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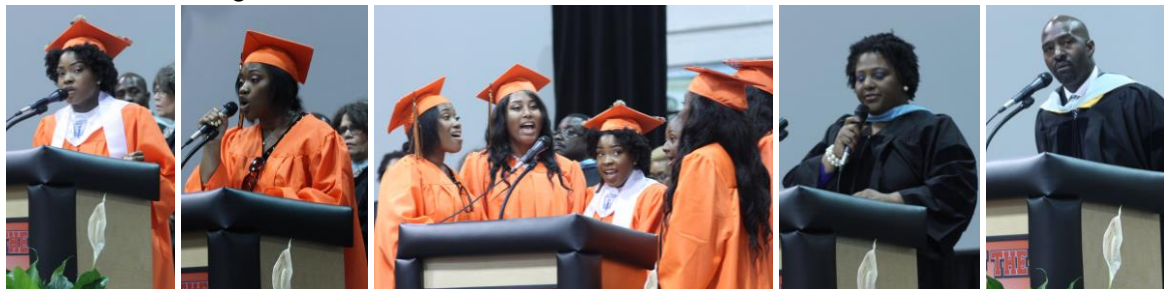
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Orange High School 2017 Commencement Exercise



The 2017 Commencement Exercise for Orange High School and the Career and Innovation Academy of Orange was a memorable event. Held this year on June 23, at the Essex County College Gymnasium, the venue was packed with family and friends there to celebrate the achievement of the 276 graduates. Many came to the floor to greet the students, unable to contain their joy. The most moving part of the program came from Valedictorian Mishell Quispé. She spoke about when she first realized her hard work had enabled her to enter college. She told the audience of her struggles as an immigrant and being thankful for the support of her many teachers, beginning in middle school, when she discovered her mathematical abilities. Mishell named several teachers who helped her hone her skills and develop her vision for a bright future. Her story was one of achievement, as were the stories of the Salutatorian Silas Bond who also thanked his family and congratulated his peers for their achievement. Franca Estimable, class president, presented the senior class for the Graduates' Oath with confidence, understanding that this is the beginning not the end of their life's goals.

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Pictured (left to right): The Pledge of Allegiance; singing of the National Anthem; singing of Lift Every Voice and sing; Dr. Stewart's address; Mr. Belton's address.



Pictured (left to right): Dr. Howard's address; Salutatorian's address; Councilmembers Jackson, Williams and Eason speak on behalf of the mayor; Board member Mateo's address on behalf of Board President E. Lydell Carter.

Senior Danae Green opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, as Abigail Charles sang the National Anthem followed by a quintet of Voices in Harmony (ViH) choral members singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing” in acapella. They later joined the full ViH chorus, along with other seniors to sing, for the last time with the group, a moving version of “Today My Life Begins” by Bruno Mars.

The Career and Innovation Academy of Orange Principal Dr. Erica Stewart and OHS Principal Jason Belton gave overwhelming encouragement to the graduating class, along with Deputy Superintendent Dr. Paula E. Howard. The Honorable Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, unable to attend the ceremony, was represented by Council President Donna K. Williams and Councilmembers Ms. Tency Eason and Mr. Christopher Jackson. Ms. Williams called out the names of students, predicting that they could be the next council member, mayor, president, or whatever they wanted to be, which was endorsed by her fellow councilmembers. Ms. Cristina Mateo, former Board of Education President represented current President E. Lydell Carter, letting students know that she too was an OHS graduate who benefitted from the education she received and closed with congratulations in Spanish. Following Ms. Mateo, the graduation oath was administered by Mr. Belton and Deputy Superintendent Howard.

