



Orange Township Public Schools

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



April 18, 2023

Greetings Orange Township Public School District Staff, Families, and Caregivers,

As your Superintendent of Schools, I am writing this letter today to update the school and community about the threat that occurred last week at Orange High School. On Wednesday, April 12th, I received notification at 4:40 PM, that there was a threat of a potential shooting to occur at the volleyball game being held in the school's gymnasium. As you know, we take all threats very seriously. As shared last week in the letter I sent out late on the 12th of April, Orange High School and Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation went into immediate lock down. The students that were in the video shared by News 12 were in the locker room of the gymnasium within Orange High School. This was as a result of our training provided to staff and students during any active threat exercise.

As a result of our investigation, there was an update provided that there was also a bomb threat as well. Though students and staff were safely escorted from both buildings, the team of investigators had to walk both buildings to ensure continued safety protocols. I must reiterate the following: **News reports shared on April 12th stating there was gunfire in the high school were untrue and inaccurate. Further, there were no injuries to staff and students during the incident.** Further, there was a medical concern during this time, but this was **not** related to the reported threats or the subsequent investigation.

It is important to note that the Orange Police Department reported to Orange High School and Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation immediately. To add, there was a presence from the Essex County Sheriff's Department, as well as the Prosecutor's Office. The quick arrival and support that all of the aforementioned partners played in ensuring the health and safety of our staff and students is to be commended.

Considering recent school shooting and threats across the nation, the district and local authorities take each incident as priority. We must continue to put safety first at our schools. We will continue trainings monthly in the district as these allow us to equip ourselves with the appropriate safety protocols accordingly.

It is so important to take time to talk with children, ask those guiding questions, and provide them with a safe haven to share their concerns. As a school district, we are committed to doing the same. These times require us to work together on one accord to ensure that our children trust enough to inform us when issues arise amongst their friends or if they are aware of someone who sent inappropriate messages.

The district continues to lean on the Superintendent's Trauma Informed Team to provide resources to families and staff as a form of support. Below are resources for our school community to use during these times.

<https://childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-after-a-traumatic-event/>
<https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/shooting-aftermath>
<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/violence/>
<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/59143/war-crisis-tragedy-how-to-talk-with-kids-when-the-news-is-scary>
<https://www.common Sense Media.org/articles/kids-mental-health-apps-and-websites-for-anxiety-depression-coping-skills-and-professional-support>
<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

We ask that you remain vigilant and notify the district of any threatening information that you may hear about or see. No concern is too small, as we want to hear all your questions or concerns. Continue to use reopeningofschoools@orange.k12.nj.us, as you will receive a response within 24 hours or sooner of receipt. In closing, I thank you for your belief and trust in our school district. We are certainly in this together.

Educationally yours,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Oficina del Superintendente



18 de abril del 2023

Saludos a todo el personal del distrito escolar del Pueblo de Orange, familias y cuidadores,

Como su Superintendente de Escuelas, les escribo esta carta hoy para actualizar a las escuelas y a la comunidad sobre la amenaza que ocurrió la semana pasada en Orange High School. El miércoles 12 de abril, recibí una notificación a las 4:40 p. m. de que existía la amenaza de un posible tiroteo en la cancha de voleibol durante un partido que se llevaba a cabo en el gimnasio de la escuela. Como saben, nos tomamos muy en serio todas las amenazas. Cómo se compartió la semana pasada en la carta que envié tarde el 12 de abril, Orange High School y Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation entraron en cierre inmediato. los estudiantes que estaban en el video compartido por News 12 estaban en el vestuario del gimnasio dentro de Orange High School. Esto fue como resultado de nuestro entrenamiento proporcionado al personal y a los estudiantes durante cualquier ejercicio de amenaza activa.

Como resultado de nuestra investigación, hubo una actualización diciendo que también hubo una amenaza de bomba. Aunque los estudiantes y el personal fueron escoltados de manera segura de ambos edificios, el equipo de investigadores tuvo que recorrer ambos edificios para garantizar la continuidad de los protocolos de seguridad. Debo reiterar lo siguiente: **Los informes de las noticias compartidos el 12 de abril que indicaban que hubo disparos en la escuela secundaria eran falsos e inexactos.** Además, no hubo heridos en el personal o estudiantes durante el incidente. Además, hubo una preocupación médica durante este tiempo, pero esto **no** estaba relacionado con las amenazas denunciadas o con la investigación posterior.

Es importante tener en cuenta que el Departamento de Policía de Orange informó a Orange High School y Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation inmediatamente. Para agregar, hubo presencia del Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Essex, así como de la Oficina del Fiscal. La pronta llegada y el apoyo que todos los socios antes mencionados desempeñaron para garantizar la salud y la seguridad de nuestro personal y estudiantes es digno de elogio.

Teniendo en cuenta los recientes tiroteos en la escuela y las amenazas en todo el país, las autoridades locales y del distrito toman cada incidente como una prioridad. Debemos de continuar poniendo la seguridad primero en nuestras escuelas. Continuaremos con las prácticas mensuales en el distrito ya que éstas nos permiten equiparnos con los equipos adecuados protocolos de seguridad correspondientes.

Es muy importante tomarse el tiempo para hablar con los niños, hacerles esas preguntas orientadoras y brindarles un refugio seguro para compartir sus preocupaciones. Como distrito escolar, estamos comprometidos a hacer lo mismo. Estos tiempos requieren que trabajemos juntos de común acuerdo para asegurarnos de que nuestros hijos confíen lo suficiente como para informarnos cuando surjan problemas entre sus amigos o si saben de alguien que envió mensajes inapropiados.

