

ONTARIO LOCAL SCHOOLS

Excellence in Education

LISA CARMICHAEL
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

RANDALL K. HARVEY
TREASURER

July 19, 2017

Dear Ontario School District Parent,

Starting in the fall of 2017, Ontario Local Schools will be offering a tuition-free online public school serving students in grades 6 - 12 to students wishing to complete their education through a virtual program. For families who are interested in learning more about the program, **the school will be hosting a FREE Parent Information Night on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium.**

Ontario Online Academy will provide a non-traditional learning environment for students who want a flexible schedule, are ahead or behind in the classroom, learn at a different pace from their peers, or want a more individualized approach to learning. The school will provide high quality online education and Ohio-certified teachers who work with students to address individual learning needs. Students who have previously been part of another virtual program, or school outside of Ontario Local Schools, are welcome to enroll in *Ontario Online Academy*.

A broad and engaging curriculum is available with performing arts, career technical and AP course opportunities, in addition to a drop-in center where students have access to computers and an Ontario School teacher when additional help is needed. *Ontario Online Academy* provides high-quality, accredited digital learning solutions in partnership with EdOptions Academy. These digital learning solutions will allow *Ontario Online Academy* to deliver rigorous standards-based curriculum, assessments, student data, and reports to create a 21st-century learning environment that prepares students for future success. All *Ontario Online Academy* students will have an opportunity to earn an Ontario Schools' diploma!

We are excited to offer this alternative to students, and allow these students to still be part of the Ontario Local School District. We look forward to nurturing the success of new students in the 2017 - 2018 school year, and encourage interested families to attend the Parent Information Night and learn more about how to begin the enrollment process. Interested families may also contact me at 419-747-4311.

At the Parent Information Night, prospective families will be able to:

- Discuss benefits of a virtual education through *Ontario Online Academy*
- View the curriculum
- Learn about the enrollment process
- Find out how *Ontario Online Academy* students can participate in extracurricular activities within the district, such as sports, clubs, and other activities
- Find out about the technology and other resources Ontario Local Schools will provide to each *Ontario Online Academy* enrolled student
- Enroll in the program

Enclosed are an introductory *Ontario Online Academy* program flyer and a Question/Answer sheet. Please consider attending the Parent Information Night to learn more.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Carmichael
SUPERINTENDENT

COMING THIS FALL

ONTARIO ONLINE ACADEMY

Sponsored by the Ontario Local School District



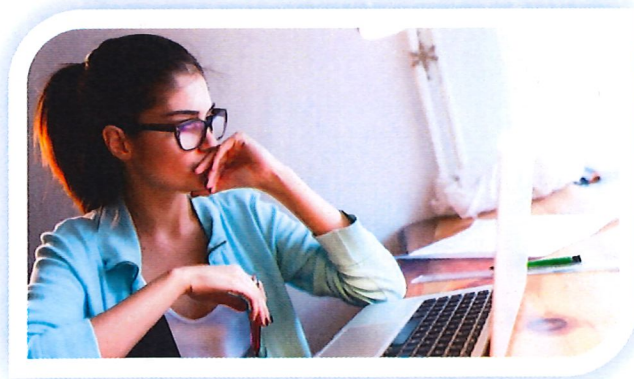
Ontario Online Academy is a new educational program designed to open new opportunities to students in the Ontario Local School District that allows students to complete their education through a fully sponsored virtual school program. Ontario Online Academy is enrolling students beginning August 8, 2017 for the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

Enrolled students will be provided the opportunity to achieve their academic goals through the support of all education in a virtual learning environment. As students complete their education through this program, they **will receive a diploma from Ontario Local Schools**. Ontario Online Academy will be offering the best in education

virtual learning to students through an interactive and inviting curriculum, and a second to none student support system designed to allow your child to be successful.

Why Ontario Online Academy?

