# **Oakwood Avenue Community School**

135 Oakwood Avenue Orange, New Jersey 07050 Telephone: (973) 677-4095

# 2021-2022 Parent/Student Handbook



Mr. Dana Gaines, Principal



\* PRIDE \* PASSION \* PURPOSE \*

# **Table of Contents**

Board Members	3
Orange Board of Education Administrators	3
Principal's Letter	4-7
Orange/Oakwood Collaborative Vision & Mission Statement	8
Orange District Goals Oakwood Avenue Community School Song	9-11 12
My Peace Pledge	13
Student's Dailey Arrival and Dismissal	14
Dress Code	14
Attendance	15
Contacting Teachers Homework Academic Requirements	16 17 18
Report Card and Conference Dates	19-20
District Calendar Code of Conduct	21 22-23
Health Related Services	24-26
Emergency Response Team School Counselor Services Social Emotional Learning Field Trips	27 27 28 29
Book Fines	29
Money and Valuables	30
PTO News	30
Parking OACS Leader Expectations	31 31
OACS Staff Organization ADDENDUM: Emergency Closing and Health & Safety Measures Handbook Signature Page "WORKING TOGETHER"	32 33-34 35 36

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"GOOD TO GREAT"

Revised: 8/17/21

# **Principal's Message**



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2021-2022 school year at Oakwood Avenue Community School! We are partners, jointly dedicated to helping your child grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Please be reminded that students report for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. This school year will be filled with continued opportunities to stretch your child's practice. It is going to be a great school year for not only the school level staff but for each of you as well. For the last 15 months, we were immersed in a remote and/or hybrid model, be advised that we are returning to all buildings on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Governor Murphy shared in Executive Order #175 that remote learning would be ending as of June 30, 2021. As shared by Superintendent Dr. Fitzhugh, the end of the remote option provided the district the opportunity to plan accordingly for the safe return for all students and staff. What did the district do? We maintained our mask mandate throughout the summer, continued our temperature checks, and social distancing.

Throughout SY 21-22, as we did during the spring and summer, COVID testing will continue at every school building throughout the school year. We will continue the daily COVID-19 questionnaire that you completed each day last school year in Genesis. The district's mask mandate will help to ensure the continued health and safety of all staff and students.

All face coverings (whether disposable or reusable) must:

- ✓ Be made with at least 2 layers of breathable materials
- $\checkmark$  Fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin
- ✓ Fit snuggly but comfortably against the side of the face
- $\checkmark$  Be secured with ties or ear loops and allow the user to remain hands-free

In our reopening plan, the following are symptoms of COVID-19 where your child/children should be tested.

- ✓ A fever of 100 degrees or greater
- ✓ Cough
- $\checkmark$  Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ✓ Chills
- ✓ Repeated shaking with chills
- ✓ Muscle pain
- ✓ Headache
- $\checkmark$  Sore throat
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Congestion or runny nose
- $\checkmark \quad \text{Nausea or vomiting}$
- ✓ Diarrhea

Please see the information below regarding school procedures:

### **MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS**

- Students are dropped off and will line up on the blacktop/lot adjacent to the building. During inclement weather students will proceed through the side doors to the gymnasium. (Kindergarten students and parents enter together on September 7<sup>th</sup>.)
- Breakfast in the classroom will take form this school year.
- Students must arrive to school by 8:15 a.m. Attendance is vital to instructional supports for our students. We need our students on time and present each day.
- Teachers will meet their students in the blacktop/lot adjacent to the building (or the gymnasium during inclement weather) at 8:15 a.m.

### **DISMISSAL**

- All students are dismissed at 3:20 p.m.
- Please arrive promptly at that time to pick up your child.
- In the event that you are unable to pick up your child on a certain day, please provide prompt, written notification to the main office. Please include the name of the person who will serve in your capacity.
- Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are dismissed from the front entrance of the building on Oakwood Avenue.
- Students in grades 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> exit via the side doors on the blacktop/lot adjacent to the building.

