

JANUARY 13, 2023

DIGITAL ACADEMY

News you can use!

BITS AND BYTES

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**January 13, 2023
End of Fall Semester**

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MLK Holiday - No School**

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Electives, Benchmarks, and Mass Insight

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ON A
SUCCESSFUL FALL SEMESTER**

Greetings Parents, Students, and Staff!

Can you believe the first semester is over? I cannot believe how fast the time has gone!

With the new semester comes new classes for our electives; please read the detailed explanation of how electives will be graded for the fall and how your student can stay on track towards graduation by completing current electives and signing up for new ones. Information begins on page 3.

The second round of benchmark testing will be held next week at Chester High School in the Library. Please be sure to get your student to the building on the appropriate day and time. There are academic bonuses being awarded for growth. Details on page 2.

All students and parents are encouraged to complete the Mass Insight survey to make their voices heard. Links to the surveys can be found on page 6. Please complete the survey by January 17th to let us know what you think is working and what needs to change.

As always, thank you for your trust in us. The Digital Staff

Benchmark Testing Round 2 - January 17-19, 2023

Parents and Students should have received an email (and follow-up text) from Ms. Miller regarding the second round of benchmark testing. We look forward to seeing growth in all our students!

Remember that successful performance on the benchmark tests can add five (5) percentage points to marking period 2 grades for growth or ten (10) percentage points to marking period grades for growth of one or more grade levels. This is being offered as an incentive to take these tests seriously.

All students district-wide will participate in benchmark testing to measure academic growth. It is essential that students do their best on these tests, so we have an accurate understanding of both their skills and where they need help. Please make sure they have a good breakfast on their testing day and bring their Chromebooks and chargers with them to Chester High School.

For our Elementary and Middle School Students, the testing program is called iReady.

For our High School Students, the testing program is called MAP (Measures of Academic Progress).

All testing must be completed in person in a proctored session. Ms. Miller will meet and greet students entering the building. Ms. Floyd will be the coordinator proctoring the sessions.

Please be prompt on your scheduled testing day. The sooner we can start the sooner everyone will be finished.

All students will be provided breakfast for morning sessions and can receive lunch if they are still testing at 10:30 AM. Students coming for the 11:30 session will be provided lunch.

All students can leave as soon as they are completed testing.

Grade(s)	Test Date	Test Time
Grades 4 through 8	Wednesday 1/19	8:30 AM-10:30 AM
Grade 9	Tuesday 1/18	8:30 AM-10:30 AM
Grades 10 and 11	Thursday 1/20	8:30 AM-10:30 AM
Grade 12	Thursday 1/20	11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Digital Academy Offered Electives Spring Semester 2023

In an effort to be fair and equitable, and understanding that some students have had difficulty adjusting to the digital format, we are making the following concessions to electives for the spring semester.

In general, the following conditions apply.

For Elementary and Middle School Students (where credits are not accrued towards graduation)

- All Elementary and Middle School Electives are being extended to a full year for completion. This means that if you/your student did not complete a semester-length course they will be able to and must complete the coursework by June.
- If you/your student completed one of their electives they are free to sign up for an additional elective in the spring semester.

For High School Students (where credits are accrued towards graduation)

- Year-Long courses are not affected - all students must complete the course by June regardless of enrollment date
- If your student **completed** a semester-length elective course
 - They will be able to sign up for additional electives
 - They will receive credit for the course on the second quarter report card
- If your student **did not complete** a semester-length course and was **enrolled prior to November 1st**
 - Your student will not pass the course for the semester, and this will be reflected on their transcript
 - Your student will have the opportunity to complete the coursework in the Spring semester and
 - They will receive the credit at the end of the school year if they complete the course
 - Students are not required to complete courses they failed for the semester, but the option is available if they wish to take advantage of the opportunity.
- If your student **did not complete** a semester-length course and was **enrolled after November 1st**
 - Your student will receive an Incomplete (I) on the second quarter report card
 - Your student will be able to complete the coursework and receive credit at the end of the year
- All high school students should remain aware of their credit status and schedule additional electives as needed to ensure graduation or promotion to the next grade.
This is the student's responsibility to track - Ms. Floyd and Mr. Thompson are available to help but will not make decisions for the students.

