

# Superintendent's Report Orange Public Schools “Good to Great”



Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
“The Teaching Superintendent”  
March 9, 2021

# Honoring Our Robotics Students from Heywood Avenue School



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# Robotics Team

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- Coaches: Eric Lurie (STEM Teacher) and Kelly Clark (Visual and Performing Arts Teacher)
- Robotics Team: Zola Anderson, Onyeomoa Abengowe, Donovan Cruz, Nicholas Tucker, Nathanael Edwards, and Ryan Chambers
- We are so proud of the efforts of the team! Being present seeing you working towards your goals made me so proud. To Principal Alcantara and Vice Principal Murphy, thank you for being ever so present for your students!

# District Facilities Updates SY 2020-2021

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Edwin Vasquez  
Manager of Security  
February 9, 2021

# District Facility Maintenance & Custodial Services Update

- Thorough Cleaning Daily and Disinfecting of all touch points in the building (examples include but not limited to door handles, Bathrooms, entrances exits, and banisters)
- Minor and major repairs to our heating units and pumps
- Winter Walk-through of all school district facilities
- PCI and District Meeting based on Updates related to COVID-19 mandates and expectations
- Preparation for snow and ice For the month of February 2021



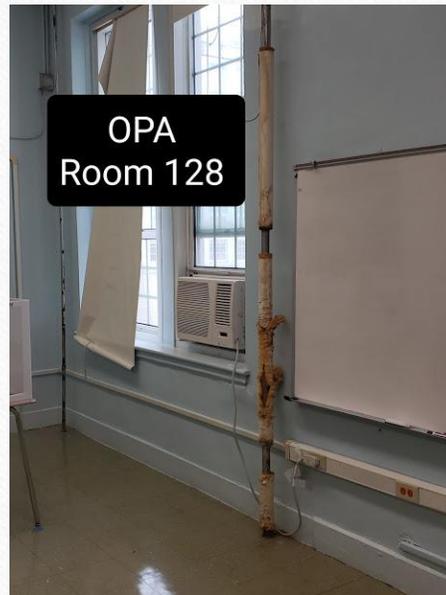
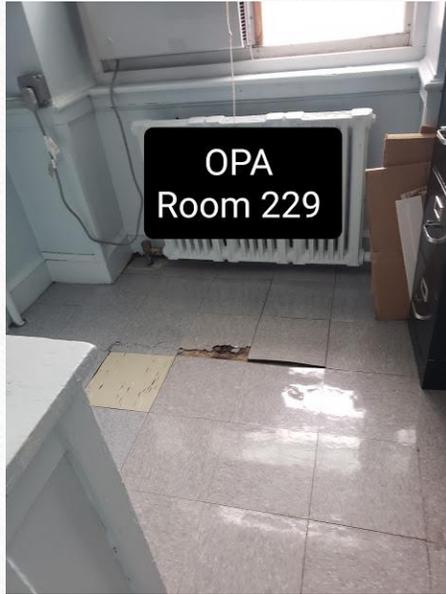
# PREPARATION FOR SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

# Monthly Walk Throughs of Facilities

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- The purpose of the monthly walk throughs are to address any concerns structurally in district buildings. Getting ahead of potential concerns is paramount in our walk.
- Dr. Fitzhugh and I alongside principals and maintenance teams walk and discuss building concerns accordingly.
- Later in the PPT, you will see walk through pictures. These discussions have certainly assisted with placing timelines on actionables for repair or improvement.

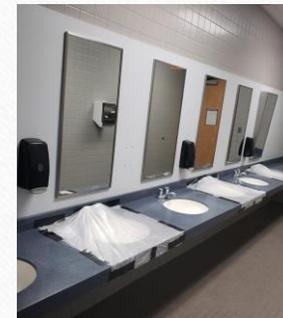
# Orange Preparatory Academy



- During the monthly walkthrough of the district facilities, we noticed that certain things we need to address to prevent any injuries.

# Preparation for the Return of Staff and Students

- We continuously preparing our facilities for the return of our staff and student. Following guidelines of the CDC to ensure a safe teaching and learning environment.





# ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Room 103

- The grease trap in room 103 was leaking, and the PCI team repaired the grease trap .





# Central Elementary School

- During the Winter break we painted the second floor of Central Elementary School.
- Lights in the corridors were changed as well. It is very important that the schools are welcoming and inviting for staff and students. Schools are our second homes.

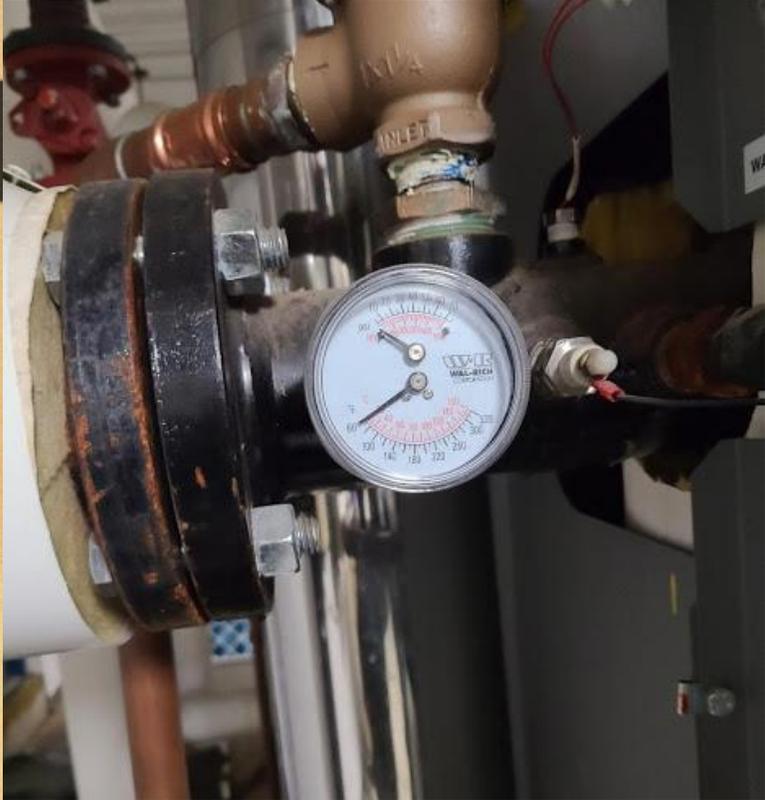
# Oakwood Avenue School

- In the Teachers' Lounge the radiator broke. PCI replaced radiator and replaced all pipes with cast iron.



# Lincoln Avenue School

- On one of the boilers at Lincoln Avenue School; the gauge broke. It was replaced by PCI.



# Heywood Avenue School

At Heywood Ave School inside of the boiler room in the new wing one of the pipes broke. PCI immediately stopped the leak, fixed, and replaced the pipe.





# Oakwood Avenue School

- We had some vandalism occurred at Oakwood Ave School. It was immediately removed.
- Schools cannot have any type of graffiti present. The PCI team was able to remove all graffiti within a matter of hours not only from the school building but from the vacant TCU that is also on the property.



# Orange High School

- At OHS one of the heating units' coils broke causing the room to flood which resulted in some of the new cabinetry in the science rooms to be damaged.



# STEM: Demolition of Additional Space for Classrooms

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# Update on the Reopening of Schools



Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
“The Teaching Superintendent”  
February 9, 2021

# The Updated Plan for Phases II and IV

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- **Continuation of Phase 2 through April 16, 2021:** Schools will be open two days per week with Principals, Assistant Principals/Deans of Students and secretaries reporting on-site to maintain the fidelity and continuity of programming. Central Office will be open 4 days per week. To note: Department Heads will discuss scheduling with their teams. Special Note: Technology Coordinators and those testing students in the area of Special Services will receive schedules for in district support from their immediate supervisor.
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- **The Week of April 12<sup>th</sup>** teachers and support staff **will report** to the buildings to fine tune their areas in anticipation of student arrival on April 19, 2021. This will be required in order to make sure that the Week of April 19<sup>th</sup> is seamless for students.
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- **Phase 4, April 19, 2021 – June 24, 2021:** All staff and students return in a hybrid setting (combining on-site and remote learning) with staggered schedules.
- **If you have not answered my request regarding if you want your child to return on March 1<sup>st</sup> or you are opting for remote learning, email [reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us)**
- **Reminder: If you opted out and change your mind, two weeks before the end of the Marking Period Three, you may send in a request. We have already scheduled students for Phase IV.**
- \*Based on guidance from the Governor's Office and Health Officials, dates can always change.

