



Orange Township Public Schools

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



August 16, 2024

Good Day Orange Township Public School District Community,

In just a matter of weeks, the Orange Public School district will reopen to staff and students. Throughout the summer months, the Board of Education, district leaders, and curriculum writers embarked on a mission to work diligently to provide an intentional and smooth transition as we start SY 2024-2025. Additionally, we reflected on the prior school year to make the upcoming school year our best yet. Prior to the end of the school year, the district developed the Professional Development Plan alongside each school that created one as well. These plans were reflective on data as well as social emotional learning necessary to develop the entire child.

Great news, Cleveland Street School will reopen as previously shared at their original site in September 2024. So, this means that our staff and students will return to 355 Cleveland Street and the first day of school will take place at the renovated original location. Further, students and staff will no longer be in the swing space (Our Lady of the Valley). This summer, staff's materials will be shipped over to the new school to prepare for the first day of school on September 6th. This is such great news for our school community.

Scholarships totaling over 25 million dollars this past school year, the largest amount we have garnered in our school district. Congratulations to the Class of 2024, we are so proud of you. As a district, we continue to embrace our five-year strategic plan coined "Moving into Greatness 2021-2026." The district continues to have a focus on the instructional program coupled with the social emotional supports for staff and students. As a school community we leaned on one another, grew from lessons learned, and celebrated our successes as one Orange. Our narrative is gaining momentum not only throughout the state but nationally. This is important because building relationships is vital to our movement as a district. I will continue to intimate that success comes two-fold when we work together. The district will continue to share our narrative which will give you an outlook of things accomplished.

The beginning of a new school year reminds us that the future holds infinite possibilities. I hope that your summer vacation continues to be relaxing, filled with adventures and good health because you deserve it. The opportunity to refuel over the summer is a necessary component of the important work that we do. I know that we are about to begin a great school year filled with hope, vision, and excitement. As we begin this school year, I wish everyone the greatest success as we welcome over 5,600 students to their educational journey of 2024-2025.

What a great summer experience for our students throughout the months of June through August. To our summer administrators, thank you for leading such robust programs. To our summer instructional and support staff members, we could not have done this work without you. To our fantastic scholars, I hope your summer experiences in district made you energized and ready for September. To our parents, thank you for entrusting us with your children both in the summer and beyond.

As we move into school year 2024-2025, I ask that we continue to trust one another, work as one unit, and finally provide supports to our students and staff so we continue to move from "Good to Great." Over the course of the last three years, we have certainly gotten to know one another in a multitude of ways. As a reminder, our reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us email address will remain in tact for you to ask questions and get in real time answers from the Superintendent's Team. This is a safe space to ask questions, so the information given is accurate and timely.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff to the district. Being a part of many interviews, you continued to show the true essence of why we will continue to be great. As your Superintendent of Schools, I look forward to seeing each of you in action but more importantly sharing great experiences.

Over the summer, there were a few administrative changes that I want you to be aware of. The following staff members were appointed to varying administrative positions throughout the summer and prior to.

Administrative Changes for School Year 2024-2025

Orange Early Childhood Center: Principal: Mr. Robert Pettit (from Cleveland Street School)

Rosa Parks Community School: Assistant Principal: Mr. Gerald Murphy (from Heywood Avenue School)

Park Avenue: Assistant Principal: Ms. Aimie McKenzie-Smith (from Lincoln Avenue School)

Heywood Avenue School: Assistant Principal: Ms. Emily Shaltuper (from Orange Early Childhood Center)

Cleveland Street Assistant Principal: Mr. Kashiff Foster (Will be at the Cleveland site for the full week for SY 2024-2025)

Lincoln Avenue School: Assistant Principal: Ms. April Stokes (from Park Avenue School)

Supervisor of Bilingual, ESL, and World Languages Grades K-5: Ms. Emily Lamboy (from Rosa Parks Community School formerly an ESL Teacher)

Heywood Avenue School Principal: Ms. Richele Woods

Cleveland Street School Principal: Mr. Terance Wesley (Formerly Assistant Principal at Rosa Parks Community School)

Orange High School Assistant Principal: TBA as interviews are still taking place

Rosa Parks Community School Assistant Principal: Ms. Naga Philkhana

Supervisor of Early Learning K-1: Ms. Loredana Cattabiani

Breakfast and Lunch Menus will Continue This Year (Monthly): As shared this past school year, we will continue to share breakfast and lunch menus for your planning purposes. Prior to September 6th, all families will be notified of the September menus for Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary, and Secondary. All menus will be featured on our website located at www.orange.k12.nj.us. Thank you to the Office of Food Services for ensuring that menus will continue this upcoming school year.

