2022-2023

Mountain Heights Academy

ANNUAL REPORT

We are the leader in Digital Education
School Highlights

Founded in 2009, Mountain Heights Academy is Utah’s premier online school, known for unparalleled teacher interaction and personalized instruction. Schoolwork is divided into weekly modules, which empowers students with the freedom to complete their assignments when and where they choose, within each week.

Mountain Heights Academy is an award-winning, full-service virtual school that is home to 975 full-time 7th–12th graders and 493 part-time students in grades 9-12. Part-time students attending their district schools are eligible to take up to four credits online from various providers. Mountain Heights Academy has one of the highest Statewide Online Education Program passing rate in the state, at 94%.
**Academic Highlights**

Mountain Heights Academy maintains its position as the highest-rated online charter school in Utah, based on graduation percentages, state test scores and completion rates, due to data-driven instruction, teacher interaction and a customizable, open educational resource curriculum that can be tailored to meet the needs of every student.

**Program Highlights**

At Mountain Heights Academy, a Chromebook is provided to each student, along with cutting-edge applications, programs and collaboration tools. Students learn to use real-world, 21st century technology in their courses and are able to leverage these tools to showcase stellar work throughout their high school experience.

**Administration and Faculty Highlights**

Mountain Heights Academy employs 96 certified teachers from all over the state of Utah, from Perry to Santa Clara. Forty-six of these highly decorated faculty members and administrators have advanced degrees in addition to their bachelors degrees.

*We never forget what’s at stake here. Young, malleable minds. Creative thinkers. Tomorrow’s leaders.*
Mountain Heights Academy’s student population varies from year to year. Students come because they value the flexibility of fitting school in around their own schedule, and the unparalleled interaction they enjoy with their teachers.

**Student and Parent Preferences**

- Flexibility and the ability to work anywhere, any time
- Individualized teacher interaction between teachers and students
- Teacher and administrative responsiveness
- Social activities and leadership opportunities
- Customizable curriculum
- Use of a Chromebook for full-time students

**Parent and Student Surveys**

Parent and Student surveys reveal between 89% and 93% satisfaction ratings for making them feel welcomed, treating them with respect, and providing resources children need for learning.
Student Demographics

Mountain Heights is uniquely positioned to serve the needs of all students because of the customized learning pathway each student experiences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>966</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students choose Mountain Heights Academy for many reasons—each as individual as they are.
Program Activities

Service Learning
Mountain Heights Academy is a service learning school. Students and faculty were recipients of individual President’s Volunteer Service Awards, recognizing many hours of individual service. To date, Mountain Heights has provided a cumulative total of over 115,500 hours of service. In 2021-2022, Mountain Heights students, faculty, board members, and parents logged over 10,000 hours, providing service in various areas, including:
- Stockings for Deployed Soldiers and VA Hospitals
- Donated items to the Provo Food Bank
- Fleece Blankets for Animal Shelters
- Donated books for Read Across America Day
- Cut out underwear templates for women in Kenya to help keep them safe during our Cut-a-thon

Social Activities
Students have opportunities for face-to-face social activities outside of school. Students enjoy their Mountain Heights experience and are the school’s primary advocates. Students value the social opportunities, often commenting that they are friends with people they otherwise would never have met.
- Back to School Carnival
- STEM Day (Loveland Aquarium and the Hogle Zoo)
- Art in the Afternoon
- ACT Prep Bootcamp
- Day at the Capitol
- Pi Day
- Spirit Week
- #YouAreAwesome Week
- Tracy Aviary Field Trip
- Suicide Awareness & Prevention Week
- College Campus Tours
- Girl Talk
- History Day
- Leonardo Field Trip (STEM)
- Club Activities
- Hope Squad
- Topaz Field Trip
- 9th Grade Academy
- College Tours
- High School Adventure Day (Big Rock Adventures)
- Veteran’s Day Activity
- Abravanel Hall Symphony
- Red Ribbon Week
- Halloween Activity
- Food Bank SLC/St. George
- Sleeping Beauty Ballet West
- Among Us Night (Virtual)
Leadership Opportunities

At Mountain Heights Academy, students have many opportunities for leadership, including National Honor and Junior Honor Society Chapters, Student Advisory Board, and Hope Squad. Additionally, there are a variety of group activities including Gaming Club, Robotics Club, STEM Teams—that students enjoy participating in through service activities and leadership.