E distrito continúa apoyándose en el Equipo Informado de Trauma del Superintendente para proporcionar recursos a las familias y al personal como una forma de apoyo. A continuación hay recursos para que nuestra comunidad escolar los use durante estos tiempos.

<https://childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-after-a-trauma-event/>

<https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/shooting-aftermath>

<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/violence/>

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/59143/war-crisis-tragedy-how-to-talk-with-kids-when-the-news-is-scary>

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/articles/kids-mental-health-apps-and-websites-for-anxiety-depression-coping-skills-and-professional-support>

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-y-maestros>

Le pedimos que permanezca atento y notifique al distrito sobre cualquier información amenazante que pueda escuchar o ver. Ninguna preocupación es demasiado pequeña, ya que quiere escuchar todas sus preguntas o inquietudes. Continúe usando reapingofschools@orange.k12.nj.us, ya que recibirá una respuesta dentro de las 24 horas o antes de la recepción. Para terminar, les agradezco su creencia y confianza en nuestro distrito escolar. Ciertamente estamos juntos en esto.

Educativamente tuyo,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendente de las Escuelas



Orange Township Public Schools

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



18 Avril 2023

Nou Salye Tout Anplwaye, Fanmi, ak Gadyen nan Lekòl Piblik Distri Vil Orange lan,

Antanke Sipèntandan Lekòl, mwen ekri lèt sa a jodi a pou'm bay lekòl yo ak kominote a mizajou sou menas ki te fèt semèn pase a nan Orange High School la. Mèkredi 12 Avril, mwen te resevwa yon notifikasyon a 4:40 PM, ke te gen yon menas pou yon fiziyad potansyèl rive nan jwèt volebòl la ki te fèt nan jimnazyòm lekòl la. Kòm ou konnen, nou pran tout menas trè oserye. Jan mwen te pataje sa semèn pase a nan lèt mwen te voye byen ta nan dat 12 Avril la, Orange High School ak Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation te antre nan fèmti imedyata. Elèv ki te nan videyo ke News 12 te pataje a te nan kazye jimnazyòm nan Orange High School la. Sa a te kòm rezilta fòmasyon nou te bay anplwaye yo ak elèv yo pandan nenpòt egzèsis menas aktif.

Kòm yon rezilta nan envestigasyon nou an, te gen yon aktyalizasyon ki te bay ke te gen tou yon menas bonm tou. Menmsi yo te akonpaye elèv yo ak anplwaye yo an sekirite nan toulède bilding yo, ekip envestigatè yo te oblije mache nan toulède bilding yo pou asire pwotokòl sekirite kontinye. Mwen dwe repete sa ki annapre yo: **Nouvèl yo te pataje nan dat 12 Avril la ki fè konnen te gen kout zam nan High School la se pa't vre e yo pa kòrèk. Anplis de sa, pa te gen okenn blesi nan anplwaye yo ak elèv yo pandan ensidan an.** Anplis de sa, te gen yon enkyetid medikal pandan tan sa a, men sa pa't gen rapò ak menas yo rapòte oswa ankèt ki vin apre a.

Li enpòtan pou sonje ke Depatman Lapolis Orange te vin nan Orange High School la ak Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation la imedyatman. Pou ajoute, te gen yon prezans nan Depatman Essex County Sheriff la, osi byen ke Biwo Pwokirè a. Nou dwe felisite fason yo rive rapid ak sipò ke tout patnè nou mansyone yo te jwe nan asire sante ak sekirite anplwaye nou yo ak elèv yo.

Lè nou konsidere dènye fiziyad ak menas nan lekòl yo atravè nasyon an, distri a ak otorite lokal yo pran chak ensidan kòm priorite. Nou dwe kontinye mete sekirite an premye nan lekòl nou yo. Nou pral kontinye fòmasyon chak mwa nan distri a paske sa yo pèmèt nou ekipe tèt nou ak pwotokòl sekirite apwopriye kòm sadwa.

Li tèlman enpòtan pou w pran tan pou w pale ak timoun yo, poze kesyon gid sa yo, epi ba yo yon kote ki an sekirite pou pataje enkyetid yo. Kòm yon distri lekòl, nou angaje nou fè menm bagay la. Tan sa yo mande pou nou travay ansanm sou yon sèl akò pou asire ke timoun nou yo fè ase konfyans pou enfòmè nou lè pwoblèm parèt pami zanmi yo oswa si yo konnen yon moun ki voye mesaj ki pa apwopriye.

Distri a kontinye apiye sou Ekip Enfòmasyon sou Chòk Sipèntandan an pou bay fanmi yo ak anplwaye resous yo kòm yon fòm sipò. Anba a gen resous pou kominote lekòl nou an itilize pandan tan sa yo.

<https://childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-after-a-traumatic-event/>
<https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/shooting-aftermath>
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Nou mande pou ou rete vijilan epi fè distri a konnen nenpòt enfòmasyon menasan ke ou ka tande oswa wè. Pa gen enkyetid ki twò piti, paske nou vle tande tout kesyon oswa enkyetid ou yo. Kontinye itilize reopeningofschoools@orange.k12.nj.us, epi ou w'ap resevwa yon repons nan lespas 24 èdtan oswa pi bonè apre nou resevwa'l. Anfen, mwen remèsye ou pou kwayans ou ak konfyans ou nan lekòl distri nou an. Nou sètènman nan sa nou ye a ansanm.

Edikasyonèlman,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Sipèntandan Lekòl yo