Directed by Assistant Principal Carrie Halstead, students were then instructed to line up to receive their diplomas. They were announced by English Language Arts teacher, Ms. Marcey Thomas. Each came on stage to applause, hugs, and handshakes. They were greeted by the dignitaries, including district directors, Orange High School administrators, Councilmembers and a member of the clergy, all there to congratulate enthusiastic recipients. After the last student was called, all took their seats. With excitement high, Dr. Stewart, who playfully admonished the students to “wait for it,” declared their official status as OHS alumni along with Mr. Belton. The graduates erupted in. The alma mater was sung by Amanda Idiong and the Orange High School band led the dignitaries and students from the floor. **Congratulations Class of 2017!**



Pictured (left to right): Valedictorian; Voices in Harmony; Senior Class President.



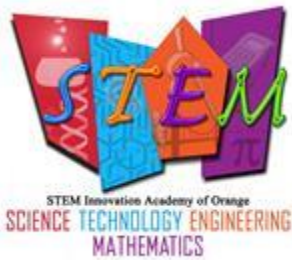
Pictured (left to right): Graduates; Valedictorian receiving congratulations from Dr. Howard; Decorated graduation caps.



Pictured (left to right): Ms. Thomas reading names; graduates; the Alma Mater being sung.

Ronald C. Lee Named Interim Superintendent and Reports on the STEM Innovation Academy of Orange

At the June 27 Special Board of Education Meeting, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, who retired as superintendent of schools in December of 2016, was called back to serve as Interim Superintendent of the City of Orange Township Public Schools. He stated, “I am very glad to be back,” at his first official Board Meeting in his new capacity on July 11.



At the meeting Mr. Lee gave the Superintendent’s Report, reviewing the planned opening of the STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges at the former Marylawn of the Oranges Academy, a Roman Catholic school for girls, in South Orange. The facility, he noted, is being leased by the board from its new owners, the Orange Education Foundation, and is being readied for the opening of school on September 6.

Board President E. Lydell Carter said the opening of a new school is “a heavy lift” and asked all present to communicate the significance of this juncture for the district. He said, our students will know what it truly means “to be a scientist,” and indicated that this was a proud moment for Orange.



Mr. Lee also stated that the first part of the capital bond, previously confirmed with the City of Orange, had been received and would aid in preparing the building for occupancy in September, among other much needed infrastructure initiatives for the district’s schools.

The new STEM Academy will span grades 9-14 and will allow students to earn college credits toward a degree in one of three majors—Computing Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, or Biomedical Engineering. The district has been working towards the school’s opening in line with the district’s Strategic Plan 2014-2021. Over the past several months, the staff has been hired, the academy’s principal has been named, Mr. Robert Pettit, and the inaugural class of 45 students has been selected. The students have just completed a mandatory 2-week Summer Gateway Camp, designed to prepare them for the 9th grade.

See more on the STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges in the next Summer Edition of the Weekly Email Blast.

Retiree and 25 Year Employee Celebration

The annual Staff Recognition Ceremony, honoring the Orange Public School District's retirees and employees with over 25 years of service, was held on June 14 at Libretti's in Orange. Mrs. Belinda Scott Smiley, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for Operations/Human Resources, hosted the event with congratulatory remarks and well wishes from, Board of Education Vice President, Mrs. Gloria Fisher, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Paula E. Howard, Ms. Linda Siddiq President of the Orange Education Association, Principal of Rosa Parks Community School, Ms. Debra Joseph Charles and Ms. Faith Alcantara, President of the Orange Administrators and Supervisors Association (OASA) and principal of Heywood Avenue School. Mr. Robert Coles, Special Education teacher at Park Avenue School and a minister led the invocation. The mood was festive, with food and dancing to music by Mr. Robert Green, also a teacher at Park Avenue School.

The retirees were presented with plaques, honoring their many years of dedicated service to Orange Public Schools. Most notable was the presentation to former Superintendent of Schools Mr. Ronald C. Lee. He was asked to make a few opening remarks to the audience and joked that he had to make remarks at an event honoring retirees, of which he was one. Superintendent Lee was reinstated as Interim Superintendent for the Orange School District, at the June 27 Special Board of Education meeting.

