



River Valley High School

8785 State Route 160 Bidwell, OH 45614
Phone: (740) 446-2926 Fax: (740) 446-7382
www.gallialocal.org

Jude Meyers, Superintendent

Timothy Edwards, Principal

Richard Stephens Asst. Principal/AD

Erin Bush, School Counselor

Dama Schultz, School Counselor

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Cera and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of continued full funding for INFOhio.

I am T.R. Edwards, Principal at River Valley High School in Bidwell, Ohio. First, thank you for allowing me to come here today in regard to the use of INFOhio at River Valley High School. To provide you with some background, River Valley High School serves approximately 400 students on the River Valley High School campus. Gallia County Local Schools is a rural, high poverty district. When surveyed, only 60% of students have access to the internet, many of which by use of a cell phone only. Education, once considered by some the great equalizer, must find an answer for the digital divide which is considered by some the great unequalizer.

To bridge the barriers of the digital-divide, the district has made steps to provide opportunities for our students through technology. Over the past three years, the school and district has been in various stages of a one-to-one pilot using Chromebooks, with a full one-to-one Chromebook initiative for students in grades 2-12 district-wide beginning this year. The focus on the device being a Chromebook due to the ability to save and access materials through an offline mode so students can have access to materials even without internet access. That being said, the resources and opportunities for students have increased exponentially this year.

According to Bellanca & Brandt (2010), schools are preparing students to thrive in a post-industrial world, and the skills needed vary greatly than those skills needed in the 20th century. Academic institutions cannot produce students with the skills they will need because in many cases those skills have not yet been identified. In its place, schools must produce consumers of information that use the information to create, innovate, and advance the status quo. The increased accessibility to technology is to be used to increase opportunities for students to collaborate, communicate and exercise creativity.

Six years ago, the district began a Senior Capstone course, Senior Seminar, that require students to investigate a topic of interest, many related to a future career choice. Through this course, students are expected to use databases to synthesize information. For all students, but particularly the high percentage electing to pursue post-secondary education, they gain experience using electronic databases prior to their first year of college.

Mrs. Amy Stanley began at River Valley High School as a School Librarian five years ago. Since that time, Mrs. Stanley serves as the information expert to the students in Senior Seminar. Since she began at River Valley High School, Mrs. Stanley has expanded the use of electronic resources made available by INFOhio by working with teachers and students in all grades 9-12. Mrs. Stanley, seeing the immense value of these resources, she has also become an INFOhio ICoach. Since this time she has provided training to staff at other buildings on the vast resources available.



River Valley High School

8785 State Route 160 Bidwell, OH 45614
Phone: (740) 446-2926 Fax: (740) 446-7382
www.gallialocal.org

Jude Meyers, Superintendent

Timothy Edwards, Principal

Richard Stephens Asst. Principal/AD

Erin Bush, School Counselor

Dama Schultz, School Counselor

Since this time, when planning with teachers about building needs, there has become a reliance on the resources available by INFOhio. For example, recently when planning with an Advanced Placement teacher, we were trying to find resources available to expand the repertoire of literature read by students prior to beginning Advanced Placement Language and Literature. In collaboration with Mrs. Stanley, INFOhio was a natural place to begin. It appears that many needs of the teacher and students, given the currently technology, could be met with this one resource. Each year, instructors are finding more and more ways to use the resources available to meet the needs of their students.

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Cera and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of continued full funding for InfoOhio.

