



Orange Township Public Schools

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



May 25, 2023

Good Day Orange School District Families and Staff,

I hope this communication finds you well. We had yet another exciting week within the Orange Public School District. As a reminder, continue to visit our district website www.orange.k12.nj.us under latest news and information as well as our social media handles to get the most up to date district updates. As promised, we will continue to provide information in real time, so you are always in the know.

Reminder Snow Day Give Back Day and Memorial Day Break as well as SEL Family Activity Links: Please mark your calendars, tomorrow, Friday, May 26th, the Orange School District will be closed as this is part of the snow day give back day initiative. Further, Monday, May 29th, the Orange School District will be closed in Observance of Memorial Day. With that being said, enjoy the special time with family and friends. This is a perfect time for social emotional activities for families. The following links are activities that can be done as families and support systems:

Resource	Description	Grade Level
https://www.gonoodle.com/tags/6YIOrw/channels	Engages students in movement and mindfulness activities that are designed to promote physical wellness, academic success, and social emotional health.	K-7
https://www.journalbuddies.com/?s=Prompts	Journal Buddies-Daily writing in a relaxed format provides a non-threatening way to be able to explore different thoughts, ideas, topics, and feelings without being concerned about audience presentation. Journal Buddies list ideas for prompts to help your child journal.	K-12
https://www.playworks.org/resource/34-conversation-starters-for-your-family/	Family conversations are a great way to make connections and check in with each other. It allows family members to develop perspectives, family culture, respect for each other and problem-solving skills. Conversation Starters for Families list questions to help get you and your family started on this activity	K-12
https://www.thepathway2success.com/10-sel-activities-for-home/	The site offers number of SEL activities to do with your child at home.	K-6
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_NYrWqUR40	Tips to boost self-confidence (4 minutes 15 seconds)	8-12
https://www.moshikids.com/articles/sel-in-the-home-what-does-sel-mean-for-parents/	It's no secret we want kids to grow into kind and emotionally intelligent adults. SEL teaches successful management of everyday tasks.	K-7
https://gozen.com	Anxiety and Anger are tough emotions! Teach kids skills to build resilience using the GoZen! programs.	K-7
https://www.lessonsforSEL.com/post/top-7-social-emotional-learning-programs-for-youth-of-color	Have you ever wondered which Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs are the best for youth of color?	8-12
Age-by-Age Guide to SEL Activities for Kids, Tweens, and Teens (parents.com)	Parents' Guide to SEL activities for all ages	PreK - 12
Emotional Regulation Activities for Middle and High School Students Edutopia	Helping Teenagers with Emotional Regulation Skills	8-12

SEL Books - Centervention®	Books Parents can purchase to help kids with SEL skills like empathy and impulse control	K-6
Developmental Milestones for Social and Emotional Skills - Centervention®	SEL Developmental Milestones- Understanding as a parent, your child's SEL development	Pre-K - 12
Journal-Self Affirm (centervention.com)	Develop Affirmations with your child	K-6
35 Fun Things to Do at Home as a Family (signupgenius.com)	Family Fun- Activities to do with your kids	K-12
16 Organizations That Support Black Moms and Families (verywellfamily.com)	Organizations that provide ongoing support to black and brown families	All
50 Creative Activities for Kids and Families (parents.com)	Family Fun- Activities to do with your child	Pre-K - 6
Life-Skills-Game-Guide.pdf (playworks.org)	Various games to teach to kids for pro social skills	Pre-K - 6
Information for Parents with Teens (Ages 12-19) CDC	Parenting teens- various physical and mental health support for teens - English and Spanish	8-12
Mental Health Resilience in Black and Brown Families (brightmomentstherapy.com)	Resilience in black and brown families	All
https://cuyahogabdd.org/media/kmqhf5tu/activity-ideas-resources-2.pdf	SEL activities- families with children with disabilities	All
Active Listening - Simple Guide for Parent-Guardians.docx (sharepoint.com)	Parenting with active listening - SEL Self Awareness	All
13 Movies That Support Social Emotional Learning in the Classroom - Peekapak - Blog	Movies to support and teach SEL Skills	Pre K - 6

Career and Technical Education Event: The Career & Technical Education (CTE) Showcase will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM at Orange High School featuring student presentations of culminating projects in each CTE program:

- *Accounting & Entrepreneurship
- *Cisco
- *Culinary Arts
- *Digital Media
- *Graphic Arts
- *Health Science
- *Naval Jr ROTC
- The Showcase is open to current 7th-12th grade students and families.



STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges Graduation Lawn Signs Arrived: A special gift was presented to all members of the class of 2023 at the STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges. Principal Dr. Reid gifted the graduating class with personalized lawn signs to show appreciation for their academic success. This tradition was started in 2021 to remind their scholars to be proud of their academic achievements and completing the rigorous requirements at STEM Academy. Up next, the lawn signs for the Orange High School Class of 2023 are to arrive very soon.



Art Show Take Over on May 17th: On May 17, the Board of Education building hosted the Art Opening for the Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation display, organized by art teacher Ms. Politi, and the STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges display, organized by the graphics arts/digital design instructor Ms. Rischawy. The exhibit included agamographs, abstract portraits, foam sculptures, collages, and digital art, created by talented students. **Congratulations** to the students for their impressive display of talent and effort!



