

OCEAN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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MATTHEW JAMISON, Ed.D., *PRINCIPAL*



Dear students and families:

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit.

You are receiving this correspondence because you applied and have been enrolled in the **OCHS Virtual Academy (VA)**. The OCHS VA was developed in response to the governor's late July mandate that schools must offer a virtual schooling option. The purpose and goal of the OCHS VA is to provide an educational plan that offers the quality and scope of the hybrid schedule. As was published, the two programs—hybrid and VA—will not be equal nor the same in delivery.

Not knowing all the variables, being mandated to institute the VA option quickly, and the fact so few students elected to enroll in the VA, the current situation is as such:

- The course catalog of offerings will be limited in the VA (course offerings are limited in a “normal” school year as well).
- Advance Placement courses were initially planned to be taught by OCHS faculty—this is not possible. Therefore, most AP courses will be outsourced (taught by a contracted service). The contracted services are national companies that meet all AP, state, and local requirements. It is important to note, although the course curriculum and scope is the same as in the hybrid, these courses will be delivered per the company's platform.
- Non-AP course levels may be combined with the teacher differentiating instruction.

I fully understand that some students and families have concerns regarding the OCHS VA. Most, if not all, of the issues regarding the VA are a result of fewer than 10% of the student body electing to enroll in the VA. The school has a responsibility to provide an educational program to all students that balances quality with fiscal responsibility.

VA Students and families have some options to consider:

- Students, especially upperclassmen, can enroll in college courses for the college spring semester. Upon earning a passing grade in May, the student would receive high school credit as well as accruing college credit that can be transferred.
- Student/families may want to select a preferred virtual high school or program and upon earning a passing grade in a course, receive OCHS credit.

- Consider enrolling back into the hybrid schedule that has in-person instruction two days a week and remote instruction three days a week.

Please contact your student's guidance counselor to discuss the considerations above.

In sum, I trust that you know we acknowledge the parent and student concerns regarding the VA. We will continue work diligently as we prepare for the start of an unprecedented school year. That said, I am confident in the state approved plan for our reopening of school and look forward to a productive and positive school year.

In health and wellness,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Jamison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew Jamison, Ed.D.

MJ:kks