PHAROS TERMINAL

PARENT MANUAL

For parents and guardians

November 11, 2026

PHAROS TERMINAL

VALUES STATEMENT

Pharos Terminal is built so that parents can teach their students to seek truth in primary sources and great books, to test claims and state opposing views at their strongest, and to grow in virtue and citizenship through experience rather than theory.

Pharos Terminal is for families who teach at home with students in grades 7 through 12. You teach. Zac Northup, a writer, historian and researcher who has taught in high schools, career tech centers and universities, provides the material. The curriculum follows the aim of his earlier educational nonprofit: to teach through analysis and experience those who strive to make their communities better places to live.

History is taught from primary sources. Students read great books and classic literature, and use confirmed public-domain images. Wikipedia and Reddit are not used as sources. Unverified sources are cut or hedged. Truth is treated as objective and knowable. Claims are tested against evidence that stands apart from feelings or narratives.

Students define contested words before they use them, name trade-offs, start from scarcity, and trace later effects. They judge policies by outcomes, not intentions, and apply the same scrutiny to government, companies and individuals. They state the opposing view at its strongest, then argue the case, not the person. They practice the old arts of grammar, logic and rhetoric: reading closely, reasoning carefully, and saying what they think and why. On questions of government, economics or society, classical liberal and conservative ideas are taught openly, always with the strongest critique, so students can explain both sides and say where they land.

Lessons treat moral agency and personal responsibility as real and ask students to serve their communities with skill and judgment. Lesson packets are aligned to established academic standards in English language arts, science and social studies. Math is treated as applied, practical work, not as aligned to math standards. The curriculum is written to be accurate, ready to teach and honest about what it knows and what it does not.

In ancient times, Pharos was a towering lighthouse that guided travelers into Alexandria, home of the Great Library. Today's Pharos serves the same purpose. It is a beacon of objective learning for modern scholars.

This statement is also published at zacnorthup.com/values/.

PHAROS TERMINAL PARENT MANUAL

For parents and guardians using Pharos Terminal, the grades 7–12 homeschool curriculum at zacnorthup.com. November 11, 2026, written to match the terminal as it runs in version 1.1.75. For the short version, see the Quick Start.

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1. HOW PHAROS TERMINAL IS LAID OUT

Pharos Terminal lives at **zacnorthup.com/terminal/**. Across the top are five tabs:

Tab	What it's for
Dashboard	Today's Nexus Point, your student's week, today's plan, assignments, every course and the six newest lesson packets.
Nexus Points	Short lessons built from real current events, each with sources and a Teaching Value score.
Lesson Packets	Ready-to-teach units in nine subjects, with sessions, online worksheets and printable PDFs.
Courses	Full courses that run for weeks.
Tracker	Your records: lessons, hours, work samples, assignments, your students and the year-end portfolio.

On a phone, the same five places sit in a bar at the bottom of the screen: **Home**, **Nexus**, **Packets**, **Courses** and **Tracker**.

The student menu. At the top right is a pill with the selected student's name and grade, for example "Sam · Grade 9." Everything you mark done, log, assign or file goes to the student shown there. Tap it to switch students.

The account menu. The round button beside the pill opens a menu with **Account**, **Orders & receipts**, **Family guide** (**Quick Start (PDF)** and **Parent Manual (PDF)**), **← zacnorthup.com** and **Sign out**. If you

have more than one student, the menu shows a **Switch student** heading and a button for each name and grade. For your first seven days, the Dashboard also shows a card, **"New here? Start with the Quick Start guide,"** which you can dismiss.

Under the menu, a bar reads: "Seek truth. Test claims. Grow in virtue and citizenship." **View Values Statement** opens the Values Statement at zacnorthup.com/values/. (The full statement is also at the front of this manual.) If your subscription has lapsed, a lapsed-plan notice replaces this bar.

2. YOUR ACCOUNT, YOUR STUDENTS AND THEIR SIGN-INS

Buying and first sign-in

The parent or guardian holds the account. Students never buy or sign up.

1. Go to **zacnorthup.com/pharos-terminal/** and press **Subscribe to Pharos Terminal**.
2. After you pay, the receipt page says **Check your email.** Your receipt email includes a button, **Open your Pharos Terminal**. It signs you in once and lasts 72 hours. (Link previews in your email app don't use it up.)
3. On the page it opens, press **Sign in to Pharos Terminal**.
4. On **Set your password**, choose a password of at least 10 characters, type it twice and press **Save and open Pharos Terminal**.