Reminder: Pre-Kindergarten Literacy Event: The Office of Early Learning and the Annual School Plan ELA Committee presents a PreK Literacy Celebration Event at Scholars Academy on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 3:30 PM. Celebrate literacy with us and join us in championing how PreK students learn literacy. There will be giveaways, snacks, and activities.



Pre-Kindergarten Registration for the Month of June 2023: Preschool Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year: On Tuesday, June 6, Thursday, June 15, and Tuesday, June 20, 2023, the Orange Public Schools Office of Early Childhood Learning will host preschool registration for the 2023-2024 school year from 10 AM to 12 PM, at the following registration locations:

- Orange Early Childhood Center, 397 Park Ave
- Norjenes Day Care, 95 S Essex Ave
- Neema Preschool of Orange, 237 Scotland Road
- Valley Settlement House, 33-41 Tompkins Street
- Montclair Child Development Center, 261 William Street

Be sure to register if you have a child that will be 3 years old by October 1, 2023, and you are a resident of Orange. For more information, visit www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/528 or email prekindergartenregistration@orange.k12.nj.us.

Gifted and Talented Visitation at Scholars Academy: On May 22, 6th and 7th-grade students attending the Gifted and Talented Program at Scholars Academy finalized their projects involving three different types of turbines. They built a hydro, a vertical, and a horizontal wind turbine using Pico Solutions kits. They also redesigned blades for the horizontal turbine in Tinkercard, which their teacher Ms. Nadbielny produced on 3D printers. Students then tested and documented the results of their turbines and blade designs for their final presentations. At the end of class, each student will take home the turbine they built, the kit to continue building at home, their 3D-printed blade, and a certificate of accomplishment from Pico Systems. Superintendent Dr. Fitzhugh stopped by to see the students testing their turbines and recording the results. Learning to assemble their wind turbines, using plyers and screwdrivers, learning about the different types of turbines, and designing in Tinkercad was an excellent experience for the scholars!



Orange Week Reminder: Save the Date: The Orange Township Public School District is proud to announce Orange Week 2023! Saturday, June 3, 2023 - Saturday, June 10, 2023. Orange Week, now in its fifth year, celebrates community pride and highlights neighborhood activities, businesses, and nonprofits in Orange, NJ. The annual theme for Orange Week is "Are you in?"

"OrangeWeek2023!" is launching on June 3, 2023, with our District Spelling Bee and District Tennis Tournament in collaboration with the USTA Eastern, NJ Symphony, Orange Recreation, and the Althea Gibson Foundation at Central Playground (351 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ) at 10:00am.

On Saturday, June 10, 2023, during the "OrangeWEEK2023! Color Festival" at Monte Irvin Orange Park, starting at 9:00 am, two special events are being featured: 1) 5K Color Run/Walk/Roll and Bike Rodeo, and 2) District STEM Festival. In addition to the featured events, there will be Music, Bouncy Houses, Arts & Crafts, Health Screenings, Vendors, Food Trucks, and mor
Please follow our district social media for updates including school and district events that will take place during our week-long celebration. To register and participate in our 5K Color Run/Walk/Roll event, use the QR code on the flier or link at: <http://bit.ly/448TT1u>. To learn more about OrangeWeek2023!

District Calendar: Families and staff, as you plan your days and weeks, the following link (<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/31659>.) to the district calendar approved by the Board of Education in February 2022. The calendar can assist you by knowing all days in session

and off session. Should you have any questions, you are encouraged to email reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us. Please find the district calendar for SY 23-24 using the following link: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/32723>.

Elementary and Secondary Breakfast as well as Lunch Menus for the Month of May 2023: Each month, the district through Mr. Tyrone Dorsey's Office (Manager of Food Services) provides all families (pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary) with robust breakfast and lunch menus. Yes, the district in collaboration with our food services provider Chartwells have created a pre-kindergarten menu as well. All menus are evident on the district and school websites under latest news and information. Please find the link to view all the food choices for the Month of May:

Pre-K: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/May%20Preschool%20Menus.pdf>.

Elementary: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/May%20Elementary%20Menus.pdf>.

Secondary: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/May%20Secondary%20Menus.pdf>.

Board Meeting Dates: The Board of Education voted to change their monthly meetings from Tuesday to Wednesday evenings at the Reorganization Meeting. Kindly review the new dates for SY 22-23.

2023 Board of Education Business Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 (This meeting per the BOE will be cancelled)

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

***Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - Organization Meeting**

Upcoming Committee/Board Meetings (Public)

- Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 7:30p.m., held at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation, 400 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050. Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm
- Public Relations Virtual Committee Meeting-Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 4:00 PM. This meeting will take place virtually where community and staff members can view on the district's Facebook page as well as COMCAST Channel 36.

District Goals and the Strategic Plan Reminders

As we continue to Move into Greatness, I want our families and staff to continue to engage with the strategic plan and district goals. The following link is for the District Goals: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/30018>.

The following link is for the Strategic Plan: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3344>.

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. While email responses are often returned within hours of receipt, please allow 24-48 hours for an email response. The district wants you to hear from us with all questions that you have. It is very important to keeping staff and families informed, particularly during these times but more importantly for you to get your questions answered directly from district personnel.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and belief in our school district. I extend to each of you a great weekend.

Educationally yours,

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