

# **TEAYS VALLEY DIGITAL ACADEMY**

Parents who are considering a 100% online option for the 20-21 school year should consider the **Teays Valley Digital Academy (TVDA)**.

Frequently asked questions about the TVDA are answered below. Additional information can be found at [https://www.tvsd.us/teaysvalleydigitalacademy\\_home.aspx](https://www.tvsd.us/teaysvalleydigitalacademy_home.aspx)

## **What is the Teays Valley Digital Academy (TVDA)?**

TVDA is a student-centered online option for Teays Valley students. TVDA students utilize online learning platforms to complete their academic coursework.

## **When was the TVDA created?**

TVDA was established during the 2014-15 school year and has grown in volume and effectiveness ever since. During the 2019-20 school year more than 400 students were served through TVDA. Some students were full-time, while others used TVDA to complete one or more courses. Since 2017, TVDA has had more than 60 graduates.

## **What students are eligible to be fully online through the TVDA?**

All Teays Valley K-12 students are eligible.

## **Are TVDA courses similar to the remote learning opportunities that my child experienced in the spring when school closed?**

No. The governor asked that schools provide their students with meaningful "learning opportunities" when schools were shut down for COVID-19 in the spring of 2020. Learning opportunities did not cover the overall scope and sequence of Ohio's academic content standards. Learning opportunities also did not represent the overall amount of time a full-time TVDA should expect to spend on schoolwork. In short, learning opportunities were a much easier version of being a full-time TVDA student.

TVDA teachers monitor student submissions and are available to answer questions, but they aren't teaching the courses "live." TVDA courses are more student and parent driven and centered.

## **Who teaches the course? Will my student get the same experience as a student sitting in the same class at a Teays Valley school?**

TVDA courses are not taught by the same teachers in the traditional TV classroom. TVDA has dedicated teachers assigned solely to monitor TVDA courses. TVDA students will not participate in labs or collaborative learning experiences. TVDA teachers provide content and materials, but work is self-guided by students and parents (especially elementary) who serve as a Learning Coach.

Because of the nature and limitations of 100% online courses and the need for elementary parents to be heavily involved in the education process, the elementary curriculum used in TVDA is not the same as the curriculum used in our elementary buildings.

## **What are my responsibilities as a parent if my child is a TVDA student?**

Parents of TVDA students will be required to attend an orientation where more specific details of the program will be provided. Parents of middle and high school TVDA students should expect, at a minimum, to establish structured time daily for students to interact with their online curriculum. Parents of elementary TVDA students must serve in the role of Learning Coach. They will not only need to establish structured time for learning, but will also need to be prepared to spend time daily sitting beside their child directly assisting in the learning process.

## **Is the TVDA the same as K12 and other online learning options being advertised on TV?**

TVDA has a similar format to Connections Academy or K12 and other online options. In our experience since the TVDA was created in 2014, nearly all students who have left TVDA to try another online option have returned to TVDA or their traditional school. While online learning options work for some students, most students need the student-teacher interaction in order to be successful.

## **Do students have to step foot in the TVDA to be an online student?**

Traditionally TVDA has a 15 hour lab requirement per week, however attendance policies have been adjusted for the 20-21 school year so that students are not required to report to campus if they remain in good academic standing.

## **Is there an additional cost to my family?**

There is no cost to be a TVDA student. Families (especially elementary) should be prepared to check books out at their local library to read to their child or purchase books for students to use for independent reading.

## **Can my student still participate in extracurricular activities and athletics?**

Yes. TVDA students are able to participate in all school sponsored extracurricular and athletic activities.

## **Does the district provide access to the internet and a Chromebook?**

Teays Valley will provide a Chromebook to TVDA students if there are no other available devices in the home and if there is not a district owned device in the home. However, the family will be responsible for providing internet access. There are several local options for public Wi-Fi.

## **If I enroll my student as a full-time student, will they have the option to return to their school if TVDA doesn't work for them?**

Full time middle school and high school TVDA students will take all of their core courses each semester (or every 2 quarters). Due to the semester format of each course students must commit to being enrolled in the TVDA for a minimum of a semester.

K-5 TVDA students take academic courses in all subject areas over the course of one school year. TVDA elementary curriculum is different from the curriculum used in our buildings, therefore content is not taught at the same time. Students who return to their traditional school mid-year may experience overlap or gaps in what has been learned.

Students who enroll in the TVDA for the 20-21 school year can re-enroll as a traditional student at Teays Valley the following school year.

## **Who do I contact to enroll or if I have additional questions?**

Please contact TVDA Director Josh McDanel at [jmcdanel@tvds.us](mailto:jmcdanel@tvds.us) or 740.983.5002 with questions.