



OBOE-Mail Blast

September 11, 2015

Volume 5, Number 2



Welcome Back Students!

The First Day of School

Across the district students headed back to school on September 8. Schools welcomed their scholars, as they gathered to receive class schedules or to be escorted to their new classrooms by their teachers. There were icebreakers in some classes, rules that were reviewed and assignments for students, kicking off a successful start to the 2015-2016 school year.

Parents brought in school supplies and were greeted by members of the *Parent Academy* and supporting committee members. They received information about the district's parent involvement initiative and school parent organizations. For more information about the district's parent engagement efforts, visit: <http://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/1694>.

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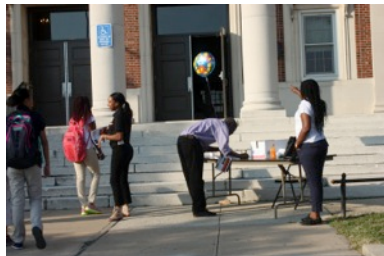
Superintendent's Forum - Part II

First Day of School

Summer Transitional Program

FYI

• **Back-to-School-Night Schedule**



Pictured above: Scenes from around the district on the first day of school.

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The Annual Superintendent's Forum, Part II



The September 1 Superintendent's Forum was an enjoyable, as well as informative celebration of district achievement, student and staff recognition and school accomplishments. The meeting also communicated objectives outlined in the district's Strategic Plan 2014-2021 and imparted key initiatives that the district will pursue during the 2015-2016 school year.

Three objectives, to be accomplished over the next six years, are:

Objective 1: By the year 2021, Orange Public School students will achieve academic proficiency in 21st Century skills, readying them for college and career.

Objective 2: By 2021, Orange Public Schools will increase community engagement and outreach.

Objective 3: By the year 2021, Orange Public Schools will seek and provide the resources necessary to create additional instruction space that will allow for the restructuring of grades and expansion of program offerings, empowering all learners to achieve 21st century learning success.

Key district initiatives for 2015-2016 are:

- All schools must establish a functioning male and female mentoring groups for students in grades 4-12
- The district is seeking to expand and improve services to students and families to address emotional, behavioral, mental health and psychological issues
- The expansion of STEM programs, opportunities and experiences for students
- Expansion of the Communities Schools model to "The Prep" with services to OHS
- Developing an Annual Report about the district and mailing them to all residents of Orange.

The full complement of objectives and action items, outlined in the Strategic Plan, and the 2015-2016 initiatives can be found on the district website.

Qwizdom Winners

Before the event concluded, Superintendent Lee further entertained the staff with The Orange Public Schools Game Show. He utilized Qwizdom Virtual Response (QVR) system with an Audience Response App to allow the staff members to participate in a question and answer game. There were over 300 participants. The Audience Response app transformed smartphones and other smart devices into a response tool to answer multiple-choice questions relating to testing acronyms, teacher measurement tools and brainteasers. The top eight winners were brought to the stage to receive prize money for their schools.



Pictured: Qwizdom winners (left to right) in order of winning scores, from first place to eighth place: Dr. Griffith, Dr. Harlem, Ms. Lepinski, Ms. Guenther, Mr. Niemczyk, Mr. Vigorita, Mr. Binns, and Mr. Bennington.

The winners were:

1. Dr. Clyde Griffith - Career and Innovation Academy of Orange (\$500)
2. Dr. Denise Harlem - Park Avenue School (\$250)
3. Chelsey Lepinski - Rosa Parks Community School (\$100)
4. Annmarie Guenther - Oakwood Avenue Community School, (Ca-Caw!) (\$50)
5. Justin Niemczyk - Orange Preparatory Academy, "The Prep" (\$50)
6. V. Matther Vigorita - Career and Innovation Academy of Orange (\$50)
7. Clive Binns Jr - Orange Preparatory Academy, "The Prep" (\$50)
8. Ned Bennington - Rosa Parks Community School (\$50)

The Orange School District Participates in the National Anthem Simultaneous Sing-A-Long

The Orange Public School District participated in the American Public Education Foundation's annual singing of the National Anthem on September 11. Singing began at precisely 1:00 p.m. EST.

The National Anthem movement began two years ago and asks students to unite and sing together at 10:00am PST and 1:00pm EST. All of Orange's schools participated in this notable event.





Pictured above: Lincoln, OECC II, Cleveland, OACS, RPCS, Forest, Park, Lincoln, Heywood and “The Prep,” participating in the National Anthem Sing-Along.



At the Board of Education Administrative offices, Superintendent Ronald C. Lee took a moment to remember 9.11.01, in recognition of the tragedy that occurred on this day, before staff (*pictured left*) joined together to sing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Paula Howard had requested that the Music and Social Studies Departments facilitate this event. The Social Studies Department teachers reviewed the history of the National Anthem with students and the choral music teachers led them in song.

Below is the link to the Sing-A-Long movement.

<http://www.theapef.org/#!/national-anthem-sing-a-long/c6qz>.

This year’s event concludes a year-long celebration commemorating the 200th birthday of the National Anthem. The foundation hopes to break the Guinness Book of World Records simultaneous sing-a-long of the National Anthem. If the record is broken, an announcement will be made on September 14, 2015 – the birthday of the National Anthem.

What Orange Students Did This Summer . . .

Orange Students Participate the Summer Transitional Program

Forty-four students moving up from the 9th grade, at Orange Preparatory Academy and entering Orange High School as 10th graders, participated in The Space and Orange High School Summer Transitional Program. The students were taught study skills, given assignments in English Language Arts and Math, along with team building exercises, life skills classes, recreational activities and field trips. They all received a certificate of appreciation for their “invaluable participation” in the program, at an awards presentation.

The teachers involved were: Tammy Davis (ELA), Melissa Natalie (Math) and Christopher Cosmillo (Art). The school social workers were: Dana Jones and Lyle Wallace. The Space staff consisted of Joy Simeon (Space Program Coordinator), David Ortega (Youth Development Specialist), Erica N. Losito (Clinician) and Sade Criss (Youth Employment Specialist).



Pictured: The Summer Transitional Program certificate awards presentation.

More Summer Program Highlights and Current Events Coming in Next Week's E-blast!

FYI

Orange Public Schools - Back -to-School-Night Schedule

School	Date	Time
Forest Street School	September 14	6:00-8:00
Heywood Avenue School	September 15	5:30-7:30
Lincoln Avenue School	September 16	6:00-8:00
Cleveland Street School	September 17	5:00-7:00
Oakwood Avenue Community School	September 17	6:00-8:00
Orange Early Childhood Center	September 21 & 23	6:00-8:00
Rosa Parks Community School	September 22	6:00-8:00
Park Avenue School	September 24	6:00-8:00
Career and Innovation Academy of Orange	September 29	6:00-8:00
Orange Preparatory Academy	September 29	6:00-8:00
Orange High School	September 30	6:00-8:00

WELCOME BACK

September 2015

TO SCHOOL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Superintendent's Forum, 8:30-11:00 ^{AM} at OPA; 12:00 ^{PM} District Professional Development	2 District Professional Development	3 District Professional Development	4 District Professional Development 12:30 ^{PM} Dismissal for Staff	5
6	7 	8  Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 ^{PM} at OPA	9	10 Back To School Night Scholars Academy 6:00-7:30 ^{PM}	11	12
13	14 Back To School Night Forest Street School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	15 Back To School Night Heywood Avenue School 5:30-7:30 ^{PM}	16 Cleveland Lobby Art Show 6:00 ^{PM} - Board Office Back To School Night Lincoln Avenue School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	17 Back To School Night Cleveland Street School, 5:00-7:00 ^{PM} Oakwood Avenue Community School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	18	19
20	21 Back To School Night Orange Early Childhood Center 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	22 Back To School Night Rosa Parks Community School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	23 Back To School Night Orange Early Childhood Center 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	24 Professional Development 12:30 ^{PM} Dismissal for Students Back To School Night Park Avenue School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	25	26
27	28	29 Back To School Night - Career and Innovation Academy of Orange 6:00-8:00 ^{PM} Orange Preparatory Academy 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	30 Back To School Night Orange High School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}			