2021-2022
SCHOOL GUIDE
COMMONWEALTH CHARTER ACADEMY

HOW SCHOOL SHOULD WORK
Dear Prospective Family:

I’m pleased to introduce you to Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA), Pennsylvania’s most successful K through 12 public cyber charter school serving students and families across the state at no cost to them.

Founded in 2003, CCA has nearly 20 years of experience providing a high-quality, personalized, and flexible online public education to students.

As you will see through this guide, CCA is an independent and comprehensive public cyber charter school that offers a wide range of educational programs and services to fit each child’s unique needs and learning style.

Through student-led and teacher-led instruction combined with CCA’s custom-designed, proprietary learning management system and in-house created courses, a student’s family has complete control of what, when, and how their child learns.

Our Family Services Department and our CCAWorks initiative are not only unique within the K through 12 public education sector, but both set us apart from other public schools and allow us to be a family service organization with a deep expertise in education by preparing today’s generation for the jobs of tomorrow.

CCA’s teachers are highly qualified, Pennsylvania-certified professionals who are dedicated to providing a robust educational experience to every child regardless of his or her background, socioeconomic status, or where in Pennsylvania he or she resides.

To supplement the academic program and to provide socialization opportunities, each school year, we arrange more than 700 field trips and experiences for students to socialize and interact with their peers as well as extend the learning program to in-person, hands-on activities and adventures.

I am hopeful that the information in this guide answers your questions and provides you with an in-depth overview of CCA’s programs and services.

I look forward to the opportunity to welcome you and your family to the CCA family.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Longenecker
President and CEO

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Why does CCA, a leader in the education field, prepare students for success in our K-12 cyber school; and success in their careers? Because it’s Our Mission:
To deliver a personalized learning experience that engages the entire family and prepares learners to succeed in school and in life.

To succeed in providing a high-quality, online learning experience at no cost to Pennsylvania families, we follow Our Vision:
Transforming today’s learners into tomorrow’s leaders, one learner at a time.

Defining the superior programming families have come to expect at CCA is simple. We are guided by our Our Values:

- **Serving Families** – CCA is a family service organization with deep expertise in education.
- **Personalized Learning Approach** – With a personalized family service approach, CCA learners thrive and are better prepared for success after graduation.
- **Flexibility** – Learners can structure a curriculum that sparks a passion for knowledge and growth.
- **Quality** – CCA’s curriculum is always evolving and growing. The latest developments and best practices in education are monitored and incorporated into lessons.
- **Achievement** – Through CCA’s family service model, learners should enjoy success in school, land great jobs in their field of choice and give back to the communities in which they live, work and play.

CCA offers families and students a rich variety of opportunities and resources to explore their interests, discover new skills, and be prepared for future success. It’s easy to see why tens of thousands of families trust CCA as a partner in education for their child.

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<th>School District Cyber Programs</th>
<th>Other PA Cyber Charter Schools</th>
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<td>Dedicated Family Services Department and Family Services Centers across the state</td>
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<td>Customizable courses to meet each student's needs</td>
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<td>Easy access to teachers during the school day</td>
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<td>Live, virtual classes every day</td>
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<td>Access to virtual recordings at any time</td>
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<td>Options for teacher-led and/or student-led instruction</td>
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<td>In-house developed virtual learning system, including one sign on to access all course content and materials</td>
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<td>Lessons fully accessible to students with special needs</td>
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<td>Career readiness programs and work-based learning opportunities</td>
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<td>Hands-on and immersive learning in agriculture and technology</td>
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<td>All equipment provided, with robust tech support</td>
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<td>Courses designed to match career pathways</td>
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<td>Wide variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities</td>
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<td>More than 700 field trips and events every year</td>
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Productive, successful students who actively participate in education and want to attend school, and families who are engaged with and excited about their children’s talents and progress--- that’s the goal at CCA. Everyone has a role:

• Children explore their academic passions
• Teachers customize lessons and encourage students
• Family members act as learning coaches by supporting, motivating and monitoring progress
• CCA Family Services Department strengthens the bonds between child, family and school through extensive support programming

Family Services department
With an entire department devoted to family service, families joining CCA feel comfortable knowing ongoing family training and support are there from enrollment all the way to graduation.

Family Mentors. Family mentors are experienced CCA parents trained to offer advice and guidance to new families and students as they become acquainted with online education.

Family Involvement Coordinators. These team members organize family mentoring programs, like weekly Coffee Talk sessions and develop school events, like picture day and summer camps. Coordinators also design and host more than 700 field trips across Pennsylvania, both virtually and in-person.