Retirees:

- Denise Buzar Trott (40 Years), Special Services Department
- Patricia A. Hammond (39 Years), Park Avenue School
- Miriam McCoy (39 Years), Park Avenue School
- Perry Cipriano (32 Years), Orange High School
- Benay R. Lipstein (22 Years), Park Avenue School
- Ronald C. Lee (19 Years), Superintendent of Schools
- Sandra Johnson (17 Years), Lincoln Avenue School
- Elizabeth Mohr (16 Years), Orange Preparatory Academy
- Ervenia Benson (15 years), Human Resources Department
- Esther Bauman (14 Years), Orange High School
- Jane Kellner-Weeks (12 Years), Rosa Parks Community School
- Yolanda L. Emen (12 Years), Lincoln Avenue School
- Sharon Cooper (11 Years), Orange High School
- Doris Perez (10 Years), Lincoln Avenue School



Pictured: Ms. E. Bauman with Ms. L. Siddiq and Mrs. Smiley.



Pictured: Ms. E. Benson with Ms. S. Blair, HR Office Manager, Ms. L. Siddiq and Mrs. Smiley.



Pictured: Ms. D. Trott with Ms. L. Siddiq and Mrs. Smiley.



Pictured: (left to right): Ms. P. Hammond; Ms. S. Johnson with Ms. T. Everett, OEA representative and Mrs. B. Smiley; Mr. R. Lee with OEA representatives Ms. M. Karriem and Ms. L. Siddiq.



Pictured: (left to right): Ms. B. Lipstein with Ms. L. Siddiq, and Mrs. B. Smiley; Ms. M. McCoy with Ms. L. Siddiq, and Mrs. B. Smiley; Ms. E. Mohz with Ms. T. Everett and Mrs. B. Smiley.

25 Year Employees:

- Maria Beaghen, Park Avenue
- Lisa Catanzarite, Rosa Parks Community School
- Deidre Dobbs, Superintendent's Office
- Christina Friedberg, Special Services Department
- Denise Harlem, Park Avenue School
- Louise O'Shea, Rosa Parks Community School



Pictured: (left to right): Ms. M. Beaghen with Ms. L. Siddiq, and Mrs. B. Smiley; Ms. L. Cantanzarite with Principal D. Joseph-Charles, Asst. Principal J. Chuy and Mrs. B. Smiley; Ms. D. Dobbs with Ms. Ms. L. Siddiq and Mrs. Smiley.



Pictured: (left to right): Ms. C. Friedberg with Ms. L. Siddiq, and Mrs. B. Smiley; Dr. D. Harlem with Ms. L. Siddiq, and Mrs. B. Smiley; Mr. Coles; Dr. Howard.



Pictured: (left to right): Board of Education Vice President Gloria Fisher; President of the OASA Faith Alcantera; scenes of the Retiree/25 Years Celebration.

Newcomers' Academy End of Year Ceremony

On June 22, the end of year ceremony for English Language Learners (ELL) participating in the Orange Public School District's Newcomers' Academy, was held at Lincoln Avenue School. The celebration was introduced by Ms. Caroline Onyesonwu, Supervisor of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages Programs and opened with a video capturing the feelings of the students in the program. The program teachers, Ms. Natalie Plaza, Ms. Amy Spina and Mr. Felix, then presented their students with Certificates of Completion. The students were encouraged to collect autographs of their peers and teachers in their program booklet. Dr. Terri Russo, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development, and Data Assessment, made a special presentation to the teachers, giving them a "Service of Excellence" award for their outstanding work during the school year and noting that Ms. Plaza graduated from Orange High School.

