

Octorara Administration Office

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Michele M. Orner Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

December 22, 2020

Dear Octorara School Community,

The purpose of this communication is to share important information about operating schedules for Octorara's school buildings and programs beginning Monday, January 4, 2021.

Octorara Primary Learning, Octorara Elementary School, Octorara Intermediate School, TCHS, and CCIU's cross district classrooms will reopen for in person learning on Monday, January 4, 2021. Octorara Junior Senior High School and Homeland Security students will return for in person learning using the hybrid model on Monday, January 11, 2021. Mr. Brooks and Mrs. McNamara will send separate communications reviewing the schedules specific to these programs. Athletic practices will also resume on Monday, January 4, 2021, unless the Governor's current suspension order is extended. Ms. Gaido will contact coaches and athletes to confirm schedules.

Delaying the start of in person learning at OJSHS means that students in grades 7-12 will continue with remote learning through Friday, January 8, 2021. This action is necessary due to the high volume of OJSHS staff absences anticipated as a result of the Department of Health's travel mitigation order. This order requires that travelers entering Pennsylvania from other countries and states, as well as Pennsylvanians who are returning home from other countries or states, have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth or quarantine for 10 days upon entry into Pennsylvania. More information about the travel mitigation order can be found by clicking on the link below.

[COVID-19 Information for Travelers](#)

This travel mitigation order will not only impact the district's ability to staff in person learning at OJSHS, it will also have a negative impact on students who may need to miss hybrid instruction due to quarantining. As a similar situation during the Thanksgiving holiday demonstrated, monitoring the travel mitigation order is an impossible task, as the administration cannot control what families and staff do over the holidays.

In closing, please contact your building principal or program administrator should you have any questions about your child's schedule beginning January 4, 2021. On behalf of the Octorara Area School District, I extend best wishes for a happy, restful, and healthy holiday. May the new year bring us all a much needed break from the many unprecedented challenges we have faced in 2020 and renew our hope that there are brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,
Michele M. Orner, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools