

May Superintendent's Update Orange Public Schools “Good to Great”



Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
“The Teaching Superintendent”
May 12, 2020

District Great News

- It is with tremendous pride that Mrs. DePalma, Health Science Program of Study teacher at Orange High School, announced that all of the Orange High School competitors who competed at the New Jersey State Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) competition placed! Due to the current situations brought on by COVID19, the competition went virtual during the week of our Spring break. The students worked hard to achieve this accomplishment. On April 26, the virtual NJHOSA awards ceremony took place.
- The Orange High School HOSA team all watched the ceremony from their respective homes, cheering each other on. The NJ State HOSA winners are:
- Keisha Opuku- 2nd place, Life Support Skills
- Suri Garcia and Briana Thomas-5th place, CPR and First Aid
- Briana Thomas-5th place, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Safety Awareness Exam
- Students placing in the top three go on to compete at the National level. Keisha Opuku will go on to the National competition, which will be held virtually in June. Of the students who placed in the competition, there was only one other comprehensive high school. All other winners were from highly competitive technical schools. Orange High School and the entire Career and Technical Education (CTE) department are very proud of the Health Science students' accomplishments.

District Great News

- Two of the staff members in the district obtained their educational leadership doctorates on April 14th and April 28th respectively. Dr. Lottie Whitaker-Thorton (From the College of St. Elizabeth) and Dr. Donna Sinisgalli (From Kean University).
- Ms. Whitley, Grades 5-7 Science Teacher from Heywood Avenue School has been asked to video tape a lesson from the NJTV Learning Live. This is a great accomplishment! She submitted her lesson on May 11th. If you remember, Ms. Whitley was featured in the Re-Launch of the At Home School Plan.
- So we are capturing all scholarship monies monthly, from the 17.2 million number I gave you prior to spring break (April 10th), the new number today is 18,001,246.00. So proud of our high school seniors!!!

District Great News

- Special Congratulations to Heywood Avenue School for being recognized for the third year in a row as a Distinguished Project Lead the Way School. The award is based access to programs, engagement, and achievement in the programs offered.
- Special Congratulations to Art Teacher Ms. Bogle for her art work being placed on display at SOPAC. Her latest work “Hope” is on display. Extended congratulations to OHS Art Teachers Nate Brown and Shana Falda who also have art pieces on display at SOPAC.
- The following teachers from Park Avenue completed their Artificial Intelligence Course through the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and General Motors Artificial Intelligence Course:
- Ms. Berrio STEM and Computer Literacy Teacher Grades 2-7, Ms. Martelli Librarian, and Dr. Harlem Technology Coordinator. Congratulations to the Team!

Reminder: Pre-Kindergarten Registration May 11th through May 15th Virtually



SPECIAL NEEDS & ELL SERVICES
HIGH SCOPE CURRICULUM
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MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED
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Email contact: prekindergartenregistration@orange.k12.nj.us

Preschool Virtual Registration



Virtual Graduation Activities

- The Orange High School Administrative Team and I have been in communication regarding virtual graduation for our Seniors. We have communicated via Zoom and will announce information very soon.
- Moving Up Ceremonies at the Elementary Schools: The same as Orange High School, we are in the planning stages but will update everyone in a letter very soon!

Information Leading Up to the Health Related Closure

- February 28th: Superintendent's Roundtable: Guidance given re: planning and preparation in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- District Website updated providing guidance to faculty/staff, students, parents, and district administration regarding COVID-19
- February 29th through March 2nd: School Nurses sent correspondences to their colleagues, by building, indicating proper handwashing as well as protocols if staff or students exhibit symptoms. Handwashing procedures as well as videos were shared across the district via the school nurses
- A Nurse's Corner was established on the district website providing helpful hints and videos related to healthy lifestyles, combating illness, and proper handwashing videos and techniques
- The County Office sent an email to all Superintendents providing guidelines for COVID-19; this was then forwarded to school nurses for review

Information Leading Up to the Health Related Closure

- March 4th: A Letter to Families and Staff was sent to faculty/staff, parents, and district administration regarding COVID-19
- March 5th: Meeting with the Custodial Team regarding cleaning procedures as it related to ensuring safety protocols for staff, students, and families
- March 9th: Directors, Principals, Supervisors, Informational and Instructional Technology Staff met to begin crafting the instructional plan of action in the event of a health-related school closure. Student and staff surveys were disseminated to all schools to assess at-home access to devices and WiFi/Internet
- March 10th: A Principals Meeting was held at Park Avenue Elementary School to review all guidance documents and expectations in the event of school closure. Principals prepared for the virtual learning professional development sessions that they will lead on March 13

Information Leading Up to the Health Related Closure

- March 10th to March 11th: Evening of March 10th and all day on March 11th: District closed and intensified cleaning took place. School to reopen on March 12th.
- March 12th: The Superintendent hosted a Nurse's Meeting to outline health procedures and reminders to families about sick students and staff as well as expectations
- Device updates were shared with the Supervisor of Educational Technology such to inventory working devices within the district in the event of the need for large scale dissemination. Parent surveys were conducted online/by phone to assess access to devices and Wifi/Internet
- March 13th: The district provided a ½ day (PM) of Professional Development to have staff begin to plan and prepare instructional lessons and supports in the event of school closure. The guidance documents are linked below along with the agenda and outline to principals

Information Leading Up to the Health Related Closure as well as Other Supports

- March 16th: Dissemination of Chromebooks at all district schools-this was a full day program. In addition, students worked with their teachers in order to understand how to navigate the website to find their assignments.
- We had additional Chromebook kiosks throughout the month of March. March 27th (OHS), March 30th (Lincoln), and March 31st (OHS). An example of appointments and calls made can be seen using this link (Lincoln Avenue Distribution on 3-30-2020)
- Additional Kiosks at Orange High School on Tuesday April 7th and at Lincoln Avenue School on April 9th took place. 10 Chromebooks were given out to OHS students on the 7th of April. An additional 122 chromebooks were given out across the district on April 9th. On April 24th, we had another kiosk at Lincoln Avenue School. An additional 155 chromebooks were given out. We have another kiosk on Tuesday, April 28th 55 chromebooks were given out. Finally, on May 5th, 93 chromebooks were given out. Our next weekly Kiosk will take place tomorrow, May 13th.
- We identified 186 families that have 3 or more students. We began providing an additional chromebook for families with 3 to 4 students and 2 additional chromebooks for families with 5 or more.

A large group of people, mostly wearing masks and face shields, are working in a large room with red and blue flooring. They are handling stacks of papers and folders, suggesting a data collection or administrative task. The room has large windows and a drop ceiling with recessed lights.



Chromebook Kiosk Preparation and Distribution Once School Buildings Closed



Chromebook Kiosk Preparation and Distribution Once School Buildings Closed



Governor Murphy Announced that School Buildings Are to Remain Closed

- On Monday, May 4, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy ordered the closure of all NJ schools through the end of SY 2019-2020. This evening, a phone blast to families and staff will go out sharing this important information. In addition, we have posted an article from NJ.COM under the district news and announcements indicating school building closure but the continuation of distance learning through the end of the school year.
- We will continue to keep you abreast through our communication platforms via the district website as well as our social media handles regarding any academic or operational updates.

Governor Murphy Announced that School Buildings Are to Remain Closed

- For further supports, please be reminded that we created an email address 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 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.