If you were already signed in when you paid, the receipt page says **You're all set.** and has an **Open your Pharos Terminal** button instead.

Signing in later

Go to **zacnorthup.com/terminal/sign-in/** (bookmark it). Under **Sign in**, enter your email (or username) and password. **Forgot your password?** is on the same page.

If your emailed link has been used or has expired, the page says **This link has been used or has expired**. Press **Sign in with email and password**. If you never set a password, use **Set one here** and you'll be emailed a link.

On the sign-in page you can also **Create your account** before buying. Every parent password needs at least 10 characters, whichever way you set it.

Adding students

The first time you open the terminal you'll see **Let's add your first student**. Later, add students from **Tracker › Your students › Add a student**.

- **First name or nickname:** one or two words, letters only (for example Sam or Mary Ann). Please don't use a full name.
- **Grade:** 7 through 12.

Under **Your students**, the Tracker shows how many of your plan's student slots are used (for example "2 of 3 student slots used"). When every slot is full, the same place shows **Add a student to your plan**.

Next to each student:

- **Edit** changes the name or grade. Update the grade at the start of each school year.

- **Archive** frees the slot and keeps the student's records.

Student sign-ins (optional)

A student sign-in lets an older student work on their own. No email address is needed.

1. In **Tracker › Your students**, press **Set up sign-in** next to the student.
2. Choose a **Username** (4–24 letters, numbers, `.`, `_` or `-`, starting with a letter) and a **Password** of 8 or more characters. **Suggest a password** makes one from three words and a number.
3. Press **Create sign-in**. **Write the password down now.** The vault keeps only a scrambled copy, so it can't be shown again.

Students sign in at **zacnorthup.com/terminal/student/**. A student session signs out after 30 minutes without activity and ends after 4 hours at most. Your student just signs in again.

To manage a sign-in, use the buttons on the student's line in **Your students**:

- **Reset password** sets a new password. It signs the student out everywhere and clears any sign-in pause.
- **Turn off** / **Turn on** pauses a sign-in without losing anything. Turning it off ends any open session.
- **Remove** deletes the sign-in only. The student's work stays.

If a student types the wrong password too many times, their line shows **Locked after too many tries · Reset password to unlock**. Saving a new password unlocks it. Students can't reset their own passwords. They're told to ask you.

Younger students don't need a sign-in. They can work beside you from your account. Just pick them in the student menu first.

What students see

A signed-in student gets the same tabs, except that **Tracker** is called **My progress**, and there's no Account menu. They see the values bar (and **View Values Statement**) under the menu. Their Dashboard opens with **Your plan**, grouped as Today, This week, This month, This semester and On a specific date. They can also open **Today's plan**, which shows only their own due work. They do not get Family guide, parent notes or the line about downloadable PDFs lagging behind.

Students can work through Nexus Points, packets and courses, **Mark done** on sessions and course lessons, fill in and file online worksheets, add work samples, see what you assigned them, and mark Reality Writes! modules and Pitch to Profit lessons as submitted for your sign-off. They never see answer keys, parent notes or content notes. Anything a student logs shows up in your Tracker marked "logged by" that student.

3. THE DASHBOARD

The Dashboard is your home screen. From top to bottom:

- **Course banner.** A rotating banner of the newest courses. The banner's main button is usually **Open the course →** (active subscription). Featured course cards may say **Open the full course →** or **Your course PDFs →** if you already own that course. **See all courses** (sometimes with →) opens the Courses tab.