Family Service Centers. CCA operates regional Family Service Centers across Pennsylvania where families can go for in-person help with enrollment, extra support, or tutoring for students.

Tech Support. CCA’s Pennsylvania-based technical support center helps students and families if they should experience issues with their computer or software. Team members typically solve a technical problem in five to 10 minutes over the phone. For more severe technical problems, a replacement computer can be issued within one to two business days.

CCA is a proven, effective public school option with nearly 20 years of experience in providing students and their families online, customized learning that meets students where they are on their educational journey. Partnering with families ensures CCA’s programs meet students’ unique educational needs.
FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORT
Learning Tailored to Your Child

Gone are the days when students had to sit in the same schoolroom at the same time and learn the same thing. CCA students complete lessons on a schedule that’s best for the whole family. In fact, most parents say increased flexibility is the change they most enjoy compared to a traditional school experience. Combining a customized curriculum with a more flexible schedule and learning environment gives families the freedom to fashion school days that will maximize a child’s potential.

Choice of Instructional Model
The latest tools and technology let students choose how and when to receive instruction. At CCA, students learn through real-time virtual sessions, session recordings, self-paced exploration of course lessons, field trips, independent study, and hands-on, career-readiness opportunities. Each school day, students have opportunities to attend regularly scheduled virtual instruction with their teachers and classmates or students can choose to independently work on the day’s lesson content. To see what the teacher covered during a live session, recordings are always readily available. Recognizing not all students learn the same way or at the same pace, these learning options give students and families the benefit of a flexible school day to maximize the student’s time and effort.

Personalized, Supportive Approach
CCA students, family members, and teachers work together to design a tailored curriculum centered on a student’s unique needs and interests. With a wide range of electives, work-based learning, and career exploration field trips, students and families can structure a program that sparks a passion for knowledge and growth. Family members serve as learning coaches and are encouraged to collaborate closely with CCA’s highly qualified and Pennsylvania-certified teachers. The family approach to learning allows students to grow from elementary school, where learning coaches facilitate the schedule frequently throughout the school day, into independent and self-driven learners in middle and high school. Because assisting individual students is the majority of their school day, CCA’s teachers can provide extra help to students who need it, as well as advanced teaching to students ready for a challenge. For students working after traditional school hours, CCA offers evening academic support most days, with teachers and tutors available to assist students with questions about course lessons.

Technology Provided
Upon enrollment, CCA provides each student the use of a free laptop, preloaded and ready to go with all software and programs needed to start learning. CCA also provides each household with a voucher for an all-in-one printer and each student with a voucher for a monitor. CCA families can choose their own internet service option knowing CCA offers an instructional support subsidy to help families with the cost of internet service provider.

The rigor of the curriculum, along with the flexibility of the program, has allowed both of my sons to succeed in high school. There are times when my boys need the flexibility of the recorded lessons vs guided instruction and CCA provides that. The staff is also available for extra help and emails are answered promptly. CCA has been the best choice for our family and for our sons to realize academic success!

-Dorothy, Northampton County
AN EXPERIENCED, DIVERSE TEAM OF TEACHERS

CCA teachers have extensive and diverse career experience. Many of CCA’s skilled teachers have held other careers in fields related to the classes they teach. This allows them to share their expertise and provide students with real-world applications on a variety of subjects.

**Ryenn France, Pittsburgh**
Ryenn, a third grade teacher at CCA, runs a woodworking business with her husband designing custom pieces for homes. She also finds time to assist a children’s company rating apps for children to determine whether they are academically engaging, appropriate, and fun for kids.

“**I love getting to be a part of paving the way for the future [and] that we are a part of innovative learning at CCA!**”

**Vanessa Paskaitis, Harrisburg**
Vanessa serves high school students in business and computers courses at CCA. She also is an adjunct professor for college classes in management. This dual experience allows Vanessa to advise her CCA students on the rigor of college coursework and stay on top of the advancements in the business world making her instruction pertinent to the professional world CCA students will soon join.

**Paul Darring, Philadelphia**
Paul is success coach for high school students in Philadelphia. With experience aboard aircraft carriers in the U.S. Navy, running a small family-owned business, and more than 50 years in photography, Paul is a wealth of knowledge and a steady mentor for CCA teens looking to make their own mark on the world.

“The most fun is the variety of people that I get to interact with. [It] brings a bit of interest and new experience nearly every day.”

**Sara Eneboe, Wikes-Barre**
Sara teaches art history and drawing to CCA high school students. She also runs a private art studio where students of all ages, interests and abilities learn painting, drawing, and graphic design, and are encouraged to enter local art shows. She even hosts small group paint events. Her love of art drives her desire to unlock the artist in every student.