Participation Rates from the Week of May 4th

- Rosa Parks 74%
- Cleveland 74%
- STEM 87%
- OHS 78%
- OPA 92%
- Forest 84%
- Heywood 89%
- Oakwood 78%
- OECC: 82%

Participation Rates from the Week of May 4th

- Montclair Child Development Center 94%
- Valley Settlement House 71%
- West Orange Community House 95%
- Blessed Hope 88%
- Norjenes 83%
- Scholars 92%
- Newcomers 71%
- Lincoln 80%
- Park 82%

Supports for the School Community

- Administrators, teachers, and support staff calling parents 1) to make appointments for chrome book pick up 2) to keep students on track as it relates to completion of assignments and providing supports 3) to check in on staff through common planning meetings done virtually to keep with the academic and social emotional acumen of the school district. Notes are captured in Genesis as required by the Superintendent of Schools.
- Teachers are tracking student completion of assignments-calling families to remind them of the 180 School Year Requirement. In addition, teachers have two sets of Office Hours to provide additional academic supports.
- Guidance Counselors and Social Workers are providing services through Google Meet with students. Notes of calls and support are captured in Genesis.
- The Superintendent has a Trauma Informed Team (Meeting Dates were as follows: March 25th and April 2nd, April 8, 2020, April 22, 2020, and May 6th.) All meetings are virtual through Zoom set up by the Superintendent of Schools. Emails are exchanged to chronicle the action steps of the team to provide staff with ongoing supports.

Breakfast/Lunch Grab and Go Program

- The Breakfast and Lunch Bag and Go Program continues to be evident in 8 locations within the Orange Township Public School District:
- Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Cleveland, Oakwood, Park, OECC, Heywood, and Forest Schools
- Students can report to any of the locations district wide to receive breakfast and lunch accordingly
- We had Orange High School, Newcomers, and Orange Preparatory Academy locations condensed as of Friday, March 27th due to the lack of participation at those locations.
- The total amount of breakfast/lunch grab and go distributed meals as of Friday, May 1st 2020 was 18,649. The next slide has the break down by week since the launch on March 17, 2020 including the Week of May 4th with a total number of 22,926 meals distributed.

Breakfast/Lunch District Distribution

Totals Since March 17th

Week One Total Distributed Week of March 16 th (4 Day Week)	Week Two Total Distributed Week of March 23 rd (5 Day Week)	Week Three Total Distributed Week of March 30 th (5 Day Week)	Week Four Total Distributed Week of April 6 th (4 Day Week)	Week Five Total Distributed Week of April 20 th (5 Day Week)	Week Six Total Distributed the Week of April 27 th (5 Day Week)	Week Seven Total Distributed the Week of May 4 th (5 Day Week)	Grand Total
2,237	3,232	3,186	2,398	3,596	4,001	4,277	22,926

Social Emotional Supports

- Social Emotional Supports during this time is critical to the landscape of the distance learning plan.
- The following information for additional supports outside of the school through our social media handles as well as website and staff communication to families: Mental Health Resources-To access mental health services contact Performcare at 1-877-652-7624. Website is performcare.org.
- To get immediate assistance with an emergent mental health crisis: Contact 911 or go to your nearest hospital. The listed hospitals scripted were as follows: Mountainside Hospital, East Orange General Hospital, and Clara Maass Medical Center

Social Emotional Supports

Information to speak with a counselor 24 hours a day; information below can assist accordingly:

- Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- NJ Hope Line: 1-855-654-6735
- 2nd Floor Teen Helpline: 1-888-222-2228

Social Emotional Supports Given to Staff

*Note: Information is Also Available on the COVID-19 Resource Page-
Also Please Reference the Updated Resource List

The following links have been given to staff during this pandemic for support for families and students as well as self care for the staff (Articles and Workshops):

Newly Updated Samples on April 23, 2020, we are currently updating our COVID resources for May and will launch tomorrow, May 13, 2020:

- Children workbook - First Aid for Feelings and Helping Kids Cope during the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- http://teacher.scholastic.com/education/pdfs/FirstAidForFeelings_Eng.pdf?ET_CID=20200417_SCB_YaleWorkbook_ADMIN_RET_28601&ET_RID=1236931884
- Mindfulness resource <https://www.educatingmindfully.org>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/18/parenting/coronavirus-kids-events-cancelled.html>

Maintaining Social-Emotional and Physical Well Being

The following were tips for students that we posted and provided to families:

- Keep a schedule-wake up at the same time everyday
- Have meals at the same time everyday
- Share kindness with friends on social media platforms; continue interactions as this time can be deemed as lonely
- Relax: Listen to music, write poetry, draw, read, talk to friends and family

Directory for Additional Supports

- Directory to Contact School Guidance Counselors & Social Workers (Social Emotional Supports/Trauma), Nurses (Medical), and Child Study Team Members (Special Services):
- <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/24120>
- We provided this scaffold to families in the effort of providing additional supports through this time.