- **Today's Nexus Point.** The featured Nexus Point as a large card, with its subjects, place and date, Teaching Value and summary. It has two links: **Open the lesson packet** (when a packet goes with it) and **Teach this →**. Under it is a short list of **More recent Nexus Points** and the link **See all Nexus Points →**.
- **Assigned.** Appears when you have assigned something to the selected student. It shows the open assignments grouped the same way as **Your plan** (Today, This week, This month, This semester, On a specific date). A course lesson shows its course name. Due dates and an Overdue flag appear on the items, with the link **Manage assignments in the Tracker →**.
- **Your week at a glance.** This week's lessons, teaching time and work samples filed. The button is **Open today's plan**, which opens the **Today's plan** page: what each student has due today, with overdue items first, grouped by student. If nothing is due today, the page says **"Nothing is due today. Next due:"** and shows the next due item. An assigned **Up next** line can still appear above the button.
- **What is Teaching Value?** A short explanation of the score (see Nexus Points, below).
- **Required subjects this year.** Progress bars for the five core subjects (Reading, Language, Math, Science and Social studies) against the yearly hour goals you set, with the link **Open the Tracker →**.
- **Feedback.** "How is Pharos Terminal working for you?" with **Send feedback**.
- **Full courses.** A wrapping three-column grid of every course on the page, with **See all courses →**.
- **Latest lesson packets.** A grid of the six newest packets, with **See all packets →**.
- **Reading list.** Book shelves with reasons to read each book and, for parents, parent notes. You can turn on reading tracking for each student in **Tracker › Your students**. The switch is labeled **Reading List tracking**, and it's off until you turn it on. Once it's on, each book can be marked **Not started**, **Reading** or **Finished**. Every book also has an **Assign** button.
- **Find a lesson.** One search across every packet and Nexus Point, by title, subject or standard code (for example SS.C.2), with subject and grade filters.
- **Nine subjects.** History; Civics & Government; Politics & Elections; Economics & Personal Finance; Classic Literature (pre-1965); Science & Technology; Outdoors & Field Study; Trades & Skills; Applied Math & Data. Each one opens its Nexus Points.

4. NEXUS POINTS

A Nexus Point is a short lesson on a real event worth teaching, from West Virginia, the nation or the world, explained at your student's level with the sources attached. New Nexus Points arrive daily.

The **Nexus Points** tab ("Real events, turned into real lessons") lists them all. Filter by subject, grade (**All grades**, **Grades 7–8**, **Grades 9–12**) or topic, or search.

Inside a Nexus Point:

- **What happened** and **Why it matters**.
- Sometimes a short video (**Watch**).
- **The facts, and how solid they are.** Each fact carries a label and its source: **Verified**; a claim, such as **Official claim**, **Candidate claim**, **Research group claim** or **Company claim**; or **Estimate**.
- **Why this lesson? · Source note.** What prompted the lesson and the sources the desk read.
- **Talk it over** questions and a **Writing task**.

- **Why it scored N.** The Teaching Value broken into its four parts.
- **Assign this Nexus Point**, and **Open the lesson packet** when a packet goes with it.
- **Taught it?** Press **Log to tracker** (it logs about half an hour unless the lesson sets its own time). You can also attach the writing with **Upload work sample**.

Teaching Value is a score from 0 to 100, built from four parts worth up to 25 each: grade fit, subject coverage, how close to home it is, and how solid the facts are. Every family sees the same score. It's how the lesson scores for a typical West Virginia student in grades 7–12.

5. LESSON PACKETS

The **Lesson Packets** tab ("A ready-to-teach packet in every subject") shows a card for each packet. Each packet is a unit you can teach on screen or print: a parent guide, readings, activities, standards tags and a portfolio page. Some also include quick checks with answers. Filter and search the same way as Nexus Points. A subject still being built shows **Packet in production**.

The packet page

- **The big picture.** What the packet is about, plus a **Content advisory** box when the packet deals with difficult material.
- **PDFs.** Most packets have two: **Parent guide (PDF)**, which holds the answer keys, and **Student pages (PDF)**. A packet with a single file shows **Download PDF**. Students only ever get the student pages. Beside the download buttons, packet and course pages show parents this line: "For the latest updates, rely on the online course materials. Downloadable PDFs may lag behind." Students do not see that line.
- **Assign this packet.**
- **About this packet.** The grades, the time it takes and the Teaching Value. Sessions follow a simple rhythm: Open, Read, Think, Do and Wrap.
- **The sessions.** Each session card shows its hours and standards and has **Assign this session**, **Mark done** and a link to the full session page. The next one is marked "up next."
- **Standards.** A table of codes, grades, where each is used and what the student does.
- **Logged automatically.** When a session is finished, press **Mark done**. The Tracker records the date, hours, subject, standards and session. Pressed it by mistake? It now reads ✓ **Done · undo**.

Session pages

A session page has **Lesson at a glance**, **Key tasks by grade**, **In this lesson**, the **Big question**, the readings and primary sources, worksheets and data sheets, the writing task and the standards. Two tabs switch between the **High school · 9–12** and **Grades 7–8** versions. For a 7th or 8th grader the page opens on the Grades 7–8 version. Parents also see notes such as **For the parent** and **Answer key**, which students never see. Session pages are part of a Pharos Terminal subscription.