“**I enjoy how genuine and knowledgeable CCA staff and teachers are when sharing ideas.**”

SUPPORT FOR GROWTH

**School Counselors**
The CCA School Counseling Department provides a comprehensive school counseling program for all students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Working with school staff, students, families, and the community, school counselors create a caring, supportive and safe atmosphere for students to achieve academic and personal success. By helping students learn how to find and utilize resources, supports and skills, the school counseling department ensures CCA learners are well-positioned to take advantage of post-graduation opportunities. Beyond just academics, school counselors serve as intermediaries concerned for the emotional and social growth of CCA students as well.

**Evening Support Program**
The CCA Evening Support program provides learners extra opportunities to meet with a CCA teacher for clarification on any skills taught during a class session or in a lesson. Since families at CCA have the flexibility to complete schoolwork outside of the traditional school day, the evening support program ensures students can get quick and convenient after-hours help.

**Learner-to-Learner Support**
Learner to Learner (L2L) support at CCA is a platform for CCA learners to utilizing their passions, talents and skills to help their peers. With L2L peer tutoring, middle and high school volunteers offer individualized academic support and serve as positive role models to younger learners.

The L2L Welcome Program also offers regular welcome sessions for new students to meet and build bonds with current CCA learners. The L2L volunteers are students pursuing a career in education and with a passion for giving back to their communities.
CCA created its own learning management system called edio. Edio was designed by CCA teachers, parents, and students to empower success. Continual enhancements to the custom-built curriculum, educational tools, and multiple communication channels ensure a learning experience like no other.

POWERFUL TOOL FOR STUDENTS
Interactive games
A variety of interactive games give students multiple ways to engage with course content.

Recordings and study guides
Recordings of every live session are available in edio. These allow students working asynchronously to see what was explained in class and synchronously working students to review class sessions again. Guided notes and study guides are easy to access too.

Virtual Class Sessions
Real-time online class sessions keep students engaged in coursework, discussions, and other activities.

POWERFUL TOOL FOR PARENTS
Dashboards
When parents or learning coaches log in to their edio accounts, the most important information is front and center making teamwork and support for a learner simple. Contact staff with questions and concerns, check live gradebooks for instant feedback on student progress, and monitor attendance for a snapshot of participation. Even "impersonate" students to view edio as the student does.

Chat feature
Send a student chat messages in edio to check in on their progress with the day’s schoolwork or reach out to a teacher with a quick question.

Feedback
Teacher feedback on assignments is easy to find in edio. The Projected Grade feature gives additional insight on the progress toward successful completion of a course, no more surprises at the end of the marking period.

POWERFUL TOOL FOR TEACHERS
Customized lessons
Teachers have a lot more options in edio to customize lessons for students. Teachers can seamlessly provide accommodations for extra support without adding confusing extra steps or requiring learners to switch to other learning platforms.

Announcements
Edio’s course announcements, notifications system, and community section keep students and families updated and engaged in courses, school news, and extracurricular activities.

Calendar events
Today’s lessons and virtual class sessions are just the beginning. Add events to student calendars, like tutoring with the teacher, a dentist appointment or soccer practice, to keep students on track each day. Even view the calendar of multiple students at once for simplicity in scheduling.
Special Education at CCA
CCA offers a special education program to make sure students with unique needs are getting the best education possible. The school personalizes education based on academic needs, family schedules, and outside activities.

CCA's online special education classes give teachers the ability to customize strategies and intervention services, allowing them to be fully integrated into the cyber school program from the safe, comfortable environment of the student's home.

What makes CCA's special education program unique?
Special education-related services can be provided virtually in the student’s home or community by expert and attentive providers who care about the students as learners and people. Special education in CCA’s online school operates in compliance with your child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) documentation.

At CCA, the development of the student’s IEP may include a variety of assistive technologies to help students learn to their full potential.

CCA employs a dedicated staff of special education teachers and professionals. CCA can provide speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, a board-certified behavior analyst, and assistive technology to meet the needs of CCA students.

Programs for EL cyber school students
CCA’s English Language Development (ELD) Program offers students a first-class curriculum and customized learning opportunities. CCA celebrates cultural diversity by combining a quality education with socialization opportunities through numerous school field trips and events.

As an online school, CCA provides English Learners with services that extend far beyond traditional English lessons, while fully supporting and integrating English Learners into the CCA family. Online ELD courses at CCA allow students to progress at their own pace, set a schedule that works for the whole family, and build diverse friendships with students across the entire state.