Instructional Supports during the Health Related School Closure

- It is important for parents and students accessing our various virtual learning sites across schools, teachers, grade levels, departments, and content areas to have consistency in the process. The process for navigating to a teacher's emergency Extended Learning Resources page (for at-home instruction) is as follows:
- Visit the school website -- Faculty -- (select the teacher) – Extended Learning tab (or content is located directly on teacher's homepage).

Interfacing with the Website for Instructional Purposes



HEYWOOD AVENUE SCHOOL
421 Heywood Avenue, Orange, NJ. 07050

[DISTRICT HOME](#)

[SCHOOLS](#)

[LANGUAGE](#)

[USERS](#)

[Home](#) > [Faculty](#) > [Whitley, Dallis Science 5-7](#) > [Welcome](#)

WHITLEY, DALLIS SCIENCE 5-7

[Welcome](#)

[Extended Learning](#)





Thank you for **Pausing for a Moment of Science!**

My name is Dallis D. Whitley. I am the science teacher for grades 5-7 at Heywood Avenue School. I love what I teach and hope that my love of the sciences motivates my students to take risks, explore and question the world around them with an **infinite curiosity**. Grades 5-7 typically cover various aspects

Interfacing with the Website for Instructional Purpose

Resources Staff Information Policies Parents & Students Calendar


Dallis The Science Diva



Middle School Science Teacher

Grades 5-7

whitleda@orange.k12.nj.us

Virtual Office Hours

M-F 9-10:30am

M-F 3:30-5pm

Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom

Google Classroom Codes (by Homeroom)

Sutton **eg2hyfi**

Molano **qo4jwpt**

Brower **rczztzp**

Whitley **pzeci46**

Tague **dq2qvya**

Nickerson **azz2ewo**

Nickerson azz2ewo

Tague dq2qvya

Providing Directions and Supports

- Ms. Whitley from Heywood Avenue providing supports to students as the process began.

<https://youtu.be/p9bmo2cPhDo>

Interfacing with the Website for Instructional Purposes

Home » Faculty » Canares, Brian (Social Studies 5-7) » Extended Learning Plan

CANARES, BRIAN (SOCIAL STUDIES 5-7)

» Extended Learning Plan

The Orange Public Schools Expectations for Emergency At-home Instruction for Social Studies.

First, you are to sign up for [REMIND](#) (You can also download the app). This is for both parents and students. If you have any questions regarding the work, please message me through here. Please sign up with the following class code:

5th Grade: 33ba89

6th Grade: f9ea3g

7th Grade: c2f3264

In addition, you are to check [Google Classroom](#) EVERY SINGLE DAY. I will have all assignments and information posted. You will be held accountable for all due dates!

Please make sure to also check [mrcanares.edublogs.org](#) daily! All updates and assignment information will be posted here!

MY OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

*I will be available through REMIND or you can e-mail me at
canarebr@orange.k12.nj.us.*

Interfacing with the Website for Instructional Purposes

› Printable Extended resources

› Extended Learning Read
alouds

Germs Are Not For Sharing

- What was the title of the story?
- What do we do with our tissue when we are all done blowing/wiping our nose?
- Before you eat lunch, what are you supposed to do with your hands?

If You Give A Pig A Pancake

- What Shape is a Pancake?
- What color is the Pig?
- Did the pig Walk in the door, or climb in the window?
- Where did the Pig build her house?

