



1100 Fourth Avenue  
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631

Telephone: 740-446-0374

Chief Administrator  
Patrick O'Donnell, MDIV

Email: podonnell@ovcs.net

www.ovcs.net

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The Ohio Valley Christian School supports the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection grant application being submitted by the Gallia County Engineer's Office.

Our County Engineer believes that the project plan is comprised of elements that maximize its potential for success. Resources and personnel from research based institutions and organizations form a solid and broad base of expertise for project support.

Our school is in the process of incorporating a S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) model of education to our curriculum with the hope of receiving a STEAM designation from the Ohio Department of Education. This grant represents a marvelous opportunity for our students to join in aspects of the problem-solving process that will make this "smart" corridor a reality for our area of the state. It will allow them to a real part in the development of a project that can substantially improve the quality of life for citizens of Gallia County and the Southeastern Ohio Area. Partnering with the Gallia County Engineer's Office in the project will help give our students the practical knowledge, skill, and attitude required to work in a high-tech work environment. Our young people desperately need this kind of opportunity to help them attain the education and training that will allow them to compete successfully for professional employment and make a genuine difference in their community.

This project also would be a tremendous boost to the economic well-being of our area. Southeastern Ohio has struggled with chronic unemployment, lack of high-speed internet access, and few professional opportunities for our young people. Many of our best and brightest students are forced to leave our area after graduation to seek education and employment elsewhere. This grant will provide our area a competitive advantage in the attraction of new business to our communities.

I believe this grant proposal could have a very positive impact on the well-being of people in our county. I give my highest recommendation for its approval.

Respectfully,

Patrick A. O'Donnell  
Chief Administrator  
Ohio Valley Christian School