Online worksheets

Under **Online worksheets** on the packet page, open a worksheet to fill it in on screen, or print it from the PDF instead. Press **Save** to keep the answers in your student's private records. On math worksheets, **Check my math** compares the answers with your student's own numbers. It never fills in a

box. **File as work sample** saves a copy to the Tracker and the year-end portfolio. Filing again replaces the earlier copy.

6. COURSES

The **Courses** tab ("Go deeper with a full course") holds the full courses. Each runs for weeks, not days. The courses open today:

Course	Subject	Written for
Reality Writes!	Writing	Grades 11–12, and advanced students from grade 8
Through the Fading Darkness	History (1774 frontier, novel and record)	Grades 7–12
Beyond the Fading Darkness	History (Virginia, 1775)	Grades 7–12
Winter's Ghosts	History (Virginia frontier, 1776)	Grades 9–12
Pitch to Profit	Entrepreneurship	Grades 7–12
World War II	History (Depression, war and the peace that followed)	Grades 9–12
Steinbeck Country	Literature (Cannery Row to East of Eden)	Grades 10–12
Hemingway at War	Literature (A Farewell to Arms and For Whom the Bell Tolls)	Grades 10–12
Could It Really Work? The Real Science of Science Fiction	Science (the real science behind Star Trek, Star Wars, Dune, The Expanse, Battlestar Galactica and Blade Runner)	Grades 9–12
Promise and Record: Communism and the Writers Who Answered It	Literature (Animal Farm, Nineteen Eighty-Four, Darkness at Noon and the witnesses of Cuba)	Grades 10–12
Take Care: The American Presidents and the Power They Hold	History (Article II, the precedents and the court cases)	Grades 10–12
Hollywood on History	History (eleven war films and the record behind them)	Grades 11–12

New courses are added as they're finished, so the Courses tab may list more than this table. A course marked **In development** isn't open yet. With an active subscription, every course is included, start to finish.

Inside a course

Each course page has a course introduction, a **For the parent or teacher** box, the reading list and the lessons grouped by unit. Press **Start Lesson 1** to begin. A lesson page has **Lesson at a glance**, **Key tasks by grade**, **In this lesson**, the **Big question**, primary sources and photographs, and a reading list. In

the side column, parents also see the lesson's content note and a **For the parent or teacher** box with the answer key and discussion guidance.

Some courses ask you to supply a book or a film; the course page says which. Hemingway at War, for example, asks you to buy For Whom the Bell Tolls. Promise and Record asks each family to supply its own copies of the novels and memoirs (any complete edition works); the Manifesto and other public-domain sources are printed in the lessons. Could It Really Work? suggests optional film viewing that your family supplies; its parent notices give each film's rating, and grades 9–10 use a no-film path. Hollywood on History asks your family to obtain each film (Pharos Terminal does not host, stream or show any film). Every film has a written scene path, so you can choose the full film or the scene path. Take Care works from the primary documents printed in each lesson; no purchase is needed.

Course pages also show parents the same PDF line described in section 5.

Tracking course work

Every course lesson page has a tracking card just under the lesson title:

- **Mark done** logs the lesson to the Tracker for the student in the student menu: the date, the lesson's planned hours, its subject and its standards codes. The card tells you what it will log, for example "Mark done logs 1 hr · Standards: … to the tracker and portfolio." Once logged, the button reads ✓ **Done · undo** and the card shows **Done · Sam** (your student's name). Press it again to undo.
- **Assign this lesson** opens the same **Assign** panel as packets (see section 8).
- Until the lesson is marked done, the card says "Not logged yet for Sam." (with your student's name). If no student is chosen, it says "Choose a student to mark this lesson done."
- A student with their own sign-in sees **Mark done** for themselves (no Assign button), just as on packets. You'll see "logged by" their name in the Tracker.

Two courses keep their own sign-off:

- **Reality Writes!** Your student works through each module and marks it submitted. You press **Parent sign-off**, and the sign-off logs to the Tracker. Modules open in order, and Module 8 (peer review) is optional.
- **Pitch to Profit.** Lessons have **Assign this lesson**, and the card says the lesson is "Logged when you sign off this lesson." Your student marks the lesson submitted, and your **Parent sign-off** logs it.

