February 19, 2021

Dear OHS Students and Families,

As Dr. Sheboy’s February 12 letter shared, families choosing to opt out of in-person instruction must complete the district form by Tuesday, February 23. Here are the answers to some important questions you may have.

Why are we completing this form when the last form we completed was supposed to identify our family’s wishes until April 5?

- Because the school district is looking to bring more students back into the building to offer much-needed support, we need to get an accurate sense of how many students plan to opt out of in-person instruction for the remainder of the year.

When will the choice we make for the final months of school take effect?

- This choice will take effect on March 8 and last until the end of the school year.

Do I need to fill out the form if my child is already 100% virtual?

- Yes, you still need to complete this form so that the district knows your choice. This choice will take the place of any choices families have made previously.

What happens if my child is hybrid, but does not attend school in the building?

- Starting March 8, any student who is participating in the hybrid learning model must regularly attend school unless he/she is absent for an excused reason and the family communicates this reason to the school. If an in-person student has not attended school in the building for two or more consecutive weeks, he/she will be moved from hybrid to virtual status. Students who fall under this category will continue to be marked present if they attend school virtually, but they will not be able to come back to the building for instruction.

Can I opt for 100% virtual instruction and then switch my child back to in-person instruction later in the school year?

- Once families opt out of in-person instruction, they cannot change their minds after March 5.
Does choosing virtual instruction mean my child cannot participate in Athletics or other in-person extra-curricular activities?

- All students who have undergone all of the proper screening procedures can still participate in Athletics or in-person extracurricular activities, even if they are 100% virtual. The only exception to this rule is if a club has a meeting that is being hosted both in-person and virtually and the student was not physically present in school that day, the student should participate on his/her computer. Occasional exceptions for certain meetings, but advisors will communicate this to their clubs.

The superintendent wrote about certain students going to school four days per week. Who does this apply to and when does that take effect?

- The letter from Dr. Sheboy indicated that all 504, ELL, Special Education and/or at-risk 12th grade students who are presently listed as in-person will be able to return to school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays starting on March 1. This option is also open to families of these students who are presently 100% virtual, but parents must communicate this choice directly to the school so that transportation can be arranged.

If my child is one of the 504, ELL, Special Education and/or at-risk 12th grade students, does he/she have to go to school four days per week?

- Families of these students can opt for them to only go two days a week with their child’s original cohort or remain 100% virtual.

If my child goes to BOCES and is one of the 504, ELL, Special Education and/or at-risk 12th grade students, does his/her schedule for BOCES change?

- BOCES students will continue to follow the same schedule to attend CTEC. If they are attending O’Neill four days a week, their transportation times will be adjusted to accommodate these changes.

As a reminder, if your student would like to remain virtual from March 8 through the end of the year and you have not done so already, please complete the district form opting out of in-person instruction by this Tuesday, February 23. Once families have chosen the virtual academy, they will not be able to change this status after March 5. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your child’s guidance counselor or the main office. We hope you stay safe and well.

Thank you.

Ms. Debbie M. Brand
Principal