



Oswayo Valley School District

277 S. Oswayo Street, Shinglehouse, PA 16748

814-260-1700 – Telephone 814-697-7439 - Fax

Mr. Jed Hamberger, Superintendent

Mrs. Amy Yohe, Business Manager

Mrs. Christi Stedman, Assistant to Superintendent

Dear Parents:

As we all prepare to return to school — some in person and some remotely— our reopening plan aims to provide a safe and healthy environment for your child to learn. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office, and we will do our best to get you an answer.

While some parents are ready to send their children back to school, others are considering our virtual learning option, taught by district teachers and alongside many of their peers from school. This option keeps students connected to the school district teachers, curriculum, and community, while allowing for a seamless return to school when the time is right.

As parents begin to explore online options, some Pennsylvania families are considering cyber charter schools as a third option. We encourage you to CHECK before you choose. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania cyber charter schools consistently rank as the lowest performing schools in Pennsylvania. Cyber charter schools also draw money away from our local school district. Charter schools are primarily funded by local tax dollars paid to them as tuition by our school district.

Cyber charter school tuition rates are not based on what it costs to educate its students, but on the per student expenditure of the school district from which the students come. In Cyber charter schools – where the costs are less than \$5,000 per student, far less than the cost in traditional public schools or brick and mortar charter schools – payments can range from \$7,800 per student to well over \$40,000. This wastes more than \$290 million in tax money each year, statewide. Much of that extra funding goes to advertising for cyber charter schools — but those ads may not be telling you the whole story. Check out www.paschoolswork.org/CHECK to learn more.

Pennsylvania schools are facing enormous challenges. COVID-19 requires additional health and safety protocols, virtual learning resources, and myriad unanticipated expenses — all requiring additional resources for school districts across Pennsylvania that are already struggling with chronic budget shortfalls. When parents leave the district for a cyber charter school, we lose even more funding.

There is legislation underway to require all local school districts to offer a virtual learning option. We've operated a virtual learning program for 15 years now. In fact, 90% of Pennsylvania public school districts offer an online learning program for their students. If you

are considering a virtual option, I hope you will stay with the Oswayo Valley School District. We want you to be a part of our OV school family, and – as always – we are Stronger Together.

Oswayo Valley Virtual Student Guidance

- Must participate in virtual learning for a nine week term. (Eligible for each nine week session)
- Student must log in daily, when live streaming goes into effect, and participate as they would in class.
- Students must submit work as if they were in the building participating in class.
- Classroom expectations will be followed as normal, dress, language, attendance.
- Daily attendance will be counted for students when they participate in the classroom and when they submit assignments.
- Students will be marked absent on the days that they do not turn in the assignments.
- Students can submit work to the buildings during the times they pick up their lunches.
- There will be a lunch pick up each day for virtual students.
- Lunch orders must be given a day in advance. Monday lunch orders must be selected on Friday.
- Will be issued a device from OVSD and be asked to sign a lender agreement.
- Technology issues must be reported to the school on the day that they first occur.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jed Hamberger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jed Hamberger
Superintendent