Course lessons show in **Recent lessons** marked "Course lesson," and they count toward hours, standards and the year-end portfolio like any other lesson. If a lesson took more or less time than planned, **Remove** the entry in **Recent lessons** and use **Log an outside lesson** with the real hours.

Some courses point to a related lesson packet. Hemingway at War, for example, has **The Lesson Packet behind Unit 1**. If you teach from the packet instead, use the packet's own **Mark done** and **Assign**.

7. GRADE BANDS AND THE GRADE NOTE

Pharos Terminal covers grades 7–12, and content is fitted to grade in three ways:

- **Packets** list their grades on the packet page. Many sessions have a **Grades 7–8** version beside the **High school · 9–12** version.
- **Courses** each have a grade band (see the table above).

- **The grade note.** If your selected student is younger than a course's band, and the band starts at grade 9 or later, a short note sits at the top of the course: "This course is written for grades 10–12. Sam can look around, but it isn't on their grade path." The note never blocks the course. You decide.

The Dashboard's **Full courses** grid shows every course on the page, including those written for older students. The course page still shows its grade note. The **Courses** tab always shows every course.

8. ASSIGNING LESSONS

You can assign a **Nexus Point**, a **whole lesson packet**, a **single session**, a **course lesson**, a **Reality Writes! module** or a **book** on the Reading List.

1. Press **Assign this Nexus Point**, **Assign this packet**, **Assign this session**, **Assign this lesson** (on a course lesson), **Assign this module** or a book's **Assign** button.
2. In the **Assign** panel, choose **What to assign** (for a packet: the whole packet or one session) and check the students under **Assign to**. The panel checks the student shown in the student menu. If that student already has the item, or is over the plan's student limit, and exactly one other student can take it, that student is checked instead, with a line such as "Ava already has this, so Sam is checked." If more than one student could take it, nothing is checked and the panel says **"Check who should get it."**
3. Choose **When is it due?** This is required. The choices are **Today**, **Tomorrow**, **This week** (Friday), **This month** (the last day of the month), **This semester** (your family's next semester end date) and **On a specific date**. Each choice shows the date it will save. A **Note to your student** is optional.
4. Press **Assign**.

Your student sees the assignment in **Your plan** on their Dashboard and on the **Today's plan** page when it's due today or is the next due item, with a link straight to the lesson. (If assignments aren't grouped that way, they appear under **Assigned to you**.) The status (**To do**, **In progress**, **Done**) comes from what is logged in the Tracker, so nothing is marked done twice. If a due date passes, the assignment shows as **Overdue** on screen. Pharos Terminal doesn't send reminders or emails.

Manage assignments in **Tracker › Assignments**: **Edit** changes the due date or note, and **Unassign** removes the assignment. Unassigning never removes logged work. With two or more students, the card **Assignments: all students** shows each student's open, overdue and done counts.

9. THE TRACKER

The **Tracker** keeps one student's records for one school year at a time (a school year runs July 1 to June 30). Choose the year from the menu at the top.

- **The four numbers:** lessons finished, hours logged this year, work samples filed and academic standards covered.
- **Recent lessons:** date, lesson, time and standards, each marked with where it came from (Lesson packet, Nexus Point, Course lesson, Outside lesson and so on). **Remove** deletes an entry logged by mistake.
- **Assignments** (see section 8). Each assignment shows its due date and, when you chose a timeframe, a label such as **This week**. Older assignments with no due date can say **Pick a due date**.

- **Work samples: Open** or **Remove**.
- **Reality Writes! files** and **Reality Writes! sign-offs.**
- **Core subjects tracker:** Reading, Language, Math, Science and Social studies, measured against yearly hour goals. Press **Change goals** to set the yearly hour goals you want to track against. Pharos Terminal doesn't decide what your program requires, so check the current requirements for your own homeschool route.
- **Hours by subject** across the nine subjects. Gold marks the subject with the most hours so far.
- **Your students:** add, edit, archive, set up sign-ins, **View as**, and **Download all my records (zip)**.

Adding to the Tracker yourself:

- **Log an outside lesson:** what your student did, the date, hours, subject category, optionally which core subjects it **Counts toward** and any standards codes, and notes. Use it for co-ops, field trips, outside reading and anything else taught outside Pharos Terminal.
- **Add a work sample:** a photo or PDF (JPG, PNG, WEBP, HEIC or PDF, up to 15 MB), with a title, optionally linked to a logged lesson.