### **STUDENT ATTIRE**

Students should dress appropriately for a school setting. Sneakers must always be worn for physical education classes. Uniforms should be worn daily. It is the expectation of the following in terms of dress:

### **PK-4 Elementary Schools**

- White or light blue button/polo/golf shirts with collar
- Uniform Pants/Slacks, Dress or Skirt or Shorts (Navy)
- Sneakers/Shoes, etc.- laced and tied (no flip flops)
- Physical Education: **on gym days only**, all students must wear gray or navy blue <u>sweatpants</u> or shorts and either a gray, navy, light blue, or white T-Shirt

### 5-7 Elementary Schools

- White or light blue button/polo/golf shirts with collar
- Slacks, Dress or Skirt or Uniform Shorts (Navy or Khaki)
- Sneakers/Shoes, etc.- laced and tied (no flip flops)
- Physical Education: on gym days only, all students must wear gray or navy blue sweatpants or shorts and either a gray, navy, light blue, or white T-Shirt

The following items of clothing are considered to be inappropriate and are not to be worn:

- Blouses or sweaters that show a bare midriff, halter tops, bandanas, tank tops, tops with thin straps, short shorts, short mini-skirts, clinging or form fitting spandex leggings (without the appropriate length skorts, shorts, skirt, or dress), pants/jeans worn below the waist, and pants/jeans with rips 4" above the knee (including any rip that shows through to skin, undergarments, or fabric.). All flannel-type pants and sleepwear are not permitted.
- Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times. Specifically, no flip-flops or "sliders" are not to be worn due to the safety factor when using stairs. All sandals must be secured at the toes and ankle for safety.

**SCHEDULES KIOSK:** We are passing out schedules on Monday, August 23, 2021, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM and Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 10:30 AM until 3:30 PM.

<u>**CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:**</u> For information regarding classroom supplies, please visit <u>www.orange.k12.nj.us</u> and select Our District to and then your child's school for a comprehensive review.

### STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Ms. Cynthia Jackson, Administrative Secretary, at 973-677-4095. The district policy indicates that a student must be in attendance for 163 or more school days in order to be considered to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade/course to which he/she is assigned.

### **FORMS**

Students will receive the emergency contact form on the first day of school. Please review and complete the emergency form and other corresponding forms by September 13, 2021. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 21-22.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:

- Academic Support Grades 1<sup>st</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> October 19, 2021 - May 12, 2022 (Tuesday - Thursday) 3:25PM - 4:25PM
- School Clubs Grades 4<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>
   October 15, 2021 May 13, 2022 (Fridays ONLY) 3:25PM 4:25PM

Music Game24/Math Olympics Robotics Debate Girls Who Code Student Council Cheerleading Newspaper

### **CHROMEBOOKS**

Students are to bring their district issued Chromebook to school on a daily basis; full charged.

### **COMMUNICATION**

- All teachers and staff will be connected to our students and families using "Class Dojo." Please ensure you have connected with your child's classroom teacher on this platform and check the "school story" daily for any announcements.
- E-mail & phone blasts will also be used to communicate with families. Please ensure you have updated your contact information in genesis. It is imperative that all school personnel have the most update information for your household.
- Being able to communicate with our parents is extremely important. Please ensure that all your information is updated. You will receive calls from our secretaries to check and update your information in Genesis.
- Parent Portal will be the means of accessing all your student's important information, his/her progress/grades, missing assignments and other concerns that might impact your student's performance or well-being. If you have not done so, please ensure that you sign up for parent portal.
- Please listen to phone blasts sent by the school and/or District. They include important information and guidance. This is even more important in these uncertain times.
- If you have not signed up for the Orange App, you can download on your Android or Apple iPhone.
- The School District's social media platforms are a great source for posting updates & important information as well as celebrating and sharing photos of our fun activities. You can also follow our school on the following social media platform below:
  - Twitter: @oacs135
  - Instagram: oacs135
  - Facebook: @oakwoodavecommunityschool

### **OAKWOOD AVENUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

With a results-driven focus on improving student achievement, Oakwood Avenue Community School will ensure that students, parents, teachers and the community receives rigorous, robust and rewarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning experiences by way of:

- Professional collaboration
- An ongoing commitment to explore and implement new instructional best practices
- Mutual trust and respect
- Sharing and acknowledging successes
- Family and community engagement

Looking forward to a happy, healthy, and productive school year!

