum support, OGT/ACT preparation, reading and math fluency, as well as college and career counseling. OHVA is working to establish community partnerships throughout the state to support our students with non-academic barriers as well. Key areas of focus for SIG are Math and Reading achievement levels, college and career readiness, and improved graduation rates.

Ohio Virtual Academy School Events

OHVA provided many opportunities for students and their families to gather, connect with others, and take part in activities. All events are open to enrolled families as well as families looking for a public school option for their school-aged children.

Back to School Picnics kicked off the school year for OHVA families and guests. Meeting teachers and other families was a priority and talking about the year ahead took place while students participated in planned park activities. School Meet & Greets were offered through the year and included ice cream socials, museum tours, fall nature walks, and movie events. Colder months provided a time for indoor and outdoor activities, and interactive Online Storytimes were available as well as fun filled Winterland of Gingerbread events. Skating, crafts, and student gingerbread house displays and awards rounded out these exciting events.

Academic activities were also fun for our students, and OHVA Spelling Bees took place in January, 2012. Qualifying students advanced to district and state Bees, and OHVA students also had an opportunity to participate in a Virtual Spelling Bee for the first time. Science Fairs/Learning Fairs followed in February, and our students put a great deal of effort into their projects. Advancing to a district science fair and finally to the State Science Day in Columbus is a goal set by some students. A few OHVA students have received college scholarships due to their initial participation in an Ohio Virtual Academy Science Fair.

In March we welcomed families with a child entering Kindergarten to join us at a Kindergarten Korral event to learn more about OHVA, view curriculum, and take home information and treats. Over one thousand families celebrated the successes of the school year by attending Celebration Days in locations statewide and large Discovery Day events at four metropolitan museums.
Ohio Virtual Academy Maintains Accredited Status with AdvancED/
Ohio North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA-CASI)

In 2007 Ohio Virtual Academy became accredited by the Commission on International and Trans-regional Accreditation (CITA) and the Ohio North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA-CASI). Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance that was developed by American universities and secondary schools, and designed to distinguish schools that were adhering to a set of educational standards. In 2007 CITA was the largest international accrediting organization in the world that provided accreditation standards for virtual schools. NCA is the Ohio arm of CITA. In 2010 CITA combined with many of the other largest accrediting organizations across the U.S. to become AdvancED. The NCA-CASI in Ohio continued to serve under the umbrella of AdvancED. The purpose of being accredited is to demonstrate that our school not only meets the high standards of excellence that is expected by the Ohio Department of Education, OHVA Board of Trustees, and K12 Inc., but also the standards that represent a quality school that have been developed by an independent accrediting organization at AdvancED, which works with and reviews thousands of schools. AdvancED has over 36,000 schools as members around the world.

Member schools of AdvancED are required to participate in an Internal and External Review every five years. OHVA completed its reviews during the 2011-12 school year to determine if we were meeting the standards for quality assurance that member schools are required to provide. AdvancED selected a team of experienced professional evaluators to visit the school to interview stakeholders in the school, including students, parents, teachers, support personnel, board members, and administrators. The AdvancED team also collected and examined evidence sources to determine if and how OHVA met each of the AdvancED standards for quality assurance. The standards included the following areas: purpose and direction, school governance, teaching and assessment, supporting resources, and using results for continuous improvement. After interviewing many stakeholders, reviewing the evidence, and meeting with members of the administration during the team visit, the AdvancED team made a recommendation to the AdvancED Board of Directors. OHVA received a rating level of “Highly Functional” (highest level) having met all standards of accreditation, and was approved by the AdvancED Board of Directors spring of 2012. Ohio Virtual Academy continues to review policies, practices, and procedures on a regular basis in an effort to maintain high quality standards. Continuous improvement on every level is not only a goal, but a standard of daily operation at OHVA. We are grateful to have parents and staff who help and support us in our efforts to meet this important goal.
OHVA Teacher Information

Professional qualifications of all public elementary and secondary school teachers in the school:

Number of full-time teachers: 335
At least a bachelor’s degree: 100.0%
Percentage of Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT): 100.0%
Percentage of teachers properly certified/licensed: 100.0%

Data as of March 2012
Financial Demographics

Sources of School Revenue

State Funding............................................ $72,829,266............. 89.0%
Federal Grants........................................... $8,919,192............. 10.9%
Local Grants/Program Initiatives........ $100,000.................... 0.1%
Other Miscellaneous................................ $9,871..................... 0.0%

Total Revenue........................................ $81,858,329........... 100.0%

Expenses

Salaries...................................................... $14,157,830............. 17.3%
Fringe Benefits........................................ $4,964,092................. 6.1%
Purchased Services..................................... $49,330,585............ 60.3%
Materials and Supplies............................. $11,882,496............. 14.5%
Depreciation............................................. $9,909..................... 0.0%
Other Expenses........................................ $1,513,832................. 1.8%

Total Revenue........................................ $81,858,744........... 100.0%
OHVA Students Shine with Diverse Talents and Interests

Ohio Virtual Academy students are hard-working and innovative. They enjoy a variety of interests and love to demonstrate their talents. Our students come from all across the state, but one thing is sure: they thrive with the challenge and support that OHVA provides. Enjoy this glimpse into the lives of a few of our students and their families.

Camp

OHVA students enjoy camp too!

Spelling Bees

OHVA Loves to Spell!

Science Fair

OHVA students continue to participate in OHVA fairs, District Fairs, and the State Science Day!

Picnics

Record breaking attendance at OHVA statewide picnics. Over 6000 attend.

Mark’s retirement?

Dr. Mark Thogmartin, one of OHVA’s founding administrators retires

Veteran’s Day

A Time to Honor - OHVA participates in an in-person Veteran’s Day program, along with a statewide assemblies. David Burden pictured.

Ohio Virtual Academy is proud to boast of the accomplishments and dreams of our students. We consider it an honor to partner with them and we celebrate their successes as they pursue their bright futures.
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OHVA Mission and Vision

Mission
The mission of OHVA is to empower students and their parents with an innovative and effective instructional program to achieve high standards and help students reach their full academic and social potential.

Vision
Our vision is to create a high-performance school that equips teachers and parents with the tools of tomorrow, thereby giving our students all the opportunities they need to succeed in life and creating a new model for the twenty-first century public school.