PHAROS TERMINAL QUICK START

For parents. Pharos Terminal is homeschool curriculum for grades 7–12 at zacnorthup.com. This page gets your family from purchase to your first lesson. The Parent Manual explains everything in more detail.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- **You hold the account.** Students never buy or sign up. You add them once you're inside.
- **Your sign-in page:** zacnorthup.com/terminal/sign-in/. Bookmark it.
- **Your students' sign-in page:** zacnorthup.com/terminal/student/. This one is optional; see step 4.

YOUR FIRST DAY, STEP BY STEP

1. Buy and open your terminal. Go to zacnorthup.com/pharos-terminal/ and press **Subscribe to Pharos Terminal**. When the order is paid, the receipt page says **Check your email.**

- **Your receipt email** has a button, **Open your Pharos Terminal**. It signs you in once and works for 72 hours. Press **Sign in to Pharos Terminal**, choose a password on the **Set your password** page (at least 10 characters) and press **Save and open Pharos Terminal**.
- **Already signed in when you paid?** The receipt page says **You're all set.** instead. Press **Open your Pharos Terminal** there.
- **Later,** sign in at zacnorthup.com/terminal/sign-in/ with your email and password. If the email link has expired, the page it opens sends you to that sign-in instead.

2. Add your first student. The first time you open the terminal, you'll see **Let's add your first student**. Type a **First name or nickname** (one or two words, like Sam or Mary Ann), pick a **Grade** from 7 to 12, and press **Add student**. Only the first name or nickname and the grade are stored. Have more students? Go to **Tracker**, find **Your students** and choose **Add a student**. Your plan covers a set number of students, and the Tracker shows how many slots you've used.

3. Choose who you're teaching. The name pill at the top of the screen (for example "Sam · Grade 9") is the student menu. Whatever you mark done, log or file goes to the student shown there. Switch students from that menu, or from the round account button next to it.

4. Give a student their own sign-in (optional). In **Tracker › Your students**, choose **Set up sign-in** next to a student. Pick a username and a password (or press **Suggest a password**), then **Create sign-in**. Write the password down right away, because it can't be shown again. Your student then signs in at zacnorthup.com/terminal/student/. Younger students can simply work beside you from your own sign-in.

5. Open Today's Nexus Point. New Nexus Points arrive daily. On the **Dashboard**, the **Today's Nexus Point** section shows the featured lesson on a real current event, with its Teaching Value score (0–100: grade fit, subjects, how close to home, how solid the facts are — same score for every family). Press **Teach this →** to open it: read **What happened**, check the sourced facts, use the **Talk it over** questions and give the **Writing task**. When you're done, press **Log to tracker**.

6. Assign a lesson. Open a lesson packet from **Lesson Packets** (or a Nexus Point) and press **Assign this packet** (or **Assign this Nexus Point**). Choose the whole packet or a single session, tick the students, and add a due date and a note if you like. Then press **Assign**. Your student sees the assignment on their Dashboard. Full courses are under the **Courses** tab. Open a course, press **Start Lesson 1**, and use **Assign this lesson** on any lesson page to assign it the same way.

7. Teach, then mark it done. Packet sessions and course lessons have a **Mark done** button. One press records the date, hours, subject and standards in the Tracker, and the button then reads ✓ **Done · undo**. A student with their own sign-in can mark work done too, and you'll see "logged by" their name. For learning outside Pharos Terminal (co-op, field trip, outside reading), use **Tracker › Log an outside lesson**.

8. Keep work samples as you go. In the **Tracker**, choose **Add a work sample** and upload a photo or PDF of an essay, map or notebook page (up to 15 MB). Online worksheets can be filed with **File as work sample**.

9. At year's end, export the portfolio. In the **Tracker**, pick the school year and press **Export year-end portfolio**. You'll get a PDF with the year's lessons, hours by subject, the standards tagged, your work samples, and space for your reviewer's narrative. **Download all my records (zip)** under **Your students** gives you everything at once.

GOOD TO KNOW

- **Records:** your student records are stored in a private, encrypted Pharos Terminal vault, not on this website. The vault is in a US AWS region. Terminal pages carry no ads or analytics, and nothing is sent to AI tools.
- **Mature content:** look for the **Content advisory** box on packets and the **For the parent or teacher** notes in courses. Students never see the parent notes. To see a lesson exactly as your student will, use **View as** (your student's name) in **Tracker › Your students**. It's read-only, and nothing is saved while you're in it.
- **Grades:** some courses are written for older students, such as grades 10–12. If your student is younger, the course page shows a short note. You can still open the course.
- **Help:** email officialzacnorthup@zacnorthup.com, or use **Send feedback** on your Dashboard.