Educationally yours,

Dana Gaines

Mr. Dana Gaines

# The Orange Board of Education Vision and Mission Statement

### Vision

"The Orange Public School District commits to provide a safe and caring environment where each student is expected to grow and succeed. We pledge to prepare all students with equitable opportunities for college and career readiness, leading to lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in a competitive global community."

### Mission

- The Orange Public School District in collaboration with all stakeholders is responsible for promoting the academic, social, emotional and personal success of all students.
- With a commitment to academic excellence, the district provides teachers, families, and administrators the tools needed for all students to reach their full potential.
- The district serves all students in our schools, acknowledging their unique backgrounds, cultural perspectives and learning styles.
- The district recognizes that curiosity, discipline, integrity, responsibility and respect are necessary for success.
- The Orange Public School District cultivates a community of 21st century learners where students take ownership of the learning process, achieve high standards of excellence, and focus on academics.

## Oakwood Avenue Community School Collaborative Mission Statement

With a results-driven focus on improving student achievement, Oakwood Avenue Community School will ensure that students, parents, teachers and the community receives rigorous, robust and rewarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning experiences by way of:

- Professional collaboration
- An ongoing commitment to explore and implement new instructional best practices
- Mutual trust and respect
- Sharing and acknowledging successes
- Family and community engagement

# From Good to Great!



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



#### 2021-2022 District Goals

#### Goal #1: 21st Century Integration

The Orange Public Schools will continue to invest in its teachers. The district values and promotes a culture of excellence in teaching and learning through increased and improved opportunities for quality, sustained professional development that address district needs and individual school needs as outlined by data points. The emphasis has been on best practices in teaching and learning. As a result of the pandemic, a continued understanding of providing targeted and intentional delivery of instruction is paramount district-wide.

- 1) Increase in the number of job-embedded professional learning opportunities that incorporate the expertise of building principals planning alongside district administration by 60% from SY 20-21
  - Administrative Meetings will continue to be instructionally-focused learning sessions for principals and district administrators. Ultimately, all training sessions will be germane to data points resulting from walk-through trend analyses.
  - Administrative meetings will continue to have instructionally focused agendas with accompanying sign in sheets. Zoom/Google Meet as well as in person meetings will take place for horizontal and vertical articulation supports to build content knowledge and pedagogy if applicable.
- 2) By May 2022, 60% of students in each preparedness group will meet or exceed their assigned end of year growth target in mathematics.
  - The assessments that will be used to measure progress towards the assigned growth targets include the iReady Diagnostic, NWEA MAP, District Benchmark Assessments, and select Performance Tasks in the area of Mathematics.
  - o The district will continue to report out all data in the area of mathematics.
- 3) By May 2022, 60% of students in each preparedness group will meet or exceed their assigned end of year growth target in ELA.
  - The assessments that will be used to measure progress towards the assigned growth targets include the FRA, SRI, Insight, District Benchmarks, and Performance Tasks in the area of English Language Arts.
  - o The district will continue to report out all data in the area of English Language Arts.
- 4) Provide Learning Loss Support through disaggregation of data and pre-assessments across content areas.
  - Institute intervention supports at the elementary level through the master schedule to remediate areas of academic concern.
  - o Provide High School Students with SAT and NJSLA Prep courses in the master schedule.

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• Partner with Bank Street College to provide Early Childhood Supports for the district's youngest learners.

#### Goal #2: Community Engagement

The Orange Public Schools will continue a system of consistent communication system for disseminating and receiving information between school administration, teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community.

- 1) Increase the timeliness, access, and effectiveness of all communication with all stakeholders via multiple measures by 50% from the previous school year (the previous year was at a 35% increase.)
  - Social Media Platforms & Website (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter)-Utilize the platforms for immediate news-worthy information as well as the district website via the latest news and announcements section.
  - RoboCalls via School Wires at the district and school levels; we are incorporating more text to speech and emails for SY 21-22 at 35%.
  - Superintendent's Report (online access to staff and community stakeholders) the day immediately following the board meeting by noon.
  - Routine face-to-face opportunities to engage with community and stakeholders via PTO, Back to School Nights, Report Card Conference Nights, Community Events within Orange Township as well as partnership meetings based on those established and forthcoming within the school district. We will continue the parent and student councils at the Superintendent's Level.
  - o Provide Bilingual Supports for all families to ensure their engagement within the school district.