# District Updates

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- As you know, we continue to provide breakfast and lunch to our school community. With that being said, we have distributed over 120,000 meals since March 17<sup>th</sup>. Continue to come out and grab a meal students.
- Reminder: School is NOT over at 12:30 PM. In fact we have office hours for additional support. Asynchronous assignments are placed in Google Classroom for additional support. Let's not take this lightly. Instruction is paramount during these times and beyond...Cameras being on as discussed at the Curriculum Committee Meetings as well as the November 10<sup>th</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meetings are mandated. If there is a camera malfunctioning issue, please reach out to [reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us) so we can connect you with your child's principal.

# District Updates

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- The Week of March 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Powell, Mr. Lima, and I visited NJIT for the site of the STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges Graduation on June 25, 2021. What a great facility and appropriate as we a STEM focused school. This graduation is so very important as this is the first for the school. The Orange High School Graduation will be at Codey Arena in West Orange on June 23, 2021.
- Plans are underway for the Summer Program 2021! Just know we are creating several approaches...More to come on this item.

# District Updates

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- Read Across America took place the Week of March 1<sup>st</sup>....The celebrations were so vast. I tell you this, the love of reading was exemplified to say the least.
- Special thank you to all guest readers for taking time out of their busy schedules to ensure that our students had a great experience during Read Across America.
- Early Bird Early Childhood Registration for SY 21-22 will occur on Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, March 23, 2021 for children in Orange and who will be 3 years of age on or before October 1, 2021.
- Those students in Grade 8 who applying for acceptance into STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges, the deadline for applications is Friday, March 12, 2021.
- Marking Period Two Awards Assemblies continued district-wide. Special congratulations to our winners! We are so very proud of you!

# Scholarships for the Graduating Class of 2021

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- **As of February 8, 2021**, the following are acquired scholarships awards for seniors in the Class of 2021:
- OHS - **\$3,242,500.00**
- STEM - **\$2,327,000.00**
- Grand Total: **\$5,769,000.00**
- **As of March 9, 2021**, the following are the acquired scholarship awards for Seniors in the Class of 2021:
- OHS-**\$4,869,800.00**
- STEM-**2,939,000.00**
- Grand Total: **7,808,000.00**, an increase of **2,039,800.00** in just four weeks...Isn't this great news?

# District Updates

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- Special Congratulations to Dr. Blanton and Team for presenting on the topic: Support for Preschool Students with Special Needs in Virtual and In-Person Learning Environments. Dr. Blanton presented at the NJASCD Conference on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Our district is being highlighted more and more....we will continue to push, push, push to get that narrative out there.
- A select group of our STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges students presented at the New Jersey State Board of Education on March 3rd. As you know, the mid-year panel presentations took place in January virtually at the school. Dr. Powell presented an update at the Curriculum Committee Meeting on January 26, 2021. The NJDOE was so impressed with our students that the invitation to present was given to Dr. Powell and I. Now can you say this is “Good to Great.”

# STEM INNOVATION ACADEMY SENIORS RECOGNIZED FOR PANEL/CAPSTONE PROJECTS



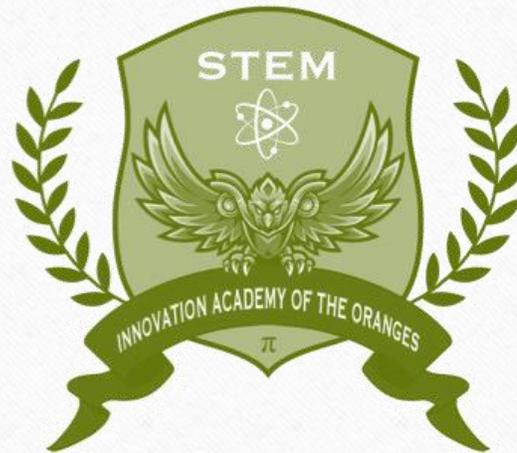
Tina Powell, Ed.D.

