Ocean View School District Promotes Essential Typing Skills In and Around the School Day

Does typing sound like an old-fashioned skill? Sometimes it's easy to associate typing with scenes from retro TV shows and 70s Selectric typewriters. However, typing is more important today than it has ever been. It's an essential 21st Century skill for every student, necessary for effective communication in school and beyond. We use typing, or keyboarding as we more commonly call it today, in nearly everything we do at school, work or at home, whether emailing, texting, researching online, inputting data, or writing.

In the Ocean View School District, investing in students' keyboarding skills starts immediately. That means we prepare our youngest students for success, beginning in Transitional Kindergarten. By doing this, we promote proper posture, hand positioning, and the home row keys (QWERTY) to build automaticity and fluency in expressing ideas. Students who can easily and quickly express ideas through typing are apt to produce more complex written products. Less time is spent trying to "peck and hunt" for letters, allowing for a free flow of ideas.

Ocean View has launched three new typing programs for students in Transitional Kindergarten-grade 2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8. These typing programs, which are developmentally appropriate, help students learn to type fluently, and with speed and accuracy.

Another exciting part of these programs is that they can be accessed by our students in their homes. The programs allow practice to go beyond the school day from anywhere our students have internet access. Parents can see these programs for themselves and assist their children in the comfort of their homes and other homework settings.

Each of the three programs are web-based and can be accessed through the Ocean View School District website. Students simply go to www.ovsd.org/sso; click the "*Clever Instant Login*" link on the left side of the page. Students then enter a username and password, which they have practiced at school. Once logged in and on the next page, they click the application for their grade level typing program and begin exploring, practicing and learning!

Our three typing programs are:
1. Mickey's Typing Adventure (grades TK-2) - This program is part of Typelandia and uses Mickey Mouse and friends to engage our younger students in keyboarding.
2. Typing Instructor (grades 3-5) - We use Typer Island to continue building and refining keyboarding skills.
3. Typing.com (grades 6-8) - Our middle school students use Typing.com to reinforce the typing skills they have acquired in Kindergarten and grades 1-5, and to improve their speed and accuracy. The curriculum in Typing.com is aligned to our State Standards.

There you have it! Ocean View's three typing programs are accessible online during the school day and from the convenience of home!