



# OBO *E-Mail* Blast

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## **Orange Public Schools Readies Administrators and Teachers for Curriculum Instruction Aligned with National Common Core State Standards**

The Orange Public School District has been on a mission since the June 16, 2010 decision by the New Jersey State Board of Education and the New Jersey Department of Education to align the state's curriculum with national Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in mathematics and English language arts and literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. This state led initiative, The Common Core State Standards, is sponsored by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief's State School Officers and has been embraced by 45 states. In Orange, these standards are being phased in across the district to support rigorous academic requirements, aimed at providing a uniform framework of instruction, from kindergarten through grade 12, that will better prepare Orange's schoolchildren for college and the workforce.

The state adopted the CCSS in mathematics for Kindergarten to Grade 2 in the 2011-12 school year. In preparation for full implementation, the district developed a comprehensive plan to incorporate in the schools' curriculum what students are expected to master, as determined by effective models from across the country and around the world. This plan consisted of multi-faceted processes for implementation, inclusive of teachers, administrators, parents and community.

Initially, in January, key staff from the department of Curriculum and Instruction began to engage in action research and aggressive professional development agendas, addressing elements of the Common Core. District Administrators were introduced to the CCSS through activities and staff development and in May the district articulation day for instructional staff focused on the Common Core.



**Pictured: Dr. Terri Russo; Dr. Paula Howard (center) with attendees.**

During the summer break, district administrators and school leadership teams have undergone intensive training to immerse themselves in the various requirements and district initiatives adopted to meet the Common Core Standards. The district administrator's met from July 9 - 12 at the district's "Administrators' Retreat" at the Board of Education Administrative Office to explore Common Core State Standards. Dr. Paula Howard, Deputy Superintendent and Dr. Terri Russo, Teacher on Assignment for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, organized the retreat. During the four days of intensive hands-on training, Drs. Howard and Russo oversaw standards to be implemented in the district. All of the district's administrators and school leadership teams including directors, supervisors, principals and assistant principals attended the retreat and are scheduled to return on August 27, for training on Common Core Standards for Mathematics, prior to the start of school.



**Pictured: Scenes from the Administrators' Retreat held July 10 – 13 at the Orange Board of Education Administrative Office.**

In the area of English Language Arts and Literacy, administrators explored text Complexity, tiered vocabulary and scale triads. They covered benchmarks to better understand and evaluate the common core components and classroom assessments for developing proficient readers through a "staircase" of increasing complexity, effective and skilled writers, adept speakers/listeners who will be able to articulate responses to scholastic inquiries and developing language skill with strong vocabulary. Lastly, they covered the integration of media and technology in the common core curriculum.

The administrators were exposed to videos discussing the need to nurture student creativity, the importance of arts education, reading comprehension, sessions on Educational Technology and lesson planning through the district's web-based student data warehousing system, Genesis.



**Pictured: Scenes from the Administrators' Retreat held July 10 – 13 at the Orange Board of Education Administrative Office.**

In addition, during the "Administrators' Retreat", district Language Arts Literacy coaches were trained separately in the intricacies of the newly defined standards for English Language Arts. The coaches, supported by the Director of Language Arts, Ms. Kathryn Carter, spent four days with Literacy Consultant Be Be Morrissey. They were charged with correlating the Common Core State Standards with Journeys reading program, adopted by the district, for Kindergarten to grade five.



**Pictured: District Literacy Coaches during their training on July 12.**

The district's Technology Coordinators, assigned to each school, were also engaged in processes, methodologies and strategies to integrate technology and media applications across the curriculum that supports the CCSS, as well as developing the means to provide the technological oversight necessary to support faculty and staff. They met throughout the month of July.



**Pictured: Technology Coordinators during their meeting on July 23.**

Furthermore, as a part of the district's Common Core implementation plan, a select group of instructional and administrative staff, spanning all grades and content areas, were identified as a Professional Learning Community to lead the charge at the schools' grass roots level. During the week of July 16-20, Scholastic Inc. engaged these very special and gifted educators in comprehensive training on the standards. They will reconvene in August to plan and develop the next steps needed to provide support for implementing the Common Core State Standards during the school year. They will become the professional development unit and will remain active for the entire year.



**Pictured: Scenes from the training sessions for the CCSS Professional Learning Community.**



## **Park Avenue Student Wins Six Sounds Contest**

Park Avenue School student, Naziyah Robinson, under the direction of Technology Coordinator, Dr. Denise Harlem, has won the New Jersey Association for Educational Technology (NJ AET) Six Sounds contest for Grades 3-5, in the Drama/Adventure category. Dr. Harlem entered Naziyah's podcast, created during Park's computer club, entitled "The Trip". The podcast used 6 required sound effects to tell a story. [Click here to hear Naziyah's podcast.](#)

The contest winners were announced on the NJ AET website on July 17, 2012. Naziyah will receive a mini digital camcorder as a prize for her winning entry. Congratulations to Naziyah and all of Park's computer club "techies" who also participated in the contest.



## **September Registration for Orange Preschool Announced**

The Department of Orange Early Childhood Education has announced preschool registration dates for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 5, 6, and 7 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Orange Early Childhood Center located at 397 Park Avenue. Residents of Orange, with children who will be 3 or 4 years of age by October 1, 2012, are eligible to attend Orange Public School District Preschool. Please see the flyers below for registration requirements.

## **Coming Attractions**

- ***Friday, August 3 – Last Day for the Orange Summer Program***
- ***Monday, August 27 – Administrators' Retreat***
- ***Monday – Friday, August 27 – 31 – New Teacher Orientation***
- ***Tuesday, September 4, Superintendent's Forum, 8:30 a.m. at Orange Preparatory Academy***

**Auditorium**

- **Tuesday – Friday, September 4 – 7 – Staff Professional Development**
- **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 5, 6, 7 – Preschool Registration (See flyers below)**
- **Monday, September 10 - First Day of School for Students**



**ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Administration Building  
451 Lincoln Avenue Orange, New Jersey 07050  
Tel: (973) 677-4015 Fax: (973) 677-0486  
Website: <http://www.orange.k12.nj.us>

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Candace Goldstein  
Director of Special Programs

Mr. Ronald C. Lee  
Superintendent of Schools  
Jacquelyn Blanton  
Supervisor of Early Childhood

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**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2012**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- **3 years old by 10/01/12**                                          **4 years old by 10/01/12**
- **Must be resident of Orange Township**
- **Original Birth Certificate**
- **Child's Immunization record**
- **Current lease or Mortgage Statement**
- **2 Proofs of Residency (PSE&G bill, telephone or cable bill)**
- **Picture ID**

**If you are living with a friend or relative, you must bring their current lease or mortgage statement. In addition, you must bring a completed Residency Affidavit (you must pick this form up from the District Registrar, complete form and return to registrar for approval) located at 400 Lincoln Avenue, Orange High School during the hours of 9:00 A.m. to 12:00 Noon, prior to registering your child.**

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**Registration Days:            WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY**

**Dates:                          SEPTEMBER 5, 6, and 7**

**Time:                             10AM – 3:00 P.M.**

**Last sign in 2:30pm**

**PLACE:                         ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

**397 PARK AVENUE, ORANGE, NJ 07050**

**973- 672-0251**

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***IF YOU ARE CONCERNED YOUR PRESCHOOL CHILD IS DEVELOPING OR LEARNING DIFFERENTLY, YOU CAN CALL THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST AN EVALUATION FOR PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES.***



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Supervisor of Early Childhood

### REGISTRACIÓN PREESCOLAR

#### REQUISITOS:

- 3 AÑOS ANTES DE 10/01/12
  - 4 AÑOS ANTES DE 10/01/12
  - DEBE SER RESIDENTE DEL MUNICIPIO DE ORANGE
  - PARTIDA DE NACIMIENTO ORIGINAL
  - EXPEDIENTE DE INMUNIZACIONES DEL NIÑO/NIÑA
  - DECLARACIÓN ACTUAL DEL ARRIENDO O DE LA HIPOTECA
  - Identificación de fotos
  - **2 Pruebas de Residencia (recibo de PSE&G, teléfono o recibo del cable) deben ser actual.**
- Si esta viviendo con un amigo o un pariente en una **casa privada, el propietario tiene que proporcionar la prueba de residencia.** Adicionalmente, el Affidavit debe ser completado por usted y por el propietario. Si usted reside con un amigo en un edificio de apartamento, el Propietario o la Agencia que Maneja el edificio, deben de completar el Affidavit **formulario proporcionado en Orange High School entre 9:00am – 12:00 PM . Cuando completen el affidavit debe de ser aprobado por el registrador del distrito antes de venir al Ministerio de Educación a hacer la matricula.**

**REGISTRACIÓN: Miércoles, Jueves, y Viernes 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Tiene que firmar antes de las 2:30pm**

**Septiembre 5, 6, y 7**

**LUGAR: ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER  
397 PARK AVENUE, ORANGE, NJ 07050  
(973) 677-0251**

**SI USTED ESTA PREOCUPADO POR QUE SU HIJO/HIJA ESTA DESARROLLANDO ALGUN PROBLEMA DE APRENDISAJE O APRENDIENDO DIFERENTE FAVOR DE CONTACTAR AL DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS ESPECIALES EN EL DISRITO.**