What CCA provides for English learners
• Targeted language development instruction delivered by Pennsylvania certified ESL teachers.
• Innovative and rigorous educational resources, including National Geographic’s English Language Development curriculum, that bring the classroom to life.
• Socialization opportunities. CCA offers field trips and culturally diverse events each year across the entire state at the school’s Family Service Centers.
• Interpreters and translation services provided by CCA for all school-to-home communication.
• Face-to-face family support at regional Family Service Centers for all CCA families.
CCA is committed to career readiness for students.

CCA’s mission has always been to deliver a customized learning experience and prepare students to succeed in school and in life. CCA is pulling out all the stops every year to ensure that, together with students and their families, this mission is achieved.

“Pre-apprenticeships and other work-based learning experience programs give students a chance to see what career is right for them.” Numayr M., 12th grade

The CCAWorks initiative is a schoolwide commitment to every student.

- To provide them with 21st-century skills
- To enable them to discover their future careers
- To help them succeed in life and their future careers

Although many would think of career-readiness as exclusive to high school, you will find elements of the CCAWorks initiative in everything CCA has to offer from elementary school through high school.

CCAWORKS:
Career Pathways that lead to success
CCA’s Career Pathways is a flexible K through 12 exploratory career-oriented mindset, helping each learner discover, navigate and select a meaningful career within fields that interest them.

Helping students find their Career Pathway
CCA developed the Career Pathway model to give students the knowledge, experience, and skills to prepare for life after high school. It is part of the schoolwide commitment to career preparation for all students, equipping them with 21st century skills, and ensuring they are both college- and career-ready.

CCA offers five Career Pathways for students to gain knowledge, experience, and skills that can be used after high school graduation.

Although students can join a Career Pathway at any point in high school, CCA highly recommends they do so in 9th or 10th grade to give them sufficient time to complete the pathway.

CCA is proud to be among just 31 Pennsylvania high schools that have been designated Pennsylvania National Guard Association (PNGAS) Guard Friendly High Schools.
Students use Career Pathways with school counselors to identify the right courses to take within their chosen career cluster. CCA extends career-readiness beyond the classroom by offering a variety of work-based experiences from career consultations to internships.

Work-based learning offers students hands-on practice and the development of authentic relationships with industry professionals while learning what is required to succeed in specific careers. With the flexibility of the CCA schedule, students can gain valuable career experience when their peers who attend traditional school are required to be at their desks.

**Workplace Tours** - Students visit a workplace, learn about the business, meet employees, ask questions, and observe work completed in a particular industry.

**Informational Interview** - Students interview an adult professional in their chosen career of interest in order to gain a better understanding of the skills and training needed for success and seek advice.

**Job Shadowing** - Students follow an employee during a regular workday to provide an opportunity to experience the workplace, and understand the roles and duties of an occupation.

**Career Mentoring** - Students are matched one-on-one with an adult professional in a chosen career of interest for on-going mentoring.

**Internship** - Students learn by doing real work and being productively engaged in the workplace. They may rotate through different departments and job functions, or work on a project of interest to the student and value to the employer.

**Pre-apprenticeship** - Students interested in trades, such as carpentry, construction or advanced manufacturing, can participate in pre-apprenticeships or similar training programs, such as the Associated Builders and Contractors Inc (ABC) Keystone Program, and The Pennsylvania College of Technology Advanced Manufacturing Pre-apprenticeship Program.

CCA is proud to offer a College in the High School program to high school students. Families can invest in advanced courses such as Foundations in Law, Computer Programming and Fundamental of Accounting that provide the rigor and experience of university instruction while acquiring credit recognized by participating post-secondary institutions.

Some colleges that CCA partners with include:

"Since CCA partners with colleges for dual enrollment and college in high school programs, I experienced college introduction classes, allowing me to understand the structure of assignments, so the transition was super easy."

As a CCA high school student, Michelle made the most of many opportunities. From honors, AP, and college courses to internships and award-winning clubs, Michelle looked for chances to discover her purpose. Now as she pursues a college degree at Central Penn College, Michelle is entering an internship as a project manager with one of the largest health insurance companies in the country. With plans to become a master business analyst and leader in the workforce, Michelle credits her success to skills developed at CCA, personal responsibility, time management, and networking.

Michelle D., 2020 graduate
As part of CCA’s commitment to provide a customized education to every child, the addition of TechWorks at CCA reaffirms the mission to prepare students to succeed in school and in life. With seating built for collaboration, TechWorks at CCA provides students with experience in several areas, including information technology, computer programming, cybersecurity, drones, STEM, and robotics.