Parental Involvement

All parents belong to the Mountain Heights Academy Parent Organization and many volunteer their time to assist with extra-curricular events and School Land Trust Committee service throughout the school year.
**Academic Highlights**

**Graduation Rate**

The historical graduation rate for students at Mountain Heights Academy is a strong indicator of the success of our students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School year</th>
<th>Graduation Rate (per USBE Data Gateway)</th>
<th>Graduation Rate (seniors starting the year at MHA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State Test Scores**

Utah students take assessment tests each spring. Students took the RISE, ASPIRE+, and ACT exams. Mountain Heights Academy students have traditionally performed well on state tests, and the school is consistently the top-ranked online school in the state.

**Achievement & Proficiency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MHA</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Post Secondary Readiness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MHA</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT 18+</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Year Graduation Rate</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Course Passing Rates

Mountain Heights Academy implements an engaging, high-tech teaching model by employing full-time certified teachers to work individually with students when they ask for help, and to reach out to struggling students to offer assistance, which translates to more students passing their courses.

Mountain Heights Academy is dedicated to providing an academically rich experience for all of its students.

Devoted, accredited teachers create a custom learning environment tailored to allow each student to succeed. Teachers design lessons that students can complete throughout the week in order to absorb the lesson at their own pace, fast or slow.

From there, students complete their weekly work with personal teacher interactions available via video chat, email, text, live study sessions, or phone as needed.

The individualized, high-tech teaching model earned Mountain Heights Academy Mountain Heights multiple Best of State awards for Best Charter School, Best K-12 Online School, Best Curriculum Development, and Best Administrators between 2011 and 2022.

Because of Mountain Heights Academy’s groundbreaking approach to personalized learning, the school frequently hosts visitors from across the country and around the world. To date, Mountain Heights has hosted international guests from 31 countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Averages</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Values

• We value being Audacious

• We value being Student-Centered

• We value being Problem-Solvers

• We value being Open and Flexible

• We value being Innovative

• We value being Communicative

• We value Personal Responsibility

• We value Service Learning
Testimonials

Student Feels Important

I love MHA. The teachers here know how to help and make you feel important. Mountain Heights is the best online school there is. I have done other online schools and none of them have made me feel as successful as MHA has.

He finally found success

My son was struggling in Middle School. The environment was bad, the teachers didn’t seem to care, and his grades showed it. Halfway through the year, desperate for another option, I moved my son to Mountain Heights Academy. In the 6 months he has been with Mountain Heights, his grades have come from C’s, D’s and F’s to straight A’s. He is happier. He is more confident. And he is learning more than he was in his previous school. Seeing him succeed tells me we made the right choice.

Genuine Teachers

The best thing about this school is how personal and genuine my teachers are. I felt more independent than ever. I got to work at my own pace and express my own thoughts without fear of feeling self-conscious. I felt accepted, I felt cared for and encouraged to do my best work at all times.

Finding counselors who care

My counselor has been a life-saver. She is so understanding, intelligent, efficient, and comprehensive. Mountain Heights Academy makes online learning more effective with a user-friendly online software and learning environments.

Opportunities for Self Growth

Mountain Heights Academy is a school that provides the students--like me--with incredible opportunities for self-growth. I have been able to present to a group of over 300 national educators, teach 27 international educators about MHA’s online learning environment, compete in a national STEM competition, and many other activities. I have learned and grown so much as a person during my time with MHA and I am forever grateful. Thank you to all of you who have helped make me who I am today.

