Westmoreland Intermediate Unit
102 Equity Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

Why BVA eAcademy?

July 14, 2020

Program Overview

- The WIU eAcademy program is a consortium of schools dedicated to bringing flexible online learning options to district students
- eAcademy is not a cyber-school, but rather a service to school districts that builds the capacity to offer online learning opportunities to students.
- All of our students remain enrolled in their home district, graduate with a district (BVA) diploma, and experience all of the benefits and services that our local districts have to offer.
- As a result, each student receives the best possible education in an environment tailored to his or her unique needs.

Why BVA eAcademy is Best for Students

At eAcademy, we understand that the traditional bricks and mortar classroom is not always the best learning environment for every child. As children develop, their social, emotional, and academic needs will evolve and change. Therefore, we feel that providing online learning options for children is the best way to meet their varied needs. These options give students and families a choice in the academic schedule and activities in which they participate. Students have the benefit of taking their core academic courses online, and having the choice to take electives such as fine arts, band, and other courses in the traditional classroom at Belle Vernon Area SD. The program gives students the ability to get a customized, online education while maintaining important social connections at school. Our knowledgeable Online Education Advisors will help students and families develop a schedule that best suits the interests and needs of each child.

Our Courses

- Courses offered through eAcademy include both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Content is presented in a variety of engaging ways; using multimedia and collaborative tools.
- Teachers utilize the latest tools and emerging technologies to bring course content to life. This results in lessons that intrinsically motivate students to learn and appeal to the preferences of today's digital learner.
- Each course is aligned to the PA Core Standards established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This means that your child can move seamlessly between online courses and the traditional classroom from year to year without experiencing "gaps" in the curriculum.
- Because students have more flexibility in an online course, they can move through the material at a more customized pace.

Our History

For over a decade, the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit has been supporting our local school districts through eAcademy. WIU staff works closely with our Consortium members to provide teachers with the skills that they need to develop courses and teach in a virtual learning environment. Additional unlimited services include supporting districts as they build and brand their own online program, 24/7 access to our Help Desk, personalized professional development sessions, countywide workshops, and equipment rentals.

Our Support System

The development and continuous improvement of BVA eAcademy is made possible through our partnership with the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit. The WIU's eAcademy provides districts with the guidance to be able to integrate online learning into school districts on many different levels. This isn't a third-party vendor that "handles" online learning for districts, but rather a comprehensive professional development approach that ensures districts are equipped to educate their students with their teachers and their own ever-evolving, rigorous curriculum.

The Benefits of BVA eAcademy

Question	BVA eAcademy	PA Cyber	Agora Cyber Charter
Do students receive a Belle Vernon Area School District diploma?	YES	NO	NO
Who teaches courses for this program?	Full-time educators currently employed by Belle Vernon Area SD and throughout Westmoreland County	Course facilitators across the US	Course facilitators across the US
Are the teachers required to be certified in PA?	YES	NO	NO
Who creates the courses being taught?	All courses are created 100% by the teachers instructing them to ensure alignment with the district's curriculum.	Courses are purchased from Lincoln Learning Solutions (formerly NNDS)	Courses are purchased from K12
Do the courses align with PA Core and Academic Standards?	YES	Built to align to Common Core State Standards. Crosswalk aligned to PA Core and Academic Standards	Built to align to Common Core State Standards. Crosswalk aligned to PA Core and Academic Standards
How often are courses updated?	Courses are updated annually as teachers refine instruction for better practices and fit to learner needs	Course updates are made at the sole discretion of the vendor that provides the school access to the courses.	Course updates are made at the sole discretion of the vendor that provides the school access to the courses.
What does it cost to enroll one *regular education learner* into the program as a full-time learner?	**$3,191.00 per learner**	**$8,700.00 per learner**	**$8,700.00 per learner**
What does it cost to enroll one *special education*	**$3,191.00 per learner**	**$18,000.00 per learner**	**$18,000.00 per learner**

learner into the program as a full-time learner?			
Does this per-learner cost include the cost of the equipment?	YES	Every learner is issued a school-loaned laptop. Families pay upfront and seek reimbursement from PA Cyber for internet costs.	Every learner is issued a school-loaned laptop. Families are expected to provide reliable internet access.
Are learners able to participate in programs from their home school district, such as extracurricular activities and athletic programs?	YES	YES	YES

Want to learn more?
Contact the Belle Vernon Online Education Advisor (OEA):
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