**A Maker Space Like No Other**

This 7,000-square-foot facility at the CCA Pittsburgh Waterfront Family Service Center includes a digital experience for students and visitors upon entry. They will scan into the facility and complete “missions” in various courses. The space will also enable students to participate in immersive, augmented reality experiences, learn web design, programming languages, and audio/video editing and production. Within an accessible and flexible space, the facility will easily and seamlessly integrate new technology and practices.

**CURRENT TECHWORKS OFFERINGS:**

- Engineering
- Manufacturing
- Cybersecurity
- Artificial Intelligence
- AR/VR
- Robotics
- Drones/UAVs
- Computer Programming

CCA is partnering with area businesses, community organizations, and colleges and universities to expand opportunities for students through TechWorks at CCA. These partnerships provide CCA students with practical experience in engineering, cybersecurity, and visual manufacturing programs that can develop into pathways to internships and apprenticeships.

Providing students with the best in hands-on learning and career readiness for a variety of fields served as the inspiration for building AgWorks at CCA, the largest public educational aquaponics facility in the country.

Housed in the Capital Campus and Family Service Center in Harrisburg, the student-led AgWorks at CCA enables students to apply STEM lessons to produce food through controlled environment agriculture.

AgWorks at CCA provides learning experiences for students of all ages from across the state, virtually and in person, around aquaponics, hydroponics, aeroponics, and a variety of career options. The AgWorks at CCA facility also contains research labs and a biotechnology lab centered around genetics.

**Statewide Impact**

In addition to on-site learning, CCA has created virtual experiences allowing students to engage with the AgWorks at CCA facility from afar through live cameras, high-tech water monitoring sensors, and an online digital dashboard that processes real-time data.

AgWorks at CCA also gives the community more than career- and college-ready students. The produce grown and harvested in the lab is sold to local restaurants or donated to local food banks.

**THE LIVING, LEARNING LABORATORY THAT IS AGWORKS AT CCA TRAINS STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN:**

- Agriculture
- Business
- Computer programming
- Information technology
- Engineering
- Trades
- Robotics
- Science
- Supply chain management
- Technology

CCA is partnering with area businesses, community organizations, and colleges and universities to expand opportunities for students through TechWorks at CCA. These partnerships provide CCA students with practical experience in engineering, cybersecurity, and visual manufacturing programs that can develop into pathways to internships and apprenticeships.
The hands-on career readiness offerings at CCA are set to grow with the addition of MedWorks at CCA. With more than 5,000 square feet of dedicated space in CCA's Malvern Family Service Center outside Philadelphia, the soon to open MedWorks at CCA program will focus on careers in the medical trades.

**High Need Family-Sustaining Jobs**
As a Pennsylvania school, CCA understands the importance of preparing students for the job sectors most needed in the commonwealth. The medical field represents one of the largest and fastest growing skilled occupations in Pennsylvania with projected growth of nearly 85,000 new jobs by 2024.

Agriculture, manufactural engineering, and technologies such as telecommunications, also lead Pennsylvania’s economy with well-paying careers in need of candidates with entry-level knowledge and training. The CCAWorks array of programs are built to ensure CCA students have the opportunity to experience these important fields and can carry their capabilities right into the workforce of their choosing after graduation.

**PA LABOR STATISTICS**
Largest Skilled Occupations Demand by 2024
- Registered Nurses...51,000+
- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses...18,000+
- Billing and Posting Clerks...7,000+
- Medical Assistants...9,000+

**The CCAWorks Initiative**
Through the CCAWorks initiative, CCA students should enjoy success in school, land great jobs in their fields of choice, and give back to the communities in which they live, work, and play.

An important part of the CCAWorks initiative is an effort to engage students in personalized career discovery and planning as they progress through school beginning in elementary school. Learning firsthand about potential careers helps students choose their path, with graduates going on to college, technical training, the military, or directly into the workforce.

CCA offers a variety of career-focused courses and clubs for students of all grade levels to discover opportunities throughout their education at CCA. A small sample of courses and clubs for each grade level appears on the following pages.

CCA is accredited by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. This accreditation recognizes that CCA is providing quality education that can be reciprocated with other schools. The accreditation validates the value of a CCA education in comparison to other educational institutions.

In addition, most CCA core and elective high school courses are approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

**Proven Curriculum and Resources**
The goal at CCA is to build an education that guides CCA students to success by providing the right courses and resources from day one.

To achieve this goal, CCA's curriculum experts review and select the best books and teaching materials to create engaging units, lessons, and activities, and to provide interactive tools and resources to help students become immersed in their education.