10. STANDARDS TRACKING

Pharos Terminal lessons are aligned to the West Virginia Department of Education academic standards in English language arts, science and social studies. Packet sessions, Nexus Points and course lessons carry their codes, and **Mark done** logs those codes with the lesson. Course lessons also list their codes in **Lesson at a glance**. The Tracker counts the standards covered in the year, and the portfolio lists every code tagged. Math in Pharos Terminal is applied, practical work; it is not tagged to math standards.

Some things to know:

- The tags are for planning and record-keeping. Tagging is not an endorsement, approval or accreditation by the West Virginia Board of Education.
- Not every lesson has a code. A session without one says **No standards tagged**.
- When you log an outside lesson or sign off a Reality Writes! module, you can add or change codes yourself. Reality Writes! lists grade 11–12 codes, so for a younger student add their grade-level codes if you track them.
- You can search for a standard code in **Find a lesson**.

11. PARENT NOTICES AND PREVIEWING MATURE CONTENT

Some lessons deal with hard material: war, atrocities, violence, drinking and, in some novels, sex. Here's where to look before you teach:

- **Content advisory** on a lesson packet page says what the packet contains.
- **For the parent or teacher** on each course page summarizes the course's mature content. Hemingway at War, for example, has a **Parent notice** naming the lessons with love scenes. World War II's note covers the Holocaust and wartime atrocities. Could It Really Work? gives each film's rating and what to preview, and keeps grades 9–10 on its no-film path. Promise and Record's notice covers famine, camps, torture and brief sexual content in Nineteen Eighty-Four (Grade 10 gets a

summary of Part Two by default; you may choose the full text); the family supplies copies of the novels. Take Care's notice covers the Trail of Tears, the Civil War and slavery, the wartime detention of Japanese Americans, and impeachments (the articles and the votes). Hollywood on History gives each film's rating and what to preview, including five films rated R, and keeps a written scene path for every film so you can choose the full film or the scene path.

- **Content notes** on individual course lessons say what to preview. In Steinbeck Country and Hemingway at War, the first lesson of each part carries the full content preview.
- **Parent-only notes and answer keys** in session pages and course lessons.

None of these show to students. A student signed in on their own never gets the parent part of a lesson.

See exactly what your student sees: View as

In **Tracker › Your students**, press **View as** (your student's name) to open your student's terminal exactly as they see it. A bar at the top reads **Viewing as Sam (read-only)**, with an **Exit** button. While you're viewing, nothing is saved: any button that would change something only shows "View as is read-only. Nothing was saved." The **Account** page isn't shown. A View as page lasts 30 minutes. Open it again from the Tracker if it ends.

12. HOW OUR LESSONS HANDLE FACTS AND ARGUMENTS

Pharos Terminal lessons follow a written content standard. In practice that means:

- Facts are tied to sources, and Nexus Points label how solid each fact is.
- Key terms are defined before they're used.
- Lessons name trade-offs and judge policies by their results, not their intentions.
- Before answering an opposing view, a lesson states its strongest version, so your student can weigh both sides.
- Where a topic touches government, economics or society, lessons may teach a named school of thought openly, with its thinkers, alongside its strongest critique. Students are asked to explain both and say where they land and why.
- When Pharos Terminal takes a side, it says so plainly and labels it as its own view, kept separate from the facts.

13. THE YEAR-END PORTFOLIO AND RECORDS EXPORT

Year-end portfolio. In the **Tracker**, pick the school year and press **Export year-end portfolio**. Pharos Terminal builds a PDF from your records that includes:

- a cover summary (lessons, hours, work samples and standards tagged);
- hours by the five core subjects and by Pharos Terminal subject;
- a page for each core subject listing its lessons, dates, hours and standards, with a box for the reviewer's written narrative;
- an assessment record page with lines for the reviewer and parent;
- the standards tagged that year;
- your work samples, including filed worksheets printed in full.

Earlier exports stay listed in the Tracker under **Earlier exports**. The portfolio is a record of the year's work, not an assessment by itself. Pharos Terminal supplies the material, and you, the parent or educator, are the teacher. Check the current requirements for your own assessment route before your review.

Download everything. Download all my records (zip) under **Your students** packs up all of your family's records: your students, every logged lesson (also as a spreadsheet for each year), work samples, portfolios, Reading List progress and assignments. Student passwords are never included.

