



DESIGN THINKING DIGITAL ACADEMY

THE CHESTER UPLAND
SCHOOL DISTRICT

DIGITAL ACADEMY ...

Reimagined



"One Family! Building on the Collective Strengths of Everyone within our Learning Community!"

A Welcome from the Director

Greetings, and Welcome to the Chester Upland School District's Design Thinking Digital Academy! We are ecstatic that you have chosen or are considering choosing the district's online programming for your education. The District has a central mission surrounding our every activity, and we are fully committed to supporting the C.O.R.E principles.

How does the Design Thinking Digital Academy (DTDA) support this mission?

C - Children First

You are our priority. Our goal at the DTDA is to focus on you as an individual – identify your interests, capitalize on your strengths, help you eliminate your shortcomings, and get you on your desired path to graduation and beyond! The team – student, parent, school – will work together to customize your educational program so that you can realize your dreams, whether they be college, career, trade school, military, or one of the options that we cannot even imagine in today's ever-changing landscape.

O - One Chester Upland

The DTDA is open to all students in the Chester Upland School District from grades 6-12. DTDA students can participate in any athletics, arts, clubs, programs, or extracurriculars offered by the district. We want to welcome home our students who have been attending other Cyber and Charter programs in Pennsylvania – come home to Chester!

R - Reimagining

Digital programming in Chester has been reimagined to include the “Design Thinking” curriculum, a curriculum focused on real-world problem solving. We have gone from a single option of on-site learning to multiple options ranging from full-time, in-person learning to full-time remote learning. By opening our doors to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, we have made digital learning in the district more inclusive and created more opportunities for individualized education.

E - Equity, Excellence, and Emotional Intelligence

Our individualized programming enables students with different strengths in different areas to work on the content that matters to them while ensuring that no skill set is left behind. Our whole student approach means you do not just master academics at the DTDA! The Design Thinking component builds your emotional skills through better listening and practicing empathy. Hands-on projects enhance interpersonal relationship skills, and internships and partnerships will get you out into the community and the workforce before graduation!

Simply put, we are here to serve you! To help you make you the best you that you can be! Come join us to begin the adventure of a lifetime!

**Appreciatively,
Ray Thompson, Director
Design Thinking Digital Academy**

ABOUT US



The Chester Upland School District's Design Thinking Digital Academy (DTDA) is comprised of four distinct options to enable students to reach their goals:

- Design Thinking Digital Academy – the comprehensive academic program leading to graduation (grades 6-12)
- Blended Learning – opportunities for students at district schools to earn advanced credits in courses not offered in their regular school programs (grades 9-12)
- Academic Year Credit Recovery – an option to re-take courses previously not passed for full academic credit (High School students only)
- SARA (Summer Academic Recovery Academy) Our summer program available to students at Chester High School, STEM Academy at Showalter, and to 7th and 8th grade students at Toby Farms Intermediate School

The Design Thinking Digital Academy customizes the educational program to meet the needs of the individual student; by focusing on the students' goals and ambitions, we create an individualized program for every student to prepare them for life after graduation.

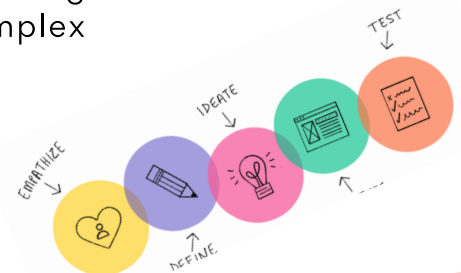
“The mission of the Chester Upland School District's Design Thinking Digital Academy is to provide a fun and engaging high-quality online instructional academic program that leverages curriculum and resources that prepares students for college, career, and life beyond high school.”

~Dr. Carol Birks, Superintendent.

INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND MODEL

Our instructional program is a combination of rigorous academic study in the traditional school curriculum using SAAVAS Learning Company's award winning GradPoint Software coupled with TechTrep's interactive STEM-based Design Thinking Curriculum. “Design Thinking” is a process for creative, solution-based problem solving. The Design Thinking Instructional Model encourages students to solve complex problems by:

- Empathizing: understanding the human needs involved
- Defining: reframing and defining the problem in human-centric ways
- Ideating: creating many ideas in ideation sessions
- Prototyping: adopting a hands-on approach in prototyping
- Testing: checking your design to see if it works



DIGITAL ACADEMY... REIMAGINED

What's new?!

We have expanded the program to any Chester Upland School District students enrolled in sixth to twelfth grades.

We have added a fully remote model – similar to other online virtual schools in the Commonwealth. Students can now choose from four instructional options:

1. Fully remote learning
2. Remote learning with in-person support
3. Half-Time in-person learning
4. Full-Time in-person learning



The educational program is designed to support the whole child through programs that foster students' social-emotional development, provide mentoring, and offer service learning and workforce development educational opportunities. In addition to the standard curriculum, the Design Thinking Digital Academy will provide unique course offerings, including digital media, animation, coding, gaming, financial literacy, robotics, and engineering to ignite student learning and interest in technology and entrepreneurship.

Requirements

- Must be enrolled in the Chester Upland School District
- Ability to work independently
- Passing grades in all subjects
- Fewer than five unexcused absences in the three months prior to application
- No Level II or higher disciplinary offenses in the three months prior to application



What Students Are Saying about the Digital Academy

*S. Lawrence,
Grade 12*

I like how it is mostly independent assignments. Learning on my own has taught me how to figure things out on my own. Therefore preparing me for college.

*A. Foster,
Grade 10*

I [like] the fact that we work from home where it's safe.

*M. Stokes,
Grade 12*

What I like most about Digital academy is that you won't ever feel like their isn't any help. All of the staff will make you feel welcome .

*J. Washington,
Grade 11*

What I like most about the digital academy is that its only a handful of us in each grade so its a small community & we have our own personal teachers.

*D. Canseco Santiago,
Grade 12*

I like how the Digital Academy provides a sense of independence. We get to learn via Gradpoint and complete our work within a reasonable time. Another great thing is that we can work ahead to finish our assignments. I not only enjoy some of the subjects that are available but the teachers care a lot for the students' success. Finally, I feel that I had more time for myself compared to when I wasn't a part of the academy.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Grades 6 – 8

CORE COURSES

Language Arts

English: Basic Reading
English: Basic Writing
English: Grammar
English: Literature
English: School and Job Skills
English: Writing
Language Arts I (Adv.)
Language Arts II (Adv.)
Language Arts III (Adv.)

Mathematics

Mathematics I (Adv.)
Mathematics II (Adv.)
Mathematics III (Adv.)
Math Grade 6
Math Grade 7
Pre-Algebra

Science

Comprehensive Science I (Adv.)
Comprehensive Science II (Adv.)
Comprehensive Science III (Adv.)
Earth Science
Life Science
Physical Science
Science 6
Science 7
Science 8

Social Studies

American History
Civics (Adv.)
United States History (Adv.)
World History (Adv.)
World Studies

ELECTIVES

Career Exploration
Comprehensive PE 6/7
Comprehensive PE 7/8
Fitness - Grade 6
Journalism
Orientation to Art 2D
Photography: Drawing with Light
Reading
Spanish Beginning
Spanish Intermediate

COURSE OFFERINGS

Grades 9 -12

CORE COURSES

Language Arts

English I
English I (Honors)
English II
English II (Honors)
English III
English III (Honors)
English IV
English IV (Honors)

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra
Algebra 1
Algebra I (Honors)
Algebra 2
Algebra II (Honors)
Geometry
Geometry (Honors)
Precalculus
Statistics
Trigonometry
Calculus
Integrated Math I
Integrated Math II
Integrated Math III
Integrated Math IV