CCA offers courses for all levels of learning. CCA teachers identify the knowledge and skills students need to excel. By working closely with students and their families to establish their interests and needs, teachers customize instruction so that students at every level can achieve success.

CCA provides a core K through 12 curriculum in math, science, English language arts, and social studies as well as honors and advanced placement (AP) courses for students seeking a more rigorous course load and College in the High School course options. For students requiring alternative pacing and customized content to achieve grade-level standards and expectations, CCA Achieve courses have been specially designed to support success.

CCA also provides a rich array of engaging elective courses available as early as kindergarten. Students can explore a language, such as Spanish or Chinese, tap into their creativity with digital arts or music appreciation, or prepare for a career with courses such as personal and consumer law and criminal justice.
Fostering Lifelong Learning
CCA's elementary teachers and staff take pride in educating future leaders through an enriching, flexible, and customized curriculum, with engaging instruction and support. CCA provides the tools and resources children in grades K to 5 need for virtual learning, educational development, personal growth, and creative thinking.

Family Involvement
At CCA, we believe families should engage in their child’s elementary school education. The role of the learning coach – typically a parent or guardian – is of particular importance in making sure elementary-age students gain the fundamental academic skills necessary for future success.

Each day, the learning coach:
• Closely monitors coursework,
• Assists the student with activities and lessons,
• Maintains a learning schedule,
• Encourages studying, and
• Tracks academic progress.

The unique partnership between CCA teachers and families ensures a solid foundation of communication and support for student growth.

A Strong Learning Base
As students advance through K to 5 at CCA, they are immersed in a mix of online multimedia, print, and digital resources to create a comprehensive, online elementary program. Students can take part in daily live class sessions, add elective courses to broaden their knowledge, and participate in many field trips, clubs, and in-person activities, which bring course concepts to life.

Gaining Independence
Middle school is a time for students to move beyond fundamental learning skills and deepen their understanding of abstract content. It is also when learners start taking ownership of their educational journey. Because we expect middle school students to take more responsibility for their online learning, we encourage parents to transition into more of a support role. CCA recognizes the importance of ensuring students and families are prepared to make the transition into middle school with “Springing into Sixth Grade” events at our Family Service Centers to share what to expect in the middle school program.

Academic Content with Flexibility
In middle school, your child will begin to work directly with subject-specific teachers and a school counselor. Students will continue to attend live classroom sessions with an expanded teaching staff in which they communicate with their peers and teachers in the virtual school environment.

Class sessions occur each day for all major subjects and are always recorded for students to view at a later time or to master course content - school on your time and at your pace...that’s flexibility.

Wide Variety of Opportunities
Beyond the core courses of English language arts, math, science, and social studies, middle schoolers can take electives and participate in clubs to explore their personal passions. Perhaps courses like digital art or journalism and the anime club or the school newspaper will further develop a budding career interest.

Career Exploration
In middle school, CCA gets students to begin thinking about career planning. Through courses delivered by school counselors, students begin to consider career clusters and evaluate how personal skills and interests align with a variety of job sectors.
Meaningful Relationships
At CCA, the focus is not just on earning a high school diploma, but on life after graduation. We strive to ensure students graduate with the skills to become the leaders of tomorrow, contribute to the communities in which they live, work, and play. Building strong relationships between teachers and students is the key to delivering a learning experience in which students’ goals - academic, personal, and professional - decide the path forward.

Personal Pathways
High school students continue to work with teachers and school counselors to develop a customized plan to help them meet their post-high school goals. CCA offers high school students:

- Rigorous academic coursework, with honors, advanced placement, and College in the High School options,
- A rich selection of electives conveniently arranged into exciting career pathways,
- Career-focused clubs like, Theater Arts and Teachers of Tomorrow,
- Career exploration field trips that tour a variety of workplaces and businesses,
- Informative virtual and in-person college visits,
- Opportunities for networking and skill-building through job shadowing and internships,
- National and internal travel opportunities to experience new cultures,
- Pre-apprenticeship programs to gain skills and knowledge in the skilled trades, and
- The CCAWorks programs that develop employment skills in Pennsylvania’s top employment sectors.

Unmatched Flexibility: Teacher- or Student-led Instruction
High school learners lead the charge in their education by setting goals, working independently, and exploring career and college options. At CCA, students participate in online learning via live, virtual classrooms where they interact with their peers and teachers. Students may also choose to tackle schoolwork independently on their own daily schedule. They use CCA’s customized learning management system – edio – to manage their calendar, communicate with teachers, turn in assignments, and build a student portfolio.