Director of Mathematics and Science

March 9, 2021

STEM INNOVATION ACADEMY SENIORS  
RECOGNIZED FOR PANEL/CAPSTONE PROJECTS

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- This school year, all grade 12 students were asked to develop **Senior Capstone Projects** that incorporate a **Community Service** objective, a formal **Research Report** that addresses a well-structured **research question** and a **review of existing literature**, a **demonstrable and engineered solution**, and a **final presentation**. For the Panels, which were held the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>, students were asked to defend their topic and research questions and to provide a thoughtful, research-based justification.
- The Panel gave students the opportunity to present their initial research, mentor supports, and literature review, in front of a panel of 8-10 judges that assessed their knowledge of the topic and their ability to present and to answer questions in real time.



# Grade 12: Senior Capstone Projects

Community Service



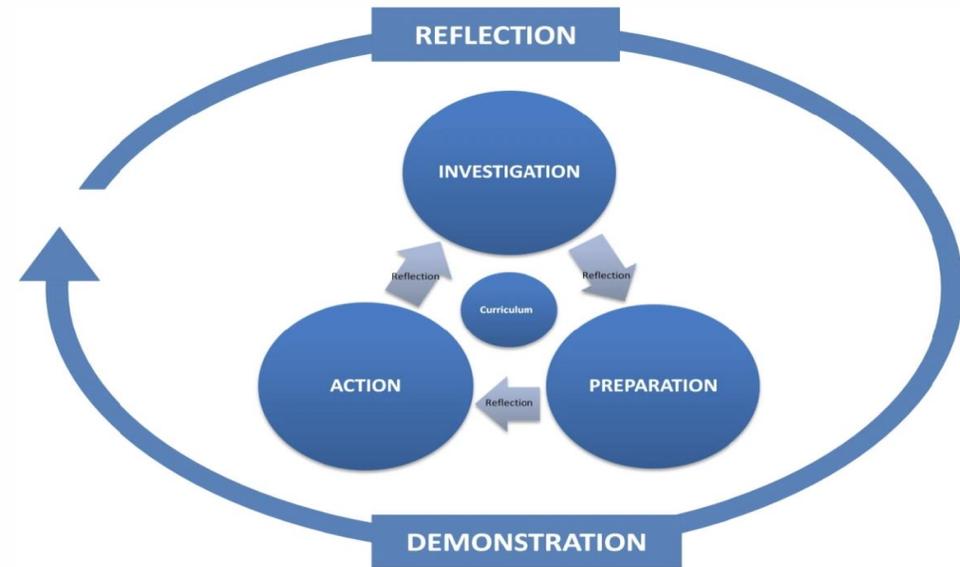
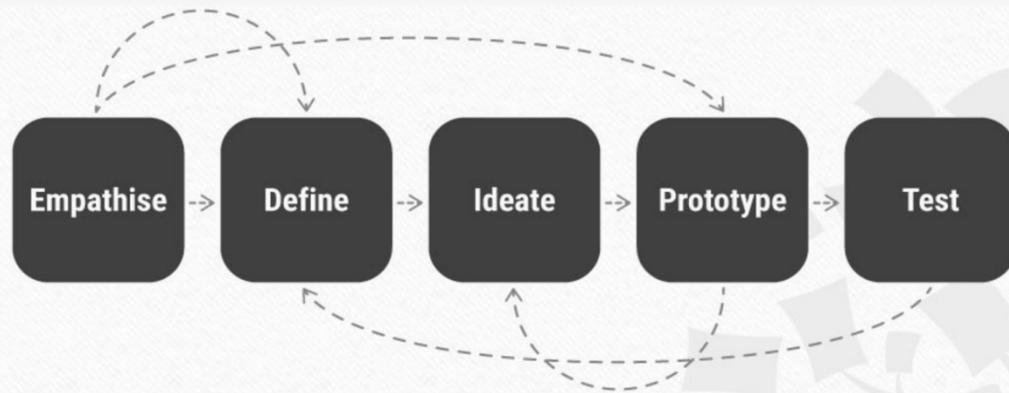
Research Report