#### 2) Increase the use of emerging and available communications outlets to transmit information by 30%

- Partner with universities (local and throughout the state) in order to get information to prospective candidates for job fairs and other industry level announcements. We will conduct virtual and inperson job fairs as well to widen the search for potential candidates outside of the University realm.
- o Continue to utilize the Orange Public School App for more timeless information.
- Continue to utilize the Emergency Pop Up on the website for transmitting important, time sensitive information weekly.
- o Provide Translations on all documents that are disseminated from schools and district offices.

#### 3) Continue Parent and Student Councils at the Superintendent's Level

- Have monthly meetings with parents and students about academics as well as self-care supports; student council meetings will take place separately from the parent council.
- Continue the Bilingual Parent Advisory and ensure that the meetings are quarterly.
- Continue the Special Education Advisory Council Meetings and ensure that the meetings take place quarterly.
- Continue the Early Childhood Advisory Council Meetings and ensure that the meetings take place quarterly.

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#### **Goal #3: Facilities and Finance**

The Orange Public Schools will continue to redesign the fiscal management, operations, and human resources of the organization to ensure a system of accountability, transparency, and efficiency for the optimal delivery of services.

- 1) Create a district budget under constraints that accommodates and supports the needs of central office departments, all schools and students while sustaining systems that have yielded results through a strategic assessment of data
  - Analyze and clarify how all budgeted funds are allocated and expended at the department and school levels
  - Examine and evaluate contracted services provided to the district and continuously improve effectiveness
  - Identify and execute capital projects (short term/long term, prioritized, and categorized on the basis of need)
- 2) Implement innovations that empower teaching and learning as well as efficiently allocate funding within their locations
  - Redesign district- and school-level organization charts that provide departments and schools with a blueprint of essential instructional and non-instructional positions
  - Provide a new vehicle to budget more efficiently and effectively at the district and school levels
  - Create a staff retention program via the Kathy Kram Model for novice educators district wide.
  - Create a long-term and short-term facilities development plan to outfit buildings district wide in the effort of expanding programming throughout the school district.

#### **Goal #4: Social and Emotional Supports**

The Orange Public Schools will continue to ensure that all students will receive social and emotional support to become adaptable, confident citizens who embody self-awareness and strong interpersonal skills, and who are capable of responsible decision-making and managing their emotions and behaviors.

#### 1) Provide research-based curriculum to strengthen students' social/emotional relationships

- Continue to utilize Restorative Practices as a means of providing effective supports to students in the effort of problem solving.
- Utilization of the ESSER II funding in mental health to provide students another avenue to combat social-emotional concerns and thus remediate areas of deficiency related to mental health.

#### 2) Enhance community-based partnerships in order to assist students and families

- Utilize the District's community engagement officer to assist school-based staff with establishing partnerships to support families and students and thus have a vehicle to support families Pre-K through Twelve.
- Provide self-care supports for students and families based on surveys (conducted twice per year) as well as discussion with support staff members.

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# **Oakwood Avenue Community School Song**



Oakwood is the best school in town

And we go there everyday

Oakwood helps us do what is right

In the things, we learn and say

We've got the best school spirit

In this whole town

The teachers are the greatest too

Oakwood is the best school in town And to Oakwood we'll be true.

### **My Peace Pledge**



I am a member of the Oakwood Avenue Community School. Our Mascot is the Soaring Eagle. Like the Soaring Eagle I pledge to: Strive for Outstanding Achievement, Respect and Success I pledge to talk respectfully to others; To treat people with care, integrity and good citizenship; I pledge to treat others with the same respect with which I wish to be treated; I pledge to build peace ~ at home, at school and in my community.

# Student Arrival & Dismissal



### ARRIVAL/MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS

- Students are dropped off and will line up on the blacktop/lot adjacent to the building. During inclement weather students will proceed through the side doors to the gymnasium. (Kindergarten students and parents enter together on September 7<sup>th</sup>.)
- Breakfast in the classroom will take form this school year.
- Students must arrive to school by 8:15 a.m. Attendance is vital to instructional supports for our students. We need our students on time and present each day.
- Teachers will meet their students in the blacktop/lot adjacent to the building (or the gymnasium during inclement weather) at 8:15 a.m.

