



Orange Township Public Schools

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



December 21, 2021

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

As we are still immersed in a pandemic; our stellar staff continue to work closely with students. In addition, teachers continue to work alongside their colleagues to ensure that the instructional scenarios presented to students are differentiated, targeted, and intentional. Through professional development opportunities and collaboration, teachers are prepared to educate our students in any scenario. With this in mind, to ensure a smooth transition back to in-person instruction following the holiday break, students and staff will return as per the following schedule:

Students will return on January 18, 2022, for in-person instruction after the Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day (though synchronous instruction will commence daily from January 3, 2022, through January 14, 2022.) Synchronous daily learning beginning January 3, 2022 will follow the student's full schedule. The school day will be the full length of the instructional day.

Staff will return on January 10, 2022, and teach from district. This will allow the staff time to prepare for in-person as students return on January 18, 2022.

Central Office will remain open (for in-person support) from January 3, 2022 to January 7, 2022, for questions and support that families and staff may need. The Superintendent, School Business Administrator, and Executive Directors will meet with Central Office Staff on Wednesday, December 23, 2021; to discuss departmental schedules.

Essential Staff: Security will be present on a staggered schedule as we will need students to receive breakfast and lunch.

Grab and Go Breakfast and Lunch in the morning for student to pick up Times: 7:00 AM to 8:15 AM, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM. This will allow students to pick up items during lunch periods as well. Further, students can report as we did last year, to any of the locations listed:

The selected locations for Grab and Go Breakfast and Lunch are as follows:

- OECC, located 397 Park Avenue
- Scholars Academy, located at 268 Capuchin Way
- Forest Street School, located 651 Forest Street
- Heywood Avenue School, located at 421 Heywood Avenue
- Lincoln Avenue School, 216 Lincoln Avenue
- Oakwood Avenue School, located at 135 Oakwood Avenue
- Park Avenue School, located at 231 Park Avenue
- Rosa Parks Community School, located at 369 Main Street

Support for Parents, Guardians and Caregivers: On the website, a letter for download will be available for parents regarding the extension of virtual learning through January 14, 2022, for the parent, guardian, or caregivers' employer.

Testing: It is highly recommended that students and staff take a PCR test prior to returning to the district. For those that had to quarantine due to direct contact, the district would like the results from the PCR to provide supports to students and staff upon their return as shared in the letter sent when the quarantine period was initiated.

Attendance: Students MUST have their cameras on for the duration of classroom instruction. Further, students must be online to be marked on time and present for their classes. Attendance will count, as we must complete 180 days of instruction. The instructional staff will provide live instruction and it is vital that students are a part of the lessons prepared.

Where to Find Links: Our staff are currently updating so we can be in readiness for January 3, 2022. All instructional links can be found on the teacher's website as they were last year. Please visit the district website at www.orange.k12.nj.us. From there, select Our District and click on Our Schools. Once you select your child's school, select Faculty to your child's teacher, where all

instructional links will be found. When you see the teacher's Dojo or Remind messages or here the blasts from Central Office or your child's school, please listen carefully for important information. As always, we want you to be aware, for planning purposes.

Kiosks for Technology Support: These kiosks based on need will take place on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 in the afternoon or Thursday, December 23, 2021 in the morning. School principals will send information out to families accordingly.

Mental and Emotional Well-Being: Research shows the importance of mental and emotional well-being for students and staff, which has both psychological and ultimately academic outcomes. Access to school counselors and school-based health clinics helps students. Counselors and school based health centers will continue to play an extremely important role during this time. We have provided some supportive articles and a video for your view.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12310-013-9116-2>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/pam.20528>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pzxtx-_M8Rg&feature=youtu.be

Throughout the course of this year, the reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us email has remained intact in order to answer questions that you may have during this unique experience. While email responses are often returned within hours of sending, please allow 24 hours for an email response. It is very important to keeping staff and families informed, particularly during these times.

We are certainly in this together. I am confident that we will continue to blaze a trail filled with success and accomplishment throughout this school year and beyond.

Educationally yours,

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Superintendent of Schools