Health & Phys Ed

Fitness Lifestyle Design
Health Opportunities through
Physical Education (HOPE)
Health Science
Health Science II
Personal Fitness

Science

Biology
Biology (Honors)
Chemistry
Chemistry (Honors)
Earth Science
Earth Space Science (Honors)
Environmental Science
Health
Marine Science(Honors)
Physical Science
Physical Science (Honors)
Physics
Physics (Honors)

Social Studies

American Government
(Honors)
American History (Honors)
Economics
Economics (Honors)
Geography
US History
World History
World History (Honors)

World Languages

Chinese I
Chinese II
Chinese III
French I
French II
French III
Latin I
Latin II
Latin III
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III
Spanish for Spanish Speakers

COURSE OFFERINGS

Grades 9 -12

ELECTIVES

Career and Technical Education

Accounting I
Accounting II
Administrative Duties and Office Management
Anatomy & Physiology and Human Diseases
Business Communication
Business Information Systems
Business Law
Business Math
Computer Programming I
Criminal Investigation
Health, Safety & Nutrition
Human Resource Management
Introduction to Agriscience
Introduction to Business
Introduction to Communication
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Introduction to Early Childhood Education
Introduction to Entrepreneurship
Introduction to Finance
Introduction to Homeland Security
Introduction to Law
Introduction to Medical Assisting
Introduction to Paralegal Profession
Introduction to Psychology
Introduction to Sociology
Introductory Astronomy
Java Programming I
Java Programming II
Leadership in Business Supervision
Medical Law and Ethics
Medical Terminology
Principles of Management
Principles of Marketing
Public Speaking
Research Methods

Additional Career Courses

Astronomy
Biotechnology
Careers in Criminal Justice
Computer Programming II
Cosmetology
Criminal Investigation
Criminology
Digital Photography I
Digital Photography II
Fashion and Interior Design
Forensic Science I
Forensic Science II
Hospitality and Tourism
International Business
Introduction to Culinary Arts
Introduction to Manufacturing
Introduction to Social Media
Journalism
Law and Order
Personal Psychology I
Personal Psychology II
Principles of Public Service
Psychology
Social Media
Sociology I
Sociology II
Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Theater, Cinema, and Film Production
Veterinary Science

COURSE OFFERINGS

Grades 9 -12

ELECTIVES

General Studies

Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications
Creative Writing I
Critical Thinking and Study Skills
Developmental Writing
Economics with Financial Literacy
Great Minds in Science
Introduction to Women's Studies
Liberal Arts Mathematics
Life Management Skills
Peer Counseling
Personal and Family Finance
Reading for College Success
Real World Parenting
Thinking and Learning Strategies

Humanities

Anthropology I
Anthropology II
Archeology
Art History and Criticism
Art in World Cultures
Gothic Literature
History of the Holocaust
Human Geography
Music Appreciation
Mythology and Folklore
Philosophy
Social Problems I
Social Problems II
The Lord of the Rings
World Religions

Advanced Placement

AP Art History
AP Biology
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Computer Science A
AP English Language and Composition
AP English Literature & Composition
AP Environmental Science
AP Human Geography
AP Macroeconomics
AP Microeconomics
AP Psychology
AP Statistics
AP United States Government & Politics
AP US History



How to apply

STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A CUSD SCHOOL

1. Pre-register by going to the district website
2. Select Design Thinking Digital Academy as the school
3. Complete the application online

A member of the Digital Staff will contact you regarding next steps.

STUDENTS FROM A CHARTER OR OTHER SCHOOLS

1. Go to the CUSD Website
2. Select Design Thinking Digital Academy as the school
3. Complete the application online

A member of the Design Thinking Digital Academy staff will contact you with details about the enrollment packet and obtaining records from your current school. You will have to formally enroll in the CUSD in order to complete your application.

For more Information

Call 610-490-3323

Email info.dtda@chesteruplandsd.org

www.chesteruplandsd.org/dtda