Future Success
CCA’s curriculum is designed to guide each student to a successful future – whether they choose to attend college or technical school, enlist in the military, or join the workforce after graduation. From the start and at all points along the way, CCA is invested in helping all Pennsylvania students pursue their dreams and find success.
CLUBS:
Something for everyone

CCA offers more than 50 clubs every school year and refreshes those offerings every year to reflect students’ changing interests. If you don’t see a club that reflects your interest, you can apply to start one that does!

Socializing in online school is easy through CCA’s clubs. CCA students can gather virtually for their activities, although some meet in person for local events or competitions and at CCA’s regional Family Service Centers.

Clubs also offer a great space for students from elementary to high school to socialize and problem-solve around subjects that are the building blocks of future careers. Clubs can enhance school social life in groups geared toward a student’s interests, be it science experiments, photography, gaming, or any other interest students might want to explore. With CCA’s flexible scheduling, it’s easy to branch out and give a brand-new activity a try.

- **STEM** – CCA offers clubs from gaming and chess to coding and science for learning and experimenting.
- **Arts** – CCA offers multiple arts clubs, from art and crafts to film.
- **Literary** – Students can exercise their writing, public speaking, and reading skills with a broad range of literary clubs.
- **Volunteering** – CCA students help their communities through volunteer and service clubs.

FIELD TRIPS: Adventures of learning

If you wonder how your child can navigate an online school social life, rest assured that CCA fosters important social connections among all students.

Every year, CCA develops, schedules, and hosts more than 700 exciting and educational standards and curriculum-aligned field trips across Pennsylvania and the world, giving CCA students many chances to learn while socializing in person or online.

CCA offers educational trips, including visits to museums and historic sites, enhancing what is taught in students’ courses. Social field trips include fun outings, such as roller skating and outdoor adventures.

CCA offers in-person regional field trips to ensure that students have access to opportunities throughout the state. Using real-time video conferencing, CCA also offers virtual field trips that travel the globe, from visiting active volcanos with rangers at Hawaii Volcano National Park to a Broadway backstage meet and greet with one of the actors from Hamilton, and excite students about learning something new.

Public cyber charter school field trips are especially important for the opportunities they provide for students to expand their horizons. Field trips let students see the connections between what they’re learning at school and the real world. They can start to see how the material they are mastering in virtual courses can help them solve real-life problems and perhaps open their eyes to a potential career.

Unlike brick-and-mortar schools, where students might miss classroom lessons to attend a trip, CCA has built-in schedule flexibility so students never miss an opportunity to learn online or on a field trip.
**ENROLLMENT MADE EASY**

CCA offers year-round, easy-to-navigate open enrollment to all Pennsylvania families with students in grades K through 12. It's free to enroll at CCA, and there is no cost to your family to attend. Here's what you need to do to enroll:

1. **Create an account.** To begin cyber school enrollment online, visit ccaeducate.me/enroll and enter your email address to create an account. You do not need to enter or remember a password.

2. **Complete the enrollment application.** The application takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and is split into four easy steps. The application will collect information about the parent/guardian, student, your household, and technology in your home.

3. **Submit required documents.** You will need to complete and submit the Charter School Student Enrollment Notification Form (page 31) to enroll in CCA, or you can download it from the CCA website.

4. **Attend a Great Start Orientation Session.** These sessions provide new CCA families a comprehensive overview of parent, student, and staff responsibilities. For your convenience, families can choose to attend these sessions virtually or in person.

Have a question? CCA’s enrollment team is here to help. Call 844-590-2864.

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**CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION FORM**

For School Year 2021-2022

Commonwealth Charter Academy Charter School
Address: 1 Innovation Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Telephone: 1-844-590-2864 (toll free)
Email Address: CCAChartForm@ccaeducate.me

**Warning:** A child enrolled in another public school or a nonpublic or private school cannot, at the same time, enroll in a charter school.

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**I. Student Information**

Last Name: ____________________  First Name: ____________________  MI: ______

Home Address: ____________________________________________________________

City: ____________________  State: _____  Zip Code: _______

County: ____________________  Telephone: ____________________

Mailing Address: (If different from Home Address):

City: ____________________  State: _____  Zip Code: _______

Date Of Birth: __________, Age: __________

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**II. School District of Residence and Former School Information**

School District of Residence: ____________________________________________

Former School Information (Other Than Pre-School):

- [ ] Public School  [ ] Charter School  [ ] Home School  [ ] Non-public School
- [ ] Student Not Enrolled in School Preceding Enrollment in Charter School Because:
  - [ ] Entering Kindergarten  [ ] Re-Enrolling Dropout  [ ] Other: ____________________

Name of Former School: ____________________
Address of Former School: ____________________________________________

