The Ridgemont Demonstration School of Workforce Development
Partnership Agreement

The Ohio State University Extension in Hardin County is a "branch office" of Ohio State University and is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Ohio State University, and Hardin County levy appropriations. Our Mission is to engage people to strengthen their lives and communities through research-based educational programming. OSU Extension is a dynamic educational entity that partners with individuals, families, communities, business and industry, and organizations to strengthen the lives of Ohioans. For Hardin County there is a focus on STEM education, workforce preparation, financial education, college access programs, and rural youth retention research.

Hardin County OSU Extension has current partnerships with Ridgemont Local Schools through STEM education and college access. The Ohio State University Extension in Hardin County agrees to partner with the subsequent strategies to contribute to the success of the bold and innovative solutions to advance the goals of Ridgemont Local Schools:

- Function as a virtual mentor to students and teachers at Ridgemont Local Schools
- Provide materials, resources and lab space to assist with research projects related to social sciences
- Connect career shadowing and/or internship opportunities for students and teachers
- Serve as an authentic audience for project based and service learning projects.
- Connect for virtual field trips to provide authentic experiences for youth
- Display art installations in the workplace
- Serve as a guest speaker, virtually with technology or live in person when possible
- Provide authentic content for real-world learning projects for teachers and students
- Enhance curricular connections through the collaboration with compatible partners that currently exist with The Ohio State University Extension in Hardin County

Ridgemont Local Schools agrees to reciprocate the succeeding strategies to provide a mutually beneficial partnership:

- Provide youth authentic opportunities to create skills to be prepared for the workforce
- Engage youth and staff in regular relations with curriculum areas that tie to cross curricular initiatives to workforce development
- Reform curriculum to ensure every youth engages in project based learning with a workforce connection that prepares youth for leadership roles, as well as career and college readiness
- Bring local and global workforce needs to the forefront of Ridgemont's educational initiatives
• Integrate real world connections into every classroom K-12
• Our school district will build students who have cultivated relationships with business and industry professionals prior to graduation
• Provide regular updates in work force development strides made by students and staff
• Include partnership information and updates in newsletters, newspapers, school webpages, etc.
• Collaborate with The Ohio State University Extension in Hardin County to conduct workshops and presentations to demonstrate the “Best Practices” at professional conferences and other venues.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Light
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