### **DISMISSAL**

- All students are dismissed at 3:20 p.m.
- Please arrive promptly at that time to pick up your child.
- In the event that you are unable to pick up your child on a certain day, please provide prompt, written notification to the main office. Please include the name of the person who will serve in your capacity.
- Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are dismissed from the front entrance of the building on Oakwood Avenue.
- Students in grades 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> exit via the side doors on the blacktop/lot adjacent to the building.

### **Student Attire**



In June of 1996 the Orange Board of Education approved and implemented a **mandatory** K-12 District Uniform Dress Code Policy CODE # 5132 for ALL children who attend the Orange Public School System. **It is expected that your child wear his/her uniform consistently every day**. Parents of those children who are not in uniform will be contacted and reminded of the dress code policy. Sanctions will be imposed for those who continue to ignore the uniform policy. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from adhering to this regulation, please contact the building principal

### **STUDENT ATTIRE**

### PK-4 Elementary Schools

- White or light blue button/polo/golf shirts with collar
- Uniform Pants/Slacks, Dress or Skirt or Shorts (Navy)
- Sneakers/Shoes, etc.- laced and tied (no flip flops)
- Physical Education: **on gym days only**, all students must wear gray or navy blue <u>sweatpants</u> or shorts and either a gray, navy, light blue, or white T-Shirt

### 5-7 Elementary Schools

- White or light blue button/polo/golf shirts with collar
- Slacks, Dress or Skirt or Uniform Shorts (Navy or Khaki)
- Sneakers/Shoes, etc.- laced and tied (no flip flops)
- Physical Education: on gym days only, all students must wear gray or navy blue sweatpants or shorts and either a gray, navy, light blue, or white T-Shirt

### The following items of clothing are considered to be inappropriate and are not to be worn:

• Blouses or sweaters that show a bare midriff, halter tops, bandanas, tank tops, tops with thin straps, short shorts, short mini-skirts, clinging or form fitting spandex leggings (without the appropriate length skorts, shorts, skirt, or dress), pants/jeans worn below the waist, and pants/jeans with rips 4" above the knee (including any rip that shows through to skin, undergarments, or fabric.). All flannel-type pants and sleepwear are not permitted.

### **Attendance**



### Pre-School to Grade -7

### **Excused** Absences

Each student is required to attend school regularly, and in each case of an absence the student <u>must</u> present to the teacher (elementary) or to school administration (secondary) on his/her return, a written excuse from the parent or guardian.

Students, grades Pk-7, receive an excused absence when they are absent from school for the following reasons:

- Illness of the student (a student who is absent from school for more than 3 consecutive days will be required to present a parent or doctor's certificate upon returning to school).
- Death in the immediate family. Ordinarily, parent/guardian and grandparents are included in the immediate family. (Length of time to be determined in each individual case by the principal).
- Religious holidays as approved by the law (if written excuse is provided).
- Such other absences which have had prior approval from the principal's office. Students who plan to be absent for reasons other than the reasons above should seek prior approval by presenting a note from home to the office of the principal.

### **Unexcused** Absences

Unexcused absences are those which do not come under any of the definitions of the excused absences.

# Chronic absenteeism is recorded to the state and documented on the students' <u>permanent state record</u>!

#### Forms

Students will receive the emergency contact form on the first day of school. Please review and complete the emergency form and other corresponding forms by September 13, 2021. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 2021-22.

#### Make-up work

Make-up work is to be completed in a reasonable period of time after the student returns to school/virtual learning. In no event, should this period extend longer than 4 school days to make up work for each school day absent. Make-up work is to be assigned and evaluated per the judgment of the student's teacher(s).