Both work even if your subscription lapses.

14. WHERE STUDENT RECORDS ARE STORED

In the site's own words: "Your student records are stored in a private, encrypted Pharos Terminal vault, not on this website." The website holds your parent account. Student records (names, grades, lessons, hours, work samples, worksheet answers, assignments and sign-offs) go straight between your browser and the vault. The **Add a work sample** form says: "Goes straight to your private vault. It never passes through the website." For each student, only a first name or nickname and a grade are stored. Student passwords are kept only as a scrambled (hashed) copy.

Three more things to know:

- The records vault is stored in a US AWS (Amazon Web Services) region.
- Pharos Terminal pages carry no ads and no analytics.
- Nothing from your records is sent to AI tools.

Please leave full names and other personal details out of notes, uploads and feedback.

15. ACCOUNT AND BILLING BASICS

Open the **Account** page from the account menu (or **Orders & receipts** to jump to your orders). It shows:

- **Subscription:** your status (**Active**, **Lapsed (read-only)** or **No subscription**), your number of student seats, and the renewal or end date, with links to **Manage subscription**, **Update payment method** and **Reactivate** where they apply.
- **Orders and receipts:** each order, with **View** and **Receipt**.
- **License codes:** any codes from separate purchases. Your purchase already unlocked everything, so keep the code for your records.
- **Downloads:** files for anything you bought on its own.
- **Edit profile** for your name and email.
- **Semester end dates:** one to three dates, used when you assign something "This semester." The help line reads: "When you assign something “This semester,” it’s due on the next of these dates." The defaults are December 31 and May 31. You can change them and press **Save dates**. Assignments you already made keep their due dates.

Adding students beyond your plan: when every slot is used, **Tracker › Your students** shows **Add a student to your plan**.

If your subscription lapses: a banner says your records are safe and read-only. You can still view them, export portfolios and download everything, but you can't add to them or open the courses online until you **Renew**. A course you bought on its own stays yours as PDFs.

Prices change, so they aren't listed here. See zacnorthup.com for current pricing.

16. GETTING HELP

- **Email:** officialzacnorthup@zacnorthup.com. The sign-in pages show it too.
- **Send feedback** on the Dashboard: rate Pharos Terminal from 1 to 5, say what worked and what didn't, and, if you like, name the lesson. Check **OK to follow up by email** if you'd like a reply. Feedback is stored in your private records vault.
- **Try again** buttons: if a page or your records don't load, the screen says so and offers **Try again**. Nexus Points and Lesson Packets still work while your records are unavailable.

17. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do my students need an email address? No. A student sign-in is just a username and password you create.

My student forgot their password. In **Tracker › Your students**, press **Reset password** and save a new one. Students can't reset it themselves.

I marked the wrong session done. Press ✓ **Done · undo** on the session, or **Remove** next to the entry in **Recent lessons**.

I logged a lesson for the wrong student. Remove it from that student's Tracker, switch students in the student menu at the top, and log it again.

Can a 7th grader take a course written for grades 10–12? Yes. You'll see the grade note, but nothing is locked. Read the course's **For the parent or teacher** box first.

How do I record work from a course lesson? Press **Mark done** on the lesson page. For Reality Writes! and Pitch to Profit, use **Parent sign-off** instead. If you teach from a course's related lesson packet, use **Mark done** there.

Does Pharos Terminal remind my student about due dates? No. There are no emails or alerts. Due work appears in **Today's plan** and under **Your plan** (or **Assigned to you**), and overdue assignments are flagged on screen.

Is my family's information used for ads or AI? No. Pharos Terminal pages carry no ads or analytics, and nothing from your records is sent to AI tools. The records vault is stored in a US AWS region.

What happens to our records if we stop subscribing? They stay, read-only. You can still view them, export portfolios and download everything.

What does archiving a student do? It frees the student's slot and keeps their records.

Is Pharos Terminal approved by the state? No. Lessons are aligned to the West Virginia Department of Education academic standards in English language arts, science and social studies for planning and record-keeping. That alignment isn't an endorsement, approval or accreditation by the state. You

remain responsible for your own homeschool notice and annual assessment, so check the current requirements for your route.

Can I print lessons? Yes. Packets have PDFs (**Parent guide (PDF)** and **Student pages (PDF)**, or **Download PDF**), and online worksheets can be printed from the PDF.