Return to School Dates for Staff and Students: As a reminder, the first day for staff is Tuesday, September 3, 2024. The first day will begin with the Superintendent's Convocation alongside the School Welcoming Addresses. Monday, September 2, 2024, the district will be closed in observance of Labor Day. Wednesday, September 4, 2024, is the district professional development day for STAFF ONLY. Thursday, September 5, 2024, is classroom preparation day for STAFF ONLY prior to students returning on Friday, September 6, 2024.

The day that we all have been waiting for, September 6, 2024, will be the first day of school for our scholars. This is certainly an exciting time for the entire school district. Please visit the district website www.orange.k12.nj.us. click Our District to Schools to view the supplies needed for your scholar to return.

Back to School Nights (BTSN) Announced: All Back to School Nights were announced in the month of June on our social media handles as well as district website. We wanted to get the dates out as soon as possible for planning purposes. Please visit the district website www.orange.k12.nj.us. under latest news and announcements to view the calendar of BTSN programs district wide.

Name of School	Date for Back to School Night
Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation	Thursday, September 19, 2024
Orange High School	Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Rosa Parks Community School	Monday September 23, 2024
Scholars Academy	Thursday, September 26, 2024
John Robert Lewis ECC	Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Orange Early Childhood Center	Wednesday September 25, 2024

Central Elementary School	Thursday, September 12, 2024
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges	Wednesday, September 11, 2024
Heywood Avenue School	Monday, September 30, 2024
Forest Street Community School	Monday, September 9, 2024
Park Avenue School	Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Twilight Program	Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Lincoln Elementary School	Wednesday, September 18, 2024
Oakwood Avenue Elementary School	Monday, September 16, 2024
Cleveland Street School	Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Calendars to Continue this School Year: This year, we will continue pushing out the calendars each month on the website of each school as well as via our social media handles. Look out for the September calendars by school throughout the Week of August 19, 2024.

Superintendent's Weekly Update: Yes, the Superintendent's Weekly Update will continue district wide beginning the Week of September 9, 2024. This update will provide each of you with the sense of the district's direction related to content pedagogy and practice as well as wellness and programming. Please take a moment to read the contents accordingly.

School Year Arrival and Departure Times for Staff and Students SY 2024-2025

School Level	Arrival Time for Students	Arrival Time for Staff	End Time for Students	End Time for Staff
Elementary Level (Including Pre-Kindergarten)	8:30 AM	8:20 AM	3:00 PM	3:10 PM
Orange High School	8:20 AM	8:05 AM	2:40 PM	2:55 PM
Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation	8:25 AM	8:20 AM	2:50 PM	2:55 PM
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges	8:20 AM	8:15 AM	Mondays 2:20 PM for Teacher Professional Development Tues – Fri 3:30 PM	4PM* *includes stipend
Twilight Program	3:30 PM* *3:00 PM - lunch	3:00 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM

District Goals and the Strategic Plan Reminders

The district goals and strategic plan are the guiding force in the development of the Orange Public School District. You are encouraged to review each plan and ask questions related to development of the whole child as well as the district's partnership with families.

The following link is for the District Goals: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/33813>.

The following link is for the Strategic Plan: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/29953>.

District Calendar for SY 2024-2025

The district calendar was approved by the Board of Education several months ago. The district put this information on the Orange School District website as well as pushed out on social media. As a reminder, please find the link for the SY 24-25 calendar. If there are changes throughout the school year, I will ensure you are provided a timely update: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/calendar25>

To our families, I ask that you become an integral part of our district's fabric. What does this mean? Join the PTO/PTA at your child's school, visit the Board of Education virtual committee meetings via the district's Facebook page and attend the monthly board of education meetings, and serve as a class parent. You have a seat at the table, and I ask that you partner with us. We learn from all stakeholders and need your support. We will continue our Parent University series, please carve out time to join us for these robust sessions.

I remain humbled and honored to serve this wonderful community as your Superintendent. I am so proud to lead this great district. Our stakeholders have seat at the table. From our student and parent councils to our PTO/PTA meetings, listening to your commendations as well as questions for improvement are well received and appreciated. Your continued trust in the work is refreshing.

Please remember to check our website www.orange.k12.nj.us, under latest news and information, the Orange App, and our social media handles (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), as they will continue to be updated throughout the school year.

In closing, we look forward to seeing all staff on Wednesday, September 3, 2024, for the Superintendent's Convocation at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation. To our students as well as families, we will see you bright and early on September 6, 2024. I extend to each of you a great rest of your summer break.

In Partnership,

Gerald Fitzhugh, J.I., Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools