

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



Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
“The Teaching Superintendent”
October 13, 2020

Forest Street Back to School Message

“This is something to make you smile!”

<https://youtu.be/lz7lYlR9lVE>



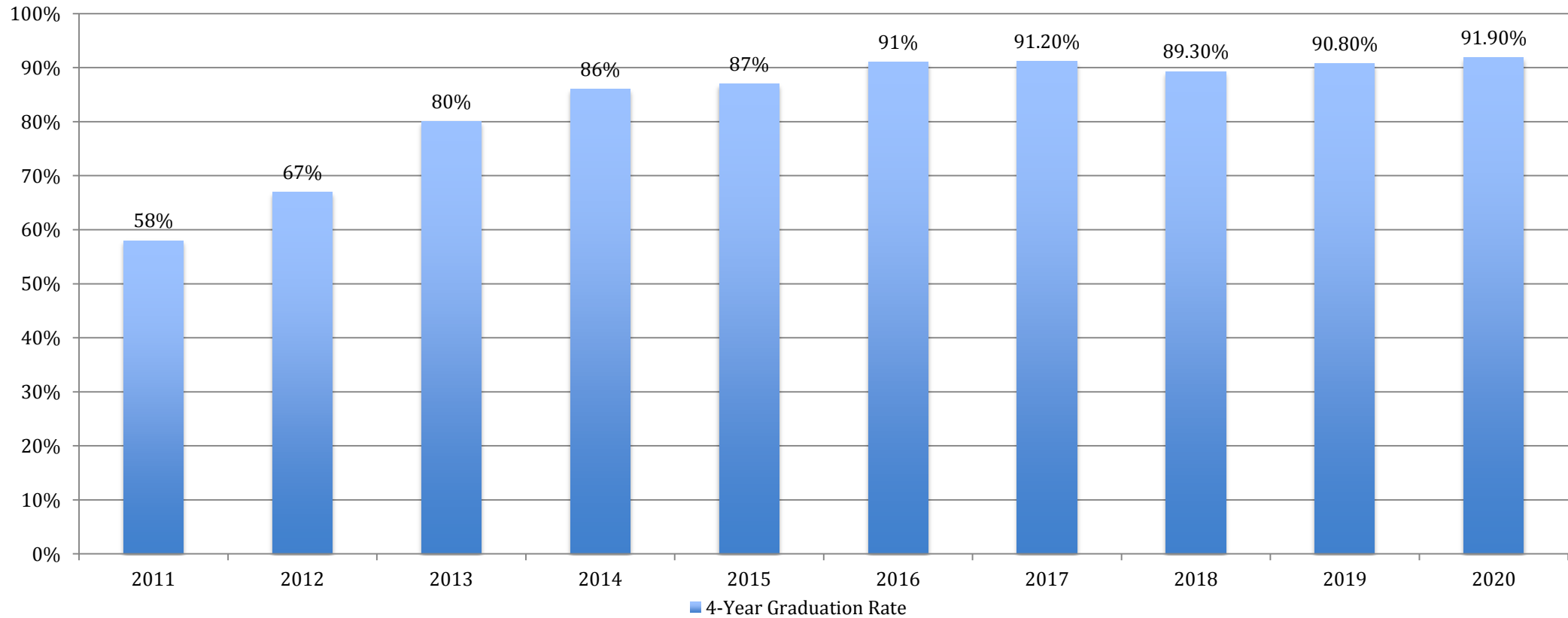
Superintendent's Report Graduation Rate 2011-2020 Orange Public Schools “Good to Great”



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Superintendent of Schools
“ The Teaching Superintendent”
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DISTRICT 4 YEAR GRADUATION RATES

Source: Information Captured from Genesis Report #9160
(Graduation Pathway Data)



Portfolio Appeals Process Waived for 2019-2020 School Year

- Executive Order 117, signed April 7, 2020 by Governor Phil Murphy, waives the graduation assessment requirement for any twelfth-grade student who is expected to graduate in the Class of 2020 but, as of March 18, 2020, had not yet met the graduation assessment requirement. Students in the Class of 2020 who have not yet met the assessment requirement must still meet all the other State and local graduation requirements, including but not limited to credit, curriculum, and attendance requirements.

The First Pathway as Part of the Assessment Graduation Requirements

- In the area of English Language Arts, students must obtain a score of 750 or higher (Level 4)-English 10
- In the area of Mathematics, students student must obtain a score of 750 or higher (Level 4)-Algebra I

ELA 2nd Pathway for the Classes of 2021 and 2022

- NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 9 ≥ 750 (Level 4), or
- NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 11 ≥ 725 (Level 3) or
- SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 450 , or
- SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 22 , or

ELA 2nd Pathway for the Classes of 2021 and 2022

- ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ≥ 6 , or
- ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL ≥ 4 , or
- PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) ≥ 22 , or
- ASVAB-AFQT Composite Score of 31 or greater

Mathematics 2nd Pathway for the Classes of 2021 and 2022

- NJSLA/PARCC Geometry ≥ 725 (Level 3), or
- NJSLA/PARCC Algebra II ≥ 725 (Level 3) or
- SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 440 , or
- SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 22 , or

Mathematics 2nd Pathway for the Classes of 2021 and 2022

- ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra ≥ 76 , or
- Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) (beginning January 2019) ≥ 255 , or
- PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) ≥ 22 , or
- ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31

District Updates

- Throughout the Month of September, we held Back to School Nights at all 14 locations virtually. Special thank you to all administrators, staff, and families for making these nights so powerful. In addition, thank you Board of Education Members for taking part in each of the evenings. You are appreciated.
- As you know, we continue to provide breakfast and lunch to our school community. With that being said, we have distributed over 56,000 meals since March 17th. Continue to come out and grab a meal students.
- As you know, I like to share great news as it comes in. On Monday, September 21, 2020 at eleven in the morning, Principal Blanton of the Orange Early Childhood Center successfully defended her dissertation. Dr. Blanton's study was on Teachers' Perspectives on Reading Fadeout and Strategies to Prevent It in Low-Performing Schools. Dr. Blanton completed her doctoral studies at Walden University. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Blanton on her successful defense.

District Updates

- We continue to provide top notch synchronous instruction daily to our students pre-kindergarten through twelve. When I tell you that popping into classrooms and seeing staff who have worked tirelessly to provide sound practices to our students would certainly be an understatement.
- We have continue to implement school spirit and pride days throughout Phase I that ended on October 2, 2020. What a great time this has been for our students and staff. This momentum has already taken form now that we are in Phase II of the Return to School Plan. Please continue to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. We are posting multiple times per day. The district made a promise to consistently give updates and that we are certainly doing.

District Updates

- The Grading, Retention, and Promotion Manual is undergoing some revisions. On Tuesday, September 22, 2020 and Monday, September 28, 2020 a committee to assist in the revision of the Grading Manual took place. Suggestions regarding kindergarten report cards to social emotional comments from kindergarten to Grade 12 were explored. I am confident that when the Curriculum committee sees the final product, you will certainly be impressed as well as the full Board of Education. The goal is to ensure that the manual is up to date and speaks to the current nuances in educational practice. Stakeholders from teachers to parents and community as well as administrators are on the committee. All voices are valued and appreciated.

District Updates

- As you know, Phase I has now ended and we are going to move into Phase II. As a reminder to each of you: Orange High School as Mr. James reported out on at the last Executive Session (September 8, 2020), the SDA requested that they have access to OHS (Beginning October 5th through October 23rd) in the effort of updating some areas of the school building. Staff will begin Phase II very soon.
- On another note, the construction at 123 Cleveland Street (the New Early Childhood Center) continues to move in a positive direction. The teachers in that building will also continue in Phase I until the Week of October 26th where they will begin Phase II, Remote Synchronous.

District Updates

- As Phase II began, Mr. James received communication that the Association of School Business Officials International presented the Orange Township Public School District with commendation regarding the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year that ended on June 30, 2019. As indicated our school district was awarded due to our outstanding financial reporting. Thank you to Mr. James for leading this effort as the School Business Administrator.
- Monday, October 5th was World Teachers' Day. An announcement was sent out to All Users from me celebrating our teachers. For your edification, the following denotes World Teachers' Day: **World Teachers' Day**, also known as **International Teachers Day**, is an international day held annually on the 5th of October. World Teachers' Day aims to focus on "appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world" and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching. Special thank you to our teachers (and this title encompasses our support staff, paraprofessionals, security, food service, and our parents who are taking on a partner role during this pandemic phase.

Reminders to the Community

- Last school year, our seniors garnered over 18 million dollars in academic schools. This announcement was ongoing throughout the course of the school year, but we are committed to even more this school year. We have held Naviance training courses for our students as well as FASFA Family Nights. We are committed to supporting students on their path of choice.
- The Computer Science Donation we received from Apple Electronics in partnership with Rutgers University-Newark continues is something that we must be reminded of. For the CS track at Orange Preparatory Academy, Orange High School, and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges Apple Laptops and Tablets are being disseminated to strengthen the CS trajectory. Please be reminded that we garnered \$219,000.00. I shared this great news at the second June Board Meeting.

Reminders to the Community

- Due to Orange Township Public School District's securing "High Performing Status" as we obtained over 80% in the following areas,
- Fiscal
- Curriculum and Instruction (83%-the first time the district has ever obtained over 80% in this area)
- Personnel
- Governance
- Operations
- The district received word today from the New Jersey Department of Education we will not have a New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) visitation this school year due to our "High Performing Status". Again, based on the hard work of our teams, this was all made possible.

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

- 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

- 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



Reminder: Reopening of Schools

- Plan B was recommended to the Board of Education on August 11, 2020.
- Remote Synchronous commenced on October 5, 2020 and conclude on November 25, 2020 (7 Weeks)-**At this time we are in Phase II. Special Thank You to all Staff for their triumphant return to Brick and Mortar.** As a reminder to each of you: Orange High School as Mr. James reported out on at the last Executive Session (September 8, 2020), the SDA requested that they have access to OHS (Beginning October 5th through October 23rd) in the effort of working on some electrical items. Remember, if we did not use this time to do as such, the completion date of OHS would certainly be pushed back. We did not want to explore that option so the teachers at Orange High School will be able to return to brick and mortar in September 2020. On another note, the construction at 123 Cleveland Street continues to move in a positive direction. The teachers in that building will also continue in Phase I until the Week of October 26th where they will begin Phase II, Remote Synchronous.
- Soft Launch will commence on November 29, 2020 and conclude on December 23, 2020 (3.5 Weeks)
- Full Re-Entry will commence on January 4, 2021 through the end of the year.
- It is important to note: Based on recommendations from the Governor's Office, the NJDOE as well as our Director of Health in Orange Township, shifts in the plan can potentially take place.



Reminders to the School Community

- For further supports, please be reminded that we have created an email address 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 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 17th.

Orange Public Schools Social Media

Social Media





Hashtags:

#GoodtoGreat

#FROrange

#OrangeStrong

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