Safe and Respectful School

The best part about attending Mountain Heights Academy is the flexibility to create my own schedule. At Mountain Heights, I have always felt safe and felt that the teachers and staff respect and care about the students.
Awards and Recognitions

2023
National History Day, State Winners
ECybermission, Student State Finalists
Governor's Office of Energy - Rose Van Moorlehem
Rookie Teacher of the Year - Region 10, Natalie Christner
Samsung Solve for Tomorrow State Finalist, Andrew Hulse
STEM Education Innovators Cohort, Teachers award
Southern Utah STEM Awards Finalists, Mindy Branson, Sunee Eardley
Governor's Award for Science and Tech - Lora Gibbons

2022
National History Day, Student National Team Winners
Utah English Quest, Student Winners
ECybermission, Student Regional Finalists
ECybermission, Student State Finalists
Springville Art Show, Student Winner

2021
Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, State Winner
National History Day, State Winners
Utah Robotics, 2nd Place
Governors Office of Energy Award, Amy Pace

2020
Lexus EcoChallenge, Student Team National Finalists
Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, Student Team State Finalists
Innovators of Tomorrow, Student Team National Finalists
Best of State, Charter School
Best of State, Curriculum Development
Best of State, K-12 Online Education

2019
ECybermission, 9th Grade National Winner
ECybermission, Regional Winner
Utah Robotics, 3rd Place
EcoChallenge, 3rd Place
Best of State, Charter School
Best of State, K-12 Online School
2018

SETDA, Student Voices Winner
Best of State, K-12 Online School
eCybermission, 1st, 2nd Place Utah
Sara Layton, National Humanities Center Teacher Advisory Council
Open Pedagogy Award, Open Education Global Consortium

2017

Jenni Klein, Drive2Teach Fellowship
Madison Kingsford, USDA, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Award
Sara Layton, Utah’s PBS Digital Innovator
eCybermission, 2nd Place Utah Team
Best of State, K-12 Online School, Curriculum

2016

Jenna Ellis, USDA, Best Teaching Practices Award
Crystal Van Ausdal, Utah Coalition of Education Technology, Outstanding Educator
Best of State – K–12 Online School, Charter School, Curriculum Development
Open Education Consortium International Award of Excellence – Outstanding Course

2015

Carrie Jones, USDA, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Gold Award
Best of State – K–12 Online School
Open Education Consortium International Award of Excellence – Outstanding Course and Website
Board of Directors – Utah Association of Public Charter Schools “Board of the Year” Award

2014

DeLaina Tonks, Best of State – Principal, Utah Business’s “30 Women to Watch” Award
Annie Swinton, Math for America Fellowship Winner, USDA, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Bronze Award
Sara Layton, Utah Charter School Teacher of the Year
Melissa Hesterman, LearnZillion DreamTeam Winner
Ashley Webb, USDA, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Silver Award
Amy Pace, National PBS Learning Media Digital Innovators Award

2013

Ashley Webb, UCET, Outstanding Young Educator Award
Sara Layton, ISKME Fellow
Ashley Webb, ISTE Emerging Leader Award
Sara Layton, American Board Certification for Teacher Education, Utah Teacher of the Year

2012

Emily Andersen, ISKME Fellow
DeLaina Tonks, ISKME Fellow
Amy Pace, Governor’s Medal of STEM Excellence Winner

2011

Laura Bishop, USDA, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Silver Award
Amy Pace, Top Five Online Teachers in the nation

2010

Amy Pace, Presidential STEM Award Winner
Sarah Weston, Charter Educator of the Year, the first online instructor to receive this award
Contact Information

DeLaina Tonks, PhD
Executive Director
Tel: 801.725.3396
dtonks@mountainheightsacademy.org

Vickie Webb
Special Education Director
Tel: 801.900.3343
vwebb@mountainheightsacademy.org

Amy Pace
Assistant Director
Tel: 801.702.0532
apace@mountainheightsacademy.org

Debbie Dempsey
Assistant Director
Tel: 801.702.0466
ddempsey@mountainheightsacademy.org
Mountain Heights Academy.
It works for me.
Mountain Heights Academy
LEADERS IN DIGITAL EDUCATION

mountainheightsacademy.org

We are the leader in digital education. Our mission is to develop connected & successful learners.