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**REACH CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL DEEPENS STEM ENRICHMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH NEW WHITAKER CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS PARTNERSHIP**

**HARRISBURG, Pa. (Aug. 25, 2021) –** Reach Cyber Charter School, a [unique, tuition-free, online public charter](https://www.connectionsacademy.com/reach-cyber-school) for K-12 students across Pennsylvania, is deepening its offering of [STEM enrichment opportunities](https://www.connectionsacademy.com/reach-cyber-school/academics/stem-education) for students through a new partnership with the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, Pa. A non-profit center that links science and the arts to education and cultural enrichment, the Whitaker Center is home to the Harsco Science Center, which is geared to young people that entertain while examining physical, biological and life sciences. The partnership will begin September 2021.

“Reach Cyber Charter School’s enrollment continues to grow in Central Pennsylvania,” said Jane Swan, CEO of Reach Cyber Charter School. “Our commitment to these students – and all of the young people and families who have chosen a Reach Cyber education over the years – is to empower our learners in every grade to thrive in a world that keeps changing. Engaging around STEM with partners like the Whitaker Center is a great way to develop their critical thinking and life skills and to prepare them for whatever comes next.”

Reach Cyber’s partnership with the Whitaker Center expands upon the school’s ongoing exploration, activity and research opportunities for students, faculty and families statewide. Students currently take advantage of the online school’s STEM-themed lessons, STEM clubs, and “STEM in a Box” kits, as well as a WeatherSTEM multi-media weather station and STEM day camps.

Key benefits of the new partnership include equipping Reach Cyber students with opportunities for interactive STEM exploration, the opportunity for students and families to regularly visit and experience the center’s exhibits and the opportunity to host Reach Cyber events at the Whitaker Center.

The partnership will kick off with Reach Cyber’s annual Back-To-School event hosted at the center on Sept. 23, 2021, where students will complete STEM activities and interact with their peers in the Harrisburg-area, many of whom will be meeting in-person for the first time.

Students will return to the Whitaker Center on numerous occasions for field trips, personalized adventures and as a larger group for Reach Cyber’s end of the school year celebration. In coming years, Reach Cyber and the Whitaker Center plan to expand their partnership to include a professional development K-12 certification program for Reach Cyber teachers.

“Whitaker Center is excited to be partnering with Reach Cyber Charter School to offer their students and families the opportunity to explore the Harsco Science Center, interact with hands-on exhibits, and view documentaries in our Select Medical Digital Cinema,” said Jessica Rice, education director at Whitaker Center. “The education team is excited to plan STEM activities to share during the field trips that allow education to come alive and inspire future generations of learners. Whitaker Center is posed for future growth in this partnership and the growth of our educational offerings to Central Pennsylvania and beyond.”

Serving students virtually across the state of Pennsylvania, Reach Cyber Charter School delivers an award-winning curriculum with STEM enrichment opportunities, engaging electives, technology tools and online and in-person social experiences for families who want an individualized approach to education. Reach Cyber’s [flexible pacing options](https://www.connectionsacademy.com/reach-cyber-school/academics/graduation-tracks) allow students to choose from a traditional calendar option, year-round option or for high school students, an accelerated schedule, to best meet their academic and scheduling needs. To learn more about Reach Cyber Charter School, visit [www.ReachCyberCharter.com](http://www.reachcybercharter.com).

**ABOUT REACH CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL**

Reach Cyber Charter School is a unique, tuition-free, online public charter for K-12 students across Pennsylvania. Reach Cyber, a Pennsylvania Connections Academy, creates a high-quality educational experience that keeps students motivated and engaged in a safe, virtual learning environment. In addition to academics, teachers focus on emotional well-being and social development, working closely with families to help students learn how they learn best. Here, students gain the skills and confidence they need to direct their own educational journey, learning to thrive in the real world by first learning how to be resourceful and resilient. Reach Cyber incorporates STEM-enrichment opportunities, as well as flexible pacing options that allow students to choose from a traditional calendar option, year-round option, or for high school students, an accelerated schedule. For more information, call 800-382-6010 or visit [www.ReachCyberCharter.com](http://www.reachcybercharter.com/).

**ABOUT WHITAKER CENTER**

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is a non-profit center for the arts, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment located in the heart of Harrisburg’s vibrant downtown. Whitaker Center is home to Sunoco Performance Theater, Harsco Science Center and Select Medical Digital Cinema. Visit whitakercenter.org for a full list of educational programs, special events, shows, and more.

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