Previous Grade: __________  Withdrawal Date From Former School: ____________________

Was your child receiving Special Education Services based on an IEP?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

- If Yes, do you have the child’s Special Education Records (IEP)?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

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**Required Enrollment Documents Checklist**

- [ ] Proof of Age
- [ ] Proof of PA residence
- [ ] Immunization Record
- [ ] Charter School Notification Form (see next page)
- [ ] Academic Documents (*Transcript, report card, Individualized Education Plan)

*If unavailable, CCA will request from previous school

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III. Parent/Guardian Information

Child Lives With:  □ Both Parents  □ Both Parents
Alternately  □ Mother Only  □ Father Only
□ Legal Guardian  □ Foster Parents  □ Other Adult:  ____________________________

Special Custodial Court Instructions? □ Yes (Provide a copy of Court Order)  □ No

Complete Parent/Guardian Name and Address Information As Applicable

Father’s Name:  ____________________________  Address:  ____________________________
City:  ____________________________  State:  ________  Zip Code:  ________
Home Telephone:  ____________________________  Work Telephone:  ____________________________

Mother’s Name:  ____________________________  Address:  ____________________________
City:  ____________________________  State:  ________  Zip Code:  ________
Home Telephone:  ____________________________  Work Telephone:  ____________________________

If The Student Is Not Living With Parents, Please Complete This Section.

□ Guardian  OR  □ Foster Parent  OR  □ Other Adult:  ____________________________
Name:  ____________________________  Address:  ____________________________
City:  ____________________________  State:  ________  Zip Code:  ________

My signature on this form indicates my decision to have my child attend the charter school named on page 1 of this form and signifies my request that appropriate school records be forwarded from the school district to the charter school. My signature also certifies that my child is not, and will not be, enrolled in another public school, a non-public school or a private school at the same time he or she is enrolled in this charter school.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:  ____________________________  Date:  ____________________________

IV. To Be Completed By Charter School

Verification of Date of Birth:  □ Birth Certificate  □ Other:
Proof of Residency:  □ Mortgage  □ Lease  □ Utility Bill  □ Other:

Official Enrollment Date:  ____________________________  Anticipated Date of Attendance:  ____________________________
Grade Student Is Entering:  ____________________________
Signature of Charter School Representative:  ____________________________
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Brody H., 1st grade - Racing dirt bikes is in Brody’s DNA. At age 5, he was the national champion for the Grand National Cross Country series. For Brody to continue racing without worrying about how much time he was missing in the classroom, his family needed to find flexibility in their school schedule. With CCA, Brody does his schoolwork in the mornings and can play or ride on the dirt bike track in the afternoons. When the family has a trip coming up to a race, Brody works ahead as much as he can. If he can’t get online for a live session, he watches later in the day.

“(CCA) was more convenient on all ends.” Brittany H. {Brody’s mother}

Emily W., CCA graduate - Emily was hired right after her high school graduation by an autism support service affiliated with one of Emily’s CCA internship sites. She currently works integrating adults with autism into the community. With this work experience and the skills developed at CCA, Emily will next pursue a college degree to further her career goals to serve children with different abilities.

“I feel as though CCA prepared me for the future by offering me a flexible schedule that allowed me to participate in real-life experiences as a volunteer and in my internship.”

“Work-based experiences give students a much greater knowledge of different jobs and interests they might have than just taking a normal class about them.”

Numayr M., 12th grade - “CCAs flexibility, coupled with engaging and caring teachers who are truly invested in their students, gave me the opportunity to learn and excel at my own pace.”

Numayr, a CCA honor student, participated in the Advanced Manufacturing Pre-apprenticeship program offered in partnership with the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Numayr was accepted into the aviation maintenance technician program at the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics and sees himself in the coming years as a leading manufacturer of drones for racing, search and rescue, surveillance, and education. The first-hand experience and knowledge gained at CCA has prepared him well for a bright future. “My years at CCA have shown me that my opportunities are limitless, and so I plan to explore them all.”

JOIN US

CCA invites families who are interested in learning how a customized education can meet their children’s unique needs to take advantage of in-person opportunities to meet teachers, administrators, and enrolled families. CCA also offers virtual sessions to meet CCA staff on the school’s website at ccaeducate.me/events.

For a schedule of events or to learn more, contact CCA at:

ccaeducate.me
844-590-2864
info@ccaeducate.me

YOU FOUND COMET!

A special guest has been showing up at field trips and other school-related activities lately: CCA’s mascot, Comet!

Comet loves to meet students from all across Pennsylvania, so keep an eye out for this big yellow dog at CCA’s events and activities.