Owl Babies

- What animal is in the story?
- How many Owls are there?
- What color is the mommy owl?

That's (Not) Mine

- What are the bears fighting over?
- What color is the big bear?
- What color is the little bear?
- What happens to the big bear when he sits on the Black chair?
- What does the Big bear use to tickle the little bear?

- What happens to the pig bear when he sits on the Black chair?
- What color is the pig bear?
- What color is the pig bear?
- What color is the pig bear?

An Example of a Read Aloud

Germes Are Not For Sharing: The following story (link) and corresponding questions after the reading are to be discussed with the children:

https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/2825/WIN_20200316_14_25_21_Pro.mp4

Questions

- What was the title of the story?
- What do we do with our issue when we are all done blowing/wiping our noses?
- Before you eat lunch, what are you supposed to do with your hands?

Example of Student Work Samples

The Prince - Chapters 10 & 11

Quote	Response
<p>Chapter 10</p> <p>"And whoever shall fortify his town well, and shall have managed the other concerns of his subjects in the way stated above, and to be often repeated, will never be attacked without great caution, for men are always averse to enterprises where difficulties can be seen, and it will be seen not to be an easy thing to attack one who has his town well-fortified, and is not hated by his people" 66-67</p> <p>Key terms: fortify, caution</p>	<p>If a state "fortifies" or strengthens their country with defense, then people will attack them with great "caution" or they will be mindful of your power when attacking because they know that your state is very well protected. Machiavelli also says that prince who fortifies his town is not as easy to attack. I agree with this quote because if you put the time and effort into building a defense mechanism to protect you and your people then you will face less difficulties when others try to attack you because you are already prepared. This will also make you "not hated" by the people because they will know that you're protecting them and not just yourself.</p>
<p>"Therefore, a prince who has a strong city, and had not made himself odious, will not be attacked, or if anyone should attack he will only be driven off with disgrace" 67</p> <p>Key terms: odious, disgrace</p>	<p>A prince who has established a "strong" and stable city and has not made himself "odious" or hated by his own people should not have to worry about being attacked because he is on good terms and has done everything right. But if he is attacked they will be driven off with "disgrace" because there was no reason for the prince to be attacked in the first place so in this case the attacker is in the wrong. I feel as if this still applies today. We say to treat others with respect if we want the same in return and this is kind of similar because if we do everything correct and do nothing to start any problems then no one will have a reason to come and mess with you.</p>
<p>Chapter 11</p> <p>"These princes alone have states and do not defend them, and they have subjects and do not rule them; and the states, although unguarded, are not taken from them, and the subjects, although not ruled, do not care, and they have neither the desire nor the ability to alienate themselves. Such principalities only are secure and happy"</p> <p>Key terms: secure, happy</p>	<p>Machiavelli in this passage is talking about ecclesiastical principalities which are principalities that relate to the Christian Church. The reason why these types of principalities don't need to be guarded or ruled over is because the religion of Christianity already does that so the prince does not have to. I agree that these principalities are typically "secure" and "happy" because they obey God and will do what he bible says without question. They</p>

have no problem with following his rules because they believe that's what they're meant to do. But if a random prince were to control them then they would have a problem because they don't see any prince even near to the level God is at.

Questions/Comments: It took me a while to fully understand these two chapters but now I think I get what Machiavelli was saying.

