

Dear Committed Distance Learning families,

Concerns and questions regarding the Committed Distance Learning digital curriculum have come to our attention today. The goal of this message is to further explain the Olentangy curriculum you can expect in this online learning model.

In Ohio, every course must be taught by a teacher with a license to teach that specific course. When we first conceptualized the Committed Distance Learning alternative, we did not know the number of Olentangy teachers available or interested in teaching in this model, nor did we have a projection for the number of students that would want to learn online for an extended period of time. Therefore, we planned to supplement the digital curriculum with APEX and Edgenuity learning platforms to allow flexibility in matching teachers from any content area to monitor courses, as the computer would serve as an instructor in providing content and assessment.

From July 13th, when we first shared the framework of Committed Distance Learning, to today, the circumstances have evolved. Committed Distance Learning enrollment has grown to over 5,000 students and over 200 teachers. We are proud to be able to provide a teacher who is licensed and experienced in teaching that course for every course. We are fortunate that APEX and Edgenuity are not needed to solve the licensure challenge. Please note that APEX and Edgenuity seats will not be provided to students. If this decision changes your mind in any way, you are welcome to withdraw your student from the Committed Distance Learning program and participate in Olentangy's in-person attendance models.

This curriculum shift allows Olentangy Schools to offer a few key benefits to our Committed Distance Learning students. First, using Olentangy teachers and Olentangy curriculum is a better educational option since we are permitting Committed Distance Learning students to transition back into our school buildings, if they choose, at the semester break. Second, it allows us to successfully meet the request of many parents to offer more diverse class offerings to our middle school and high school students, specifically to provide foreign language and a more robust offering of AP classes.

Additionally, key changes from spring 2020 to now include two dedicated weeks of professional development for teachers beginning Monday, August 17 with time to work on course material, regular Committed Distance Learning staff meetings allowing teachers to collaborate and share best practices, and department chairs and administrators assigned to work with and oversee the program.

Last, teachers will not be creating course content from scratch. Almost universally the Committed Distance Learning teachers are teaching courses or grade levels they have taught previously. They are also being provided with online course content from our partnership in the Ohio Blended Collaborative that has online-ready resources for these teachers to use. This curriculum will therefore be in line with Olentangy academic practices and our district pillar to meet the needs of each student in our pursuit of educational excellence.

We look forward to embarking on this new, albeit temporary, learning experience together.

With Regards,

Dr. Jack Fette

Chief Academic Officer