



A NOTE FROM YOUR K-2 PRINCIPAL

8/23/17

Dear K-2 OHVA Families,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We are excited to begin a new school year with you. I want to encourage you to start out the year by creating a daily routine of consistency and repetition for your young learner that will establish a strong foundation for their academic career. Our K-2 teachers are excited to meet you at our Meet Your Teacher events next week. They have wonderful things planned for our K-2 students this school year!

I would like to share with you the key components of our K-2 program:

Meet Your Teacher events will be hosted by your assigned OHVA teacher August 28th through September 1st. Information concerning location, dates and times should have been provided to you via e-mail and during an initial phone call with your OHVA teacher. This will give you and your student/s an opportunity to meet their teacher face to face and learn grade level expectations. It will also give your child an opportunity to meet other students in their class.

Kindergarten Readiness and Diagnostic Assessments

The Ohio Department of Education requires all Kindergarten through 3rd grade students to participate in face to face testing. OHVA will give these assessments the week of October 9th-13th. These assessments are very valuable to our school on many levels. First of all your student's attendance allows OHVA to continue to operate as a public charter school, secondly they allow us to have a snapshot of how your student is performing academically so that we can best support you in their education, and finally they allow your student to meet other students and teachers in your area. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment provides information over six areas: Social Skills (including the way students learn), Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development. The Math Diagnostic Assessment will be given to all 1st and 2nd graders. The Writing Diagnostic Assessments will be given to all 1st through 3rd graders. By the end of the school year, Kindergarten students are expected to be able to write 1-3 complete sentences, 1st graders are expected to write a 3-5 sentence paragraph, and 2nd graders are expected to write a 5-8 sentence paragraph.

Synchronous Instruction

We have found over the years when learning coaches, students, and OHVA teachers work together as a team we can truly make a difference in the lives of students. We would like to partner with you in achieving this goal and the best way for us to do that is by having your student attend daily lessons on Class Connect with their OHVA teacher/s. Class Connect links can be found on your child's online school daily plan. Simply click on the link at the scheduled time. Class Connect attendance is required for students who are new to our school or students working below grade level expectations. If your student does not engage in daily Class Connect sessions there is no guarantee that they will be ready for the next grade level at the end of the school year.

Attendance

We all know how important it is to attend school on a daily basis. At OHVA this means logging into the Online School, completing lessons and assessments, attending Class Connect and logging attendance EVERY DAY! HB 410 was passed in Ohio recently and mandates regular, continuous attendance in school for all compulsory school aged children. If a student is habitually truant or has excessive absences OHVA, and every other public school in Ohio, is mandated by law to report that student to the juvenile courts.

AIMSweb

AIMSweb benchmark assessments are given three times throughout the school year: fall, winter, and spring. The first assessment will be given the month of September during a scheduled, one on one, online appointment with your OHVA teacher. The purpose of these assessments is to find out your student's ability level in the areas of reading and math. This snapshot provides learning coaches and teachers with information that can be used to move forward in working together to help students. This student data helps guide instruction at the appropriate level. It also establishes learning targets in specific areas.

K12 Curriculum

The K¹² curriculum engages young minds with a rich combination of online interactive and offline hands-on learning. We know that it is important to embrace and 'dig into' the curriculum to reap the full benefits. We ask that you complete 100% of the core lessons (*this does not include optional lessons*) for each subject before the next course is ordered. We want you to make sure that your student is placed appropriately in the areas of Math, Phonics, and Language Arts. If something is too difficult or too easy, please communicate that with your OHVA teacher. We can work with you to modify the curriculum to fit your student's academic needs. We want you to not only mark lessons complete but make sure that your child is mastering the concepts within those lessons. Please take the time to ensure that attendance and lessons mastered are entered on the online school on a daily basis.

Reading Eggs

Reading Eggs is a pre-reading and early reading skills program that presents letter recognition, letter/sound associations, and other skills in a fun interactive way. If your student is already a reader then Reading Eggspress is designed to build reading fluency and comprehension skills for students with 2nd-7th grade reading abilities. Within a highly motivating environment, students can earn rewards as they learn and improve skills in comprehension, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and reading. There is an online library of more than 700 books in the 2nd-7th grade skill levels.

Study Island

Study Island provides a variety of ways for students to learn common core standards through games, flash cards, quizzes and printable worksheets. If your student is not yet a strong reader, Study Island can be set to enable text to speech. Students will be earning blue ribbons and showing proficiency levels in math and reading.

Our teachers and administration desire to partner with you to make this the best educational experience possible for your student. We realize that as the primary learning coach, you are a key component to your child's education. However, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or me at any point during the school year through phone or e-mail. We look forward to seeing you at our Meet Your Teacher events the last week of August and Back to School Picnics scheduled for Friday, September 8th. Check out the OHVA online calendar for details on Back to School Picnics!

Educationally yours,



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