Digital Academy Offered Electives Spring Semester 2023 (continued)

Elementary School Electives

Course Name	Course Length	Course Teacher
Art Grades 3, 4, 5	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Eryka Jackson
Music Grades 3, 4, 5	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Eryka Jackson
Physical Education Grades 3, 4, 5	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Eryka Jackson

Middle School Electives

Course Name	Course Length	Course Teacher
Middle School Photography 1a	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Aya Salim
Middle School Digital Art and Design	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Sallyann Shore
Beginning Spanish	Full Year Course	Mr. Jesse Ballenger
MS Life Science Human Biology and Health	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Da'Shalyn Barnes

High School Electives

Course Name	Course Length	Course Teacher	Can Take New for Spring Semester
Health and Physical Education (counts toward Health/Phys Ed Graduation Requirement)			
Personal Fitness	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Sallyann Shore	YES
Health Science I: The Whole Individual	Full Year Course	Ms. Da'Shalyn Barnes	NO
Health	Full Year Course	Ms. Sallyann Shore	NO

Digital Academy Offered Electives Spring Semester 2023 (continued)

Course Name	Course Length	Course Teacher	Can Take New for Spring Semester
Arts (counts toward Arts/Humanities Graduation Requirement)			
Music Appreciation	Semester Only	Mr. Jesse Ballenger	YES
Digital Photography 1a: Introduction	Semester Only	Ms. Da'Shalyn Barnes	YES
Theatre, Cinema, and Film Production	Semester Only	Ms. Aya Salim	NO
Spanish (counts toward World Language Graduation Requirement)			
Spanish 1 A/B	Full Year Course	Mr. Jesse Ballenger	NO
Spanish 2 A/B	Full Year Course	Mr. Jesse Ballenger	NO
General Electives (counts toward Electives Graduation Requirement)			
Careers in Criminal Justice I: Introduction	Semester Only	Ms. Joe/Ms. Miller	NO
Cosmetology 1: Cutting Edge Styles	Full Year Course	Ms. Joe/Ms. Miller	NO
Culinary Arts 1: Introduction	Originally Semester - Extended to Year	Ms. Sallyann Shore	NO
Fashion Design	Semester Only	Ms. Da'Shalyn Barnes	YES
Forensic Science I	Semester Only	Ms. Aya Salim	YES
Introduction to Veterinary Science	Semester Only	Mr. Ray Thompson	YES
Manufacturing	Semester Only	Mr. Ray Thompson	YES
Social Media 1: Our Connected World	Semester Only	Ms. Aya Salim	NO
Mythology and Folklore	Semester Only	Mr. Ray Thompson	YES

Digital Academy Offered Electives Spring Semester 2023 (continued)

NEW OFFERINGS (count toward Electives Graduation Requirement)			
Biotechnology	Semester Only	Ms. Da'Shalyn Barnes	YES
Careers in Criminal Justice II	Semester Only Must have completed Course I	Ms. Joe/Ms. Miller	YES
Personal Psychology I	Semester Only	Ms. Aya Salim	YES

MASS INSIGHT Student and Parent Surveys

Dear Chester Upland Students and Families:

We are excited to share our partnership with Mass Insight Education & Research to understand opportunities for our district to improve the experience and conditions that support student success through a district diagnostic. This diagnostic is the first step in the next stage of the recovery planning process and will serve as the foundation for planning and recovery efforts for the next three years.

Because your voice as a family member matters, we invite you to participate in a family survey to inform the district diagnostic process. This is an excellent opportunity to anonymously share your experience and help the district understand what works well and areas we can improve to better support students' experiences in our community. Please complete the survey by Tuesday January 17th.

Thank you for your participation in this process.

Dr. Craig L. Parkinson
Superintendent of Schools

Links to the Surveys in English and Spanish

[Parent Survey in English](#)

[Encuesta para Padres en Español](#)

[Student Survey in English](#)

[Encuesta Estudiantil en Español](#)