- ✓ Allows students to receive an Ontario High School Diploma
- ✓ Open to grades 6-12
- ✓ Access to over 300 courses, including Foreign Languages, Career and Technical Education, Electives, Advanced Placement courses, and many others to allow for choice and flexibility for students
- ✓ All classes taught by certified teachers in a virtual environment, allowing students to complete coursework 24/7
- ✓ Students in Ontario Online Academy can participate in band, choir, FCCLA, sports, and other school activities, even when taking all courses virtually at home
- ✓ All resources of the district are provided to students in the same way those resources are provided to high school and middle school students
- ✓ A personalized learning and success plan created for each student
- ✓ On-site support and tutoring for students when needed
- ✓ Chromebook provided to each student



Ontario Online Academy Parent/Student Information Night

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Ontario High School Auditorium

(Refreshments Provided)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE *ONTARIO ONLINE ACADEMY*

How are the courses delivered?

These courses are taught virtually by certified content-area teachers. Students interact with the instructor and one another online. Students may access course work anytime, anywhere the internet is available.

Can students work at their own pace?

Students will typically work at his/her own pace but must complete the coursework within a specific timeframe.

What students will perform best in this program?

All students who are self-directed learners who are looking for an educational path outside of the traditional school will be successful.

Are there supports provided by Ontario besides the online teacher?

Ontario Online Academy provides a mentor teacher for each student to assist them in their online learning. In addition, students will have full access to Ontario School guidance staff, and other student supports.

How many courses can a student take?

Guidance staff will work with the student to develop a schedule for each student. However, there is no limit to the number of courses a student can complete in each year.

What if my student is behind?

Guidance staff will work with the student to develop a schedule for each student. If a student is behind in credits, this is a great way to catch up!

What do EdOptions Academy courses look like?

EdOptions Academy incorporates an engaging, age appropriate learning experience that emphasizes real-world applications. Learners are actively engaged and frequently interact with the content. Our active learning approach enables students to apply what they have learned, practice, and check their understanding.

How will my student be enrolled? What classes will they take?

Once the student completes the registration process through Ontario, we will begin the process of creating the best schedule for each student.

My student has been attending another virtual school, can they transfer?

Yes, students can transfer to our program, and we evaluate their transcripts to determine the best path for each student.

My student is attending a public school, can they enroll in Ontario Online Academy?

Yes, students can transfer to our program, and we evaluate their transcripts to determine the best path for each student.

How long does it take for a learner to finish an online course?

Learners are given 18 weeks to complete a (semester-long) course. Our certified teachers and guidance counselors set benchmarks and help learners stay on schedule. Diploma-seeking learners have four years from the time of enrollment to meet the preset requirements and complete their high school graduation program.

Who teaches EdOptions Academy courses?

When learners enroll in EdOptions Academy classes, they are assigned state certified online teachers to assist with their coursework. Our online teachers help students understand class material and stay on track to achieve their academic goals. All EdOptions Academy teachers are certified in their areas of specialization and have at least three years of classroom experience. Our teachers communicate regularly with learners through the internal email and use the secure, web-based system to manage student grades, assignments, and tests.

How soon will teachers respond to student questions?

Teachers are required to grade coursework and respond to inquiries within 24 hours; however, EdOptions Academy teachers often work directly with each learner daily.

Are learners allowed to access their courses at any time or from anywhere?

Yes, EdOptions Academy is online, allowing students to work on their assignments at times and locations most convenient for them.

Is there a cost?

There is no cost to students. This is a free Public-School program.

Will my student be provided with technology?

Yes, each student enrolled in the program will be issued a Chromebook.

What is the benefit of this program over others?

Students will be able to be part of the Ontario Local School System, and will be able to graduate from Ontario High School and actually receive a diploma from Ontario Local Schools! In addition, the support that has been setup to ensure that each student is successful and earns a diploma is much more detailed and student centered than the virtual schools that are a choice to students now. Because of the pride of our district in ensuring success of every student, we feel we can provide your student with a better alternative than the current virtual offerings.