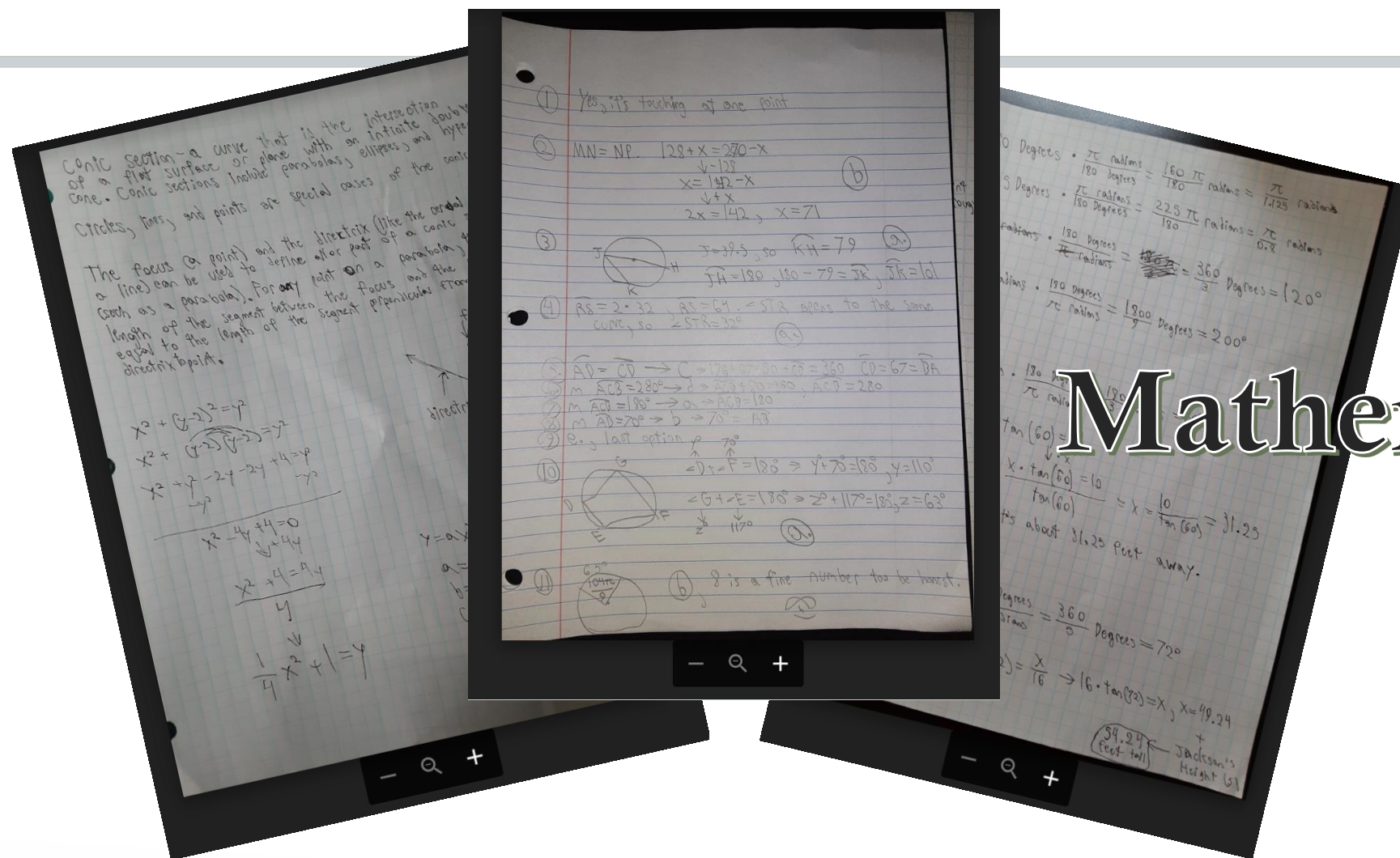
ELA

Example of Student Work Samples



Graphic Arts

Example of Work Samples



Instructional Supports

- It is important to note that common planning team meetings (CPT) aligned to the instructional plan continue on a daily basis. These common planning meetings are evident across content areas including special activity, departmental, school -- including but not limited to Special Education and ELL.
- Administrators discuss the use of data from formative assessments to make decisions to inform on future lessons.
- As Superintendent, I continue to visit the virtual CPT Meetings daily and lend instructional supports to the staff.

Orange Public Schools Social Media

Social Media





Hashtags:

#GoodtoGreat

#FROrange

#OrangeStrong

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