Sherman Online Academy
Working together to put student success first

A Message from the Superintendent

Standardization has been at the forefront of educational reform for several years. Unfortunately, not all students individually benefit from the one size fits all approach. While standardization may serve some purpose, I and my fellow colleagues are above all committed to serving all students to the best of our abilities. We became educators because we believe in the potential of young people and we are proud to be educating a new generation of leaders. In our work, we choose to get to know our students and their families on a personal level and we choose to spend time listening and responding so that we can personalize each student's educational experience.

I am very pleased to announce that our district has taken a major step toward personalizing education for every student. We have partnered with a virtual charter school known as ORVED and created the Sherman Online Academy. This partnership has brought broader and deeper curriculum offerings to our students in grades 6-12, thereby expanding learning options for our students and students across eastern Oregon. This partnership is not about making money by pulling students from other schools, like some other virtual charter schools have done. This partnership is about helping implement online learning strategies, thereby strengthening schools with resources and programs that help reach the needs of every student. Our district is now a trusted partner for our neighboring school districts as they too strengthen their schools with expanded online learning options for their students.

I remain committed to ensuring high quality and rigorous educational programs for Sherman County and Sherman Online Academy students. As with any new venture, especially one as potentially transformative as this one, there will no doubt be stumbles and things to figure out. We will continually adjust as the program develops and grows. It is important to me that online learning supplements, not replaces, our curriculum and talented staff. As always, please feel to contact me with questions, comments, and your feedback. I can be reached at 541-565-3500.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens

Superintendent