Ms. Natalie Plaza's Class

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juandany Baptiste • Nicole Lara-Marin • Briteny Pierre • Stephane St. Juste • Moise Surpris • Shamika Belton • Dayana Flores • Katherine Gualan-Morocho • Andres Lara Marin • Miguel Lucero Sisalima • Ricarlie Paulemon • Maykerline Vilgeant • Anghely Chang-Pablo • Davens Surpris • Gabriela Orellana Baires | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erwin Cerda Puntier • Kenneth Monroy-Guerra • Maguelson Pierre • Denis Roca-Estrada • Giounaldine Aristilde • Angelica Collaguazo • Sebastien Georges • Marc Guerrier • Joa Mario Linares • Estiven Orrego-Cun • Ricarneulla Paulemon • Pablo Villenda Valle • Woodston Orisco • Olsen St. Juste • Cristofer Arana |
|--|--|

Ms. Amy Spina's and Mr. Felix's Class

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evar Baca • Stefany Flores-Tabora • Elvia Lopez-Mejia • Viergelie Pierre • Emily Rosero • Jennifer Contreras • Ashley Pierre • Horus Mendoza • Esther Meteor • Van Lewis Pierre Ville • Zulaika Saint Hubart • Medjine Daroza | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenda Gualan-Morocho • Yaiza Lucero Sisalima • Wilian Roca-Estrada • Denilson Arita • Llanda Massillon • Lidia Estrada-Guigui • Brayan Manjivar-Cruz • Nicole Ortiz De Orue • Erlin Rivera Donaire • Emmanuelna Surpis • Marilennys Espinal-Estevez |
|--|--|



Pictured (left to right): Ms. Plaza's class; Ms. Spina's and Mr. Felix's class.



Pictured (left to right): Students receive certificate of completion.



Pictured (left to right): Newcomers' students; Dr. Russo and Ms. Onyesonwu present awards; Ms. Spina, Ms. Plaza and Mr. Felix.



Pictured (left to right): Families celebrate with their children and Ms. Onyesonwu.

The Newcomers' Academy is a unique program that enables "Port of Entry" and beginner level students to receive concentrated English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. These students, in Grades 3 – 7, who are newly enrolled at the district's elementary schools, are transported to Lincoln Avenue School daily to receive instructions as newcomers. The goal of the Newcomers' Academy is to provide them with intense English instruction in order for them to actively participate in all required course work. The program lasts 18 weeks and is administered by Ms. Caroline Onyesonwu, Supervisor of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages Programs. At the conclusion of the program, newcomers return to their home schools.

Newcomers' Academy is also available to students in grades 8 – 9 at Orange Preparatory Academy (OPA) and to students in grades 10 – 12 at Orange High School.

FYI

Orange School District Preschool Registration for 2017-2018 School Year

The Orange Public School District has scheduled preschool registration for the upcoming school year, as follows: July 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (last sign-in at 11:30 p.m.) at the Orange Early Childhood Center (OECC), located at 397 Park Avenue in Orange.

The Orange Board of Education provides a full day preschool education for all three and four year old residents of Orange. There is no fee for the school day (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.). Orange Early Childhood provides before and after school care. The fee for this additional program is based upon income eligibility. The requirements for preschool are:

- 3 or 4 years old by 10/01/17
- Resident of Orange Township
- Original Birth Certificate
- Child's Immunization Record
- Current Lease or Mortgage Statement
- 2 Additional Proofs of Residency (i.e. PSE&G bill, telephone or cable bill)
- Picture ID of the Parent

Orange School District 2017-2018 K-12 Student Registration

From July 5 – August 31, parents or guardians can make appointments to register students in Kindergarten through Grade 1 at the Orange Board of Education Central Registration Office, located at 451 Lincoln Avenue in Orange, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Appointments are every 30 minutes. The last appointment is 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Parents or guardians may also transfer students, Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., with photo identification.

Registration packets must be completed prior to a scheduled appointment. Packets are available at the Orange Board of Education District Office or your neighborhood school. Registration Packets may also be downloaded from the [district website \(www.orange.k12.nj.us\)](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us).