Demonstrable Solution  
w/Engineering  
Notebook/journal



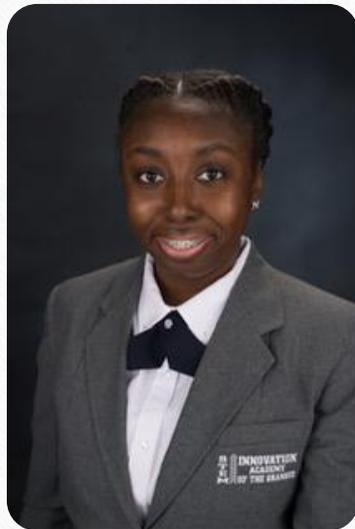
Presentation Board



- Erskine Glover, a panel member and the NJDOE's State Director for the Office of Career Readiness, recommended the recognition of the **STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges'** seniors for their 2020-2021 Panel/Capstone presentations.
- On Wednesday, March 3, 2021, the **NJ State Board of Education**, in its March monthly meeting, recognized the Orange Public Schools for its innovative programming in **CTE, Gifted, & STEM education**.

- The video provides a 3-minute snapshot of the students' 26-minute presentation. During the Panels and at the State BOE meeting, students **Ashley Clenord**, **Courtney Simpson**, and **Diana Mendoza** represented the District well, impressing the audience with their depth of knowledge, their research skills, and their advocacy and compassion for the education and equity rights of deaf students.

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/7wczfnu1ebl8n0i/Grade%202012%20Panel%20Video Glover.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/7wczfnu1ebl8n0i/Grade%202012%20Panel%20Video%20Glover.mp4?dl=0)



- This month, on **March 17<sup>th</sup>**, members of the State Board of Education, as well as the **Acting Commissioner of Education, Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan**, will be visiting these students to have an in-depth conversation about their project and their aspirations as STEM students. We will keep you posted!
- On the behalf of the Orange Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Fitzhugh, Principal Lima, Assistant Principal, Dr. Reid, Ms. Henry and the body of STEM Academy staff....Thank you for this opportunity to present the exemplary work of our students!



# Genesis Parent Portal Reminder

## Orange Township Public School District Genesis Parent Portal

To continue to provide families with the most up to date information we are launching registration for the Genesis Parent Portal. When you are a part of the portal:

- You can view your child's grades in real-time
- Receive important information from the district



Sign up today for a Genesis Parent Portal account. If you have an account and your contact information changed (phone number, email address, etc.) you are encouraged to fill out the form.

Find registration links in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole at:  
[www.orange.k12.nj.us/genesislaunch](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us/genesislaunch).



- Have you signed up for the Genesis Parent Portal? Parents are able to see grades and assignments posted in real time. Should any concerns regarding the portal be directed to [reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us).

# Reminder: District News-Breakfast/Lunch Grab and Go Update

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Please be reminded of food locations beginning at 7:30 AM and concluding at 1:30PM

- Rosa Parks Community School
- Lincoln Avenue School
- Forest Street Community School
- Scholars Academy

# District News-Breakfast/Lunch Grab and Go Update

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Please be reminded of food locations beginning at 7:30 AM and concluding at 1:30PM

- Heywood Avenue School
- Orange Early Childhood Center
- Park Avenue School
- Oakwood Avenue Community School
- Once we enter Phase IV, all locations will be open for Grab and Go Service.



# Reminders to the School Community

- For further supports, please be reminded that we still answer emails via [reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us) for questions or concerns during this pandemic period as it relates to any facet of the plan or support needed. Responses will be generated within 24-48 hours of receipt.
- 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. Thank you to the Trauma Informed Team for supporting this work since March 17<sup>th</sup>.

# Orange Public Schools Social Media

## Social Media

### Hashtags:

#GoodtoGreat  
#FROrange  
#OrangeStrong

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