



# Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.  
Office of the Superintendent



April 17, 2020

Good Day Orange Township Public School District Community,

I am hopeful that your Spring Break is going well. In addition, I shared with each of you the importance of self-care throughout the first three weeks of distance learning. It is very important that you continue to take care of yourselves during this pandemic. All of our stakeholders have done a great job during the beginning of distance learning. You are to be commended for your tenacity and resilience during this period.

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with the most up to date information regarding school building closure and the continuation of distance learning. On Thursday, April 16, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy ordered the closure of all NJ schools through May 15, 2020. While we initially anticipated the tentative reopening of schools in our district on April 20<sup>th</sup> (this was based on previous updates from the Governor's office) all schools will continue to operate virtually until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Last evening, we sent a phone blast to families and staff to ensure that you were provided the most up to date information. In addition, we posted the article from NJ.COM under the district news and announcements indicating school building closure but the continuation of distance learning until May 15<sup>th</sup>.

We will proceed with our distance learning instructional plan and keep you abreast through our communication platforms via the district website as well as our social media handles regarding any academic or operational updates.

For further supports, we have created an email address [distancelearningquestions@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:distancelearningquestions@orange.k12.nj.us) for questions or concerns during this pandemic period as it relates to instructional or technology concerns. If there are also concerns regarding mental or self-care supports, you can also email us. We will need your child's school, teacher's name, as well as your contact information. Always remember, you should always contact your child's teacher and/or principal as the first line of support.

It is encouraged that you continue to visit our district COVID-19 Resources Tab on the district website [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us) for additional resources for families on mental health as well as updates on self care for students, families, and staff. We have posted instructional supports within the COVID-19 Resource Tab for your assistance. As you are aware, we update our COVID-19 Resource Tab weekly in the effort of providing further supports for our school community.

## **Reminder: Schedule for the Continuation of Distance Learning and Updates Regarding School Building Closure**

April 20, 2020-Distance Learning to continue per the mandate from Governor Murphy that all schools will remain closed through May 15th. Please review the Re-Launch Instructional At Home Plan on the district website page. The Re-Launch At-Home Plan has a schedule for Elementary as well as Secondary. The Re-Launch Plan At-Home Plan is located in the district news and announcements section of the website.

On or Before May 15, 2020-Governor Murphy and Commissioner of Education Dr. Repollet will provide guidance to school districts regarding continuing distance learning or the re-opening of schools. As you know, we will get this information to you as soon as we receive it.

Again, thank you for your continued flexibility and cooperation during this unprecedented time. We are in this together.

Educationally yours,

*Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.*

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Superintendent of Schools