

Hello, Committed Distance Learning families!

Today Olentangy Schools hosted our annual welcome to new teachers joining the district, where we stress the important of community and the spirit of One Olentangy. I want to emphasize that while your children are engaging in a digital learning platform during this semester or year, that does not detract from their connection to Olentangy as a whole. Committed Distance Learning is a classroom community based online, where students will remain tied to their home Olentangy building while temporarily learning at home.

Our Committed Distance Learning teachers are engaging in professional development with all of our Olentangy teachers, but will receive additional training on fostering a sense of belonging when teaching at a distance. Teachers will focus the first few days of school around students understanding the digital platform and building connections with classmates.

Many parents have reached out with ideas to engage and build connection remotely. We are formulating virtual community events as well. Please continue to share, connect and bring your students together in creative ways. We look forward to bringing many of these ideas to life throughout the semester.

CHROME BOOK UPDATE

I want to provide clarification regarding Chromebook distribution to our Committed Distance Learning community. We are working through granting requests of Committed Distance learning families to borrow an Olentangy device. Olentangy school buildings are filling these requests as quickly as possible, and contacting families directly with pickup dates and instructions. Some schools are still in the process of contacting their Committed Distance Learning families. Please grant us patience as they continue to fulfill the Chromebook requests.

COMMITTED DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

Attached you will find information on Olentangy counseling services available to Committed Distance Learning families. Please review the letter attached to the bottom of this email, and find contact information for your child's school counselor on our microsite's [Olentangy Mental Health Resources](#) page.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

We are updating the first day of school for Committed Distance Learning. With August 31st serving as an orientation for Olentangy students new to their buildings in the in-person Hybrid Attendance, a Committed Distance Learning school day would not be synchronous with this schedule. Moving back the first day of school for Committed Distance Learning to September 1st will keep the two learning models on the same schedule, and give our Committed Distance Learning teachers an appreciated additional day to prepare for students.

Committed Distance Learning instruction will therefore begin on September 1st for all students in grades 1 - 12, and Kindergarten Group B. The new start of school will be as follows:

August 31st: No Committed Distance Learning instruction

September 1st: First Day of School for Committed Distance Learning Grades 1 - 12 and Kindergarten Group B

September 2nd: First Day of School for Committed Distance Learning Kindergarten Group A

Then the Committed Distance Learning Kindergarteners would follow the normal Hybrid Kindergarten schedule starting on Thursday.

September 3rd: Committed Distance Learning Kindergarten Group A

September 4th: Committed Distance Learning Kindergarten Group B

DAILY SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

PowerSchool opens after 8:00am on August 24th with teacher assignments and class schedules. In the meantime, we wanted to provide a student schedule overview so you know what to expect for September 1st.

Elementary Schedule:

- 9:00am: Student Day Begins
- 11:30am – 12:00pm: Lunch
- 3:45pm: End of Day

Middle School Schedule:

- 7:50am: Student Day Begins
- 12:00pm – 12:30pm: Lunch
- 3:05: End of Student Day

High School Schedule:

- 7:30am: Student Day Begins
- 11:30am – 12:00pm: Lunch
- 12:40pm – 2:00pm: Teacher Office Hours
- 2:45pm: End of Student Day

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – KEY DATES

- August 24: PowerSchool opens with teacher and class assignments
- August 27: Elementary Virtual Open House
- September 1: First Day of Classes for Grades 1-12, Kindergarten Group B
- September 2: First Day of Classes for Kindergarten Group A
- September 9: Virtual High School Curriculum Night
- September 10: Virtual Elementary Curriculum Night (grades K-2)
- September 16: Virtual Middle School Curriculum Night
- September 17: Virtual Elementary Curriculum Night (grades 3-5)

Teachers will be sending links and sign ups for the Elementary Virtual Open House. Your amazing Committed Distance Learning teachers and staff are continuing to collaborate to make this the best experience for you and your student(s). I will provide more updates in my Monday email.

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Furey, Committed Distance Learning Lead Administrator