8/14/20

Dear Owen J. Roberts Community,

At 6:00 PM this evening, the Chester County Health Department (CCHD), working in partnership with the Pennsylvania Health Department, officially notified public and private pre-K to 12 schools of their recommendation for Chester County and Delaware County schools “to begin their school year virtually and assess their ability to transition to an in-person instructional model after October 9, 2020.” We were also informed that “schools providing special education, early childhood development programs, or career and vocational education are exempt from starting the academic year virtually.” We also received guidance regarding athletics.

With that said, Owen J. Roberts will follow CCHD guidance to begin the 2020-2021 school year, K-12, with our online plans previously shared. This will mean that on September 8, our elementary school students, as well as our secondary students, will start the year virtually through October 9. Special education students with IEPs or 504 Plans may attend in-person and athletes may continue preseason training.

I understand that many will be disappointed by this current development. I have been very vocal in my belief that students need to return to in-person teaching and learning if only for a few days a week. However, from the beginning, the OJR School Board and I have been equally vocal about the necessity to adhere to the guidance from our local health authority in order to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Those of you that attended informational sessions regarding our Blended Learning plan know that we already have plans developed for virtual learning should something like this occur. If you were not able to attend, click here to view a recorded session. Those of you that registered for the OJR Cyber Academy will continue to be enrolled.

Please watch for important emails from your child’s principal with details about the start of school. We have planned the school year with flexible scheduling that will allow us to be ready for in person learning when conditions change. Our commitment continues to be making this school year work so that every student can succeed.

Thank you for being nimble as we move through these very fluid times together. We will remain Wildcat Strong.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan T. Lloyd

Superintendent of Schools