



## *Ouachita River School District*

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Parents or Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to share with you that ORSD will be seeking a waiver from the Arkansas Department of Education to continue to provide virtual learning as an option for the 2021-22 school year. As you know, last summer school districts across Arkansas were thrust into providing virtual learning for families that did not want their children at school for face-to-face instruction. Now, as we plan for the 2021-22 school year, the possibility of you being hesitant to send your son or daughter back to face-to-face instruction may still exist. That is why we must seek a waiver from the Arkansas Department of Education in order to continue the Virtual School.

Obviously as educators we are still learning how to provide better virtual learning. This year we have discovered many changes that need to happen for next year in order for your child to be successful and prepared for life. We will have stricter attendance policies, better interventions, and be implementing programs to make the experience more successful for all parties. ORSD will be seeking to add additional virtual staff to serve both parents and students who choose the virtual learning path.

In conclusion, I am grateful our students and staff overall have done quite well with battling and recovering from the virus. I am thankful to see our state covid-19 positive numbers continue to fall. That is why we are encouraging you to send your child to face-to-face instruction for the fall. We still believe it is the best learning path for children. However, we must adapt and be ready for anything. The pandemic has taught us that lesson for sure!

Should you have any additional questions about school in the fall please give me a call at 479-394-2348.

Sincerely,

Jerrall A. Strasner  
ORSD Superintendent of Schools