### **Contacting Teachers**



All teachers should be contacted by email, Class Dojo or other parental contact application. <u>Keep in mind that</u> <u>instructional time cannot be disrupted for any reason</u>. In addition to contacting your child's teacher directly you may also email the Guidance Counselor Ms. Venable at <u>venablpa@orange.k12.nj.us</u> and Principal Mr. Gaines at <u>gaindana@orange.k12.nj.us</u>



The primary purpose of homework is to foster responsibility for the learning process, time budgeting and prioritizing. It is an extension of the learning that occurs in the classroom each day and reinforces what is taught. The objective of assigning homework is to:

- Provide for essential practice in skills
- Enrich and extend classroom experiences and build positive work and study habits
- Provide experiences in finding resources and gathering data
- Encourage the development of self-discipline and integrity

The amount of time your child should spend on completing homework assignments may vary from grade to grade. For children in grades K-7 the following is a guide to the amount of time your child should spend on daily homework assignments:

GRADE	MINIMUM NUMBER OF MINUTES
KINDERGARTEN	20 MINUTES 5 days a week
1 <sup>st</sup> GRADE	30 MINUTES 5 days a week
2 <sup>nd</sup> GRADE	40 MINUTES 5 days a week
3 & 4 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	60 MINUTES 5 days a week
5-7 <sup>th</sup> GRADES	90 MINUTES 5 days a week

It is required that all children read at least 20 minutes a day (in addition to homework). Parents can help by reading to their children or reading with their children (something that is informative or just for pleasure). The time-spent reading to your child/children will be invaluable. <u>WE ASK THAT ALL PARENTS PLEASE</u> <u>SIGN YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS EACH NIGHT</u>. Remember, when the school and parents work together and collaborate, our children are the beneficiaries.

# Academic Requirements



## **Grading System**

Children are expected to successfully demonstrate mastery of skills/knowledge of at least one year's academic program in one year's time. The instructional program provides a uniform curriculum that has a specific set of skills and content for each grade level and subjects. All children must learn within specific curriculum timelines, regardless of the school or teacher to who the child is assigned. The following is the grading system adopted for use by the Orange Board of Education.

Letter Grade	Standards	Score (%)			
А	Exceeds the standard	100 - 90			
В	Meets the standard	89-80			
С	Marginally meets the standard	79 – 70			
D	Below the standard	69 - 65			
F	Unsatisfactory Performance	64 - 50			

### **Explanation of Academic Grades (Grades 1-8)**

# District guidelines indicate 72% and below mandates a parent teacher conference.

Refer to the Grading Promotion and Retention Guidelines located on the District Website <u>http://www.orange.k12.nj.us/</u>

# **Parent Conferences and Report Cards**



**PLEASE NOTE:** All parents/guardians are to receive Progress Reports of their child's overall academic performance on the dates noted.

- Reminder: Conferences must be held for 72% and below! A Collaborative Action Plan must be initiated.
- Parent/Teacher conference dates are:
  - o November 22, 2021 from 5:30pm-7:30pm
  - o February 7, 2022 from 5:30pm-7:30pm and February 8, 2022 from 1:15pm 4pm

**The meetings will take place over a virtual platform**. Parents will be notified in writing about their scheduled parent/teacher conference appointment time. A conference may be requested at any time by a teacher or a parent. A parent-teacher conference is required if the child earns 72% or below on their progress report or report card from any class. If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please email the teacher as well as Guidance Counselor Ms. Venable at <u>venablpa@orange.k12.nj.us</u> and Principal Mr. Gaines at <u>gaindana@orange.k12.nj.us</u>

# **Report Card and Marking Period Dates – SY2021-22**

#### Orange Township Public School District

2021-2022

Interim & Marking Period Report Card

Grade Posting Window Schedule

#### as of August 2, 2022

Reporting Period	Marking Period End Date	Posting Window Opened	Posting Window Closed	Distribution
Interim Report Card 1	Thursday 10/7/21	Thursday 9/30/21	Wednesday 10/13/21 4:00pm	Thursday 10/14/21 End of Day
MP1 Report Card	Friday 11/12/21	Friday 11/5/21	Friday 11/19/21 4:00pm	Conferences (PreK-7) 11/22/21 5:30-7:30 (8-12) 11/23/21 5:30-7:30
Interim Report Card 2	Thursday 12/16/21	Tuesday 12/7/21	Wednesday 12/22/21 4:00pm	Thursday 12/23/21 End of Day
MP2 Report Card	Thursday 1/27/22	Thursday 1/20/22	Friday 2/4/22 4:00pm	Conferences (PreK-7) 2/7/22 5:30-7:30 (PreK-7) 2/8/22 1:15-4:00 (8-12) 2/9/22 1:15-4:00 (8-12) 2/10/22 5:30-7:30
Interim Report Card 3	Tuesday 3/8/22	Monday 2/28/22	Wednesday 3/15/22 4:00pm	Thursday 3/16/22 End of Day
MP3 Report Card	Monday 4/11/22	Monday 4/4/22	Wednesday 4/13/22 4:00pm	Thursday 4/14/22 End of Day
Interim Report Card 4	Friday 5/20/22	Wednesday 5/11/22	Thursday 5/26/22 4:00pm	Friday 5/27/22 End of Day
MP4 Report Card	Wednesday 6/22/22	Wednesday 6/15/22	Thursday 6/23/22 3:00pm	Friday 6/24/22 12:30 PM

\*Dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools\*

## **Orange District Calendar – SY2021-22**



The calendar includes 188 contractual certificated staff days and 183 contractual contact student days. There are 3 snow days or emergency closing days built into this calendar. Should the District use more than 3 emergency closing days the days will be used at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools

2:30 pm - 8:00 pm

OEA Day 12:30 Dismiss Students △ Parent Cont Prek-7 12:30pm Dismissal Parent Cont. Gr. 8-12 12:30pm Dismissal District 12:30 pm Dismissal

2:00 pm

SCHOOL

OHS OPA STEM

Beme зтy Twilight Program

	SCHOOL HOURS
STAFF	STUDENTS
8:05 am	8:20 am - 3:25 pm
8:05 am	8:20 am - 3:15 pm
8:20 am	8:20 am - 3:30 pm
8:15 am	8:30 am - 3:20 pm
2.00	3-30 pm - 8-00 pm

ZERO period & College Block will be 7:30 am - 8:15 am ZERO period & College Bock will be 7:30 am - 8:15 am

## **Code of Conduct**



The maintenance of discipline is a cooperative task between the HOME and the SCHOOL.

Students learn best in a safe and orderly environment. One of the most important lessons education should teach is **DISCIPLINE.** While it does not appear as a subject, it underlies the whole educational structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people. Students must conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. This includes whether on the bus, at school, and at all school functions. **This also includes at all times that the student is engaged in Virtual Learning**. All students are expected to abide by school and district policies and regulations as noted in the **Orange Code of Conduct Handbook. Failure to do this may bring about disciplinary intervention**.

### Student Responsibilities (RELATED TO DISCIPLINE)

- Respect the rights and privileges of others
- Accept responsibility for his/her actions and consequences of behavior
- Abide by the authority of teachers, staff, and other adults
- Be regular and prompt in meeting all school responsibilities
- Help maintain school property free from damage and vandalism

### Parental Responsibilities (RELATED TO DISCIPLINE)

Good discipline begins in the home. Parents are the child's first teachers. Through example and direct teaching, parents instill in children habits of acceptable behavior and positive attitudes.

### As a parent, you can help us by doing the following:

- If you have a problem or concern, please contact your child's teacher first
- Support and assist the school in the administration of recommended consequences
- Provide your child with counseling, guidance and direct teaching of good habits and acceptable behavior

- Keep the line of communication between home and school open. Speak to your child daily about what is going on in school. Call the school (973-677-4095) or contact Principal Mr. Gaines at gaindana@orange.k12.nj.us
- Be sure to leave phone numbers with the school where you can be reached in case of an emergency

#### **Staff Responsibilities**

- Be equal partners to achieve successful learning.
- Treat each student with respect.
- Assist in fostering a positive and safe school environment.
- Review school and classroom rules and regulations on a daily basis.
- Teach students to solve problems in a nonviolent, positive manner through modeling, role playing and practice.
- Develop and implement procedures and routines to ensure school and classroom environments are conducive to learning

Oakwood Avenue Community School has a zero tolerance for bullying in accordance with the N.J. State law and

Orange Board of Education.

#### Suspension from school may occur if:

- Deliberate acts of a student caused injury to the health, morals or welfare of other students.
- There is a serious violation of school regulations.
- The conduct of the student interferes with the education of other students in the classroom.

### **Refer to District Student Code of Conduct – Policy #5600**

Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their child's academic progress and behavior via the <u>District's Parent Portal</u> and <u>Classroom Dojo.</u>

# **Health Related Services**



The school nurse reviews immunization records, delivers medical care and first aid as well as screenings for height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and scoliosis when appropriate. Health information is shared with essential staff to assist your child in achieving his/her educational goals. Administration of medication in school requires a parent/guardian's note and physician's note with medicine in original containers and accompanied by the doctor's directions. Questions regarding health concerns should be directed to the school nurse.

By law the nurse can only administer first aid. In case of a serious accident, parents will be notified immediately. If it is necessary for the child to go home, parents must make provisions to pick up the student. The nurse **is not** permitted to transport students.

The following rules and regulations regarding medication in the school are implemented in all of the schools in the District of Orange:

- 1. The school cannot provide students with aspirin or any other medication.
- 2. The administration of medication to students shall be done only in exceptional circumstances wherein the child's safety may be jeopardized without it.
- 3. Students requiring medication at school must have a written statement from the family physician which identifies the type, dosage, and purpose of the medication. Also, written statements from the parents giving permission to give medication prescribed by the family physician. The medication must be brought to school by the parent or guardian in the original container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy.
- 4. The school nurse and approved by the school physician should be advised of any drug being taken by a child attending school, particularly those that might cause a change in behavior.
- 5. In the absence of a school nurse, parents may come to school and administer the medication or another school nurse must be called to administer.

### Student/Staff Illness Procedures Upon Re-opening of School

In planning for the safe opening of school, contingency planning is vital to the continuous health and safety of students and staff. Schools should be prepared for COVID-19 outbreaks in their local communities and for individual exposure events to occur in their facilities, regardless of the level of community transmission.

### • COVID-19 Symptomology

Students and employees may be asked to leave or not come into school if they test positive for COVID-19, or exhibit one or more of these symptoms:

- A fever of 100 degrees or greater
- o Cough
- o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- o Muscle pain
- o Headache
- $\circ$  Sore throat
- o New loss of taste or smell
- o Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- o Diarrhea

If a student/staff shows symptoms related to COVID-19 the school will follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting. Those Protocols must include:

- Establishment of an isolation space/isolation room.
- Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others.
- Students should remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult.
- There should be continuous monitoring of symptoms
- Once patient transportation is determined and the patient leaves the school site, the room needs to be sanitized by trained custodial personnel.

If a student/staff member tests positive, meaning any individuals who themselves either (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

#### Return to work/school criteria

1. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and

- 2. Improved respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.); and
- 3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first occurred

If a school district becomes aware that a person who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID19, district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. All school district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors and any other staff deemed appropriate by the school district should be provided with information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the spread of the contagious disease. Exposed staff and students must stay home until 14 days after last exposure. Exposure is defined at having been within 6 feet of contact with the sick individual for at least 10 minutes.

For additional guidance please contact the school nurse Ms. Powell at x3602/<u>powellju@orange.k12.nj.us</u> or contact Principal Mr. Gaines at <u>gaindana@orange.k12.nj.us</u>

## Oakwood Avenue Community School Emergency Response Team

Dana Gaines – Principal Katrina Anderson – Security Roena Forbes – Head Custodian Melissa Hunt – Teacher Cynthia Jackson - Secretary Judith Powell – School Nurse Larry Willis – Teacher Vicki Wright - Paraprofessional Pamela Venable – School Counselor

### **Contacts:**

OACS Principal: Mr. Gaines gaindana@orange.k12.nj.us or reach us at 973-677- 4095
OACS Nurse: Ms. Powell powellju@orange.k12.nj.us or reach us at 973-677- 4000 ext. 3602
OACS Counselor: Ms. Venable venablpa@orange.k12.nj.us or reach us at 973-677- 4000 ext. 3660

### **School Counselor Services**

At Oakwood Avenue Community School, we offer in-house counseling services to assist you and your child. These support services are provided by certified trained professionals who will address those students who manifest emotional and social problems within the school setting. The school counselor will assist your child in improving their peer relationships, developing good decision making skills, and developing strategies to cope with issues of stress they may face. They provide individual as well as group counseling, in addition to referrals for appropriate community agencies and services as needed. In addition, our guidance and counseling staff will identify factors that can make school a more successful, productive and happier experience for all our students and their families.

For additional guidance please contact the school counselor Ms. Venable at x3660/<u>venablpa@orange.k12.nj.us</u> or contact Principal Mr. Gaines at <u>gaindana@orange.k12.