



OHIO VALLEY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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 Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project 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.

Each year, our school is forced to close due to poor road conditions caused by very minor snow accumulations. Even an inch of snow on frozen, muddy roads that wind through the hills can cause very hazardous driving conditions. Some roads are so primitive that county salt trucks must drive backwards over the salt they are spreading to have sufficient traction. Imagine a 16-year-old driver attempting to navigate such difficult conditions. Spring rains can wash out unpaved roads. In a county where nearly 1 in 5 people do not have a high school diploma, paved roads would help increase the number of days in school each year for all of our students.

Gallia County has witnessed a steady economic decline since the mine closures mentioned in the proposal. The lack of jobs has resulted in our county losing some of its best and brightest young people who are forced to move away to seek employment elsewhere. In order to attract new business, new industry, new opportunities for the citizens of our county, good roads could go a long way to achieve these ends.

One final point; poor roads in our area can significantly increase response time for EMS squads, fire fighters, law enforcement, and other first responders. Navigating stone and/or dirt roads can be particularly difficult at night when emergency vehicles are following each other due to the cloud of dust and dirt kicked up by the vehicle ahead of them. Time is a critical factor in determining whether a home is saved or lost, a person lives or dies.

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