

# 2022-2023

## Mountain Heights Academy

ANNUAL REPORT

**We are the leader in Digital Education**

# To Our Stakeholders

## 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.**

## School Overview

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.

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



**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)



**Our students have the opportunity to find their strengths and pursue them in a wide variety of ways.**

## **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.

School year	Graduation Rate (per USBE Data Gateway)	Graduation Rate (seniors starting the year at MHA)
2019	83%	95%
2020	79%	97%
2021	80%	96%
2022	79%	95%
2023	81%	99%

## 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

	MHA	State
English Language Arts	43%	44%
Mathematics	20%	40%
Science	35%	45%

### Post Secondary Readiness

	MHA	State
ACT 18+	68.1%	62.0%
4 Year Graduation Rate	78.0%	88.0%



## 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.

Course	Pass Rate
English	75%
Math	77%
Social Studies	79%
Science	83%
Technology	75%
Electives	77%
School Averages	78%

## 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**, USDLA, 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**, USDLA, 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**, USDLA, 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, USDLA, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Bronze Award

**Sara Layton**, Utah Charter School Teacher of the Year

**Melissa Hesterman**, LearnZillion DreamTeam Winner

**Ashley Webb**, USDLA, 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**, USDLA, 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**

9067 S. 1300 West

Suite 204

West Jordan, Utah 84088

Office 801.721.6329

Fax 888.670.0032

[mountainheightsacademy.org](http://mountainheightsacademy.org)



# Mountain Heights Academy

LEADERS IN DIGITAL EDUCATION

[mountainheightsacademy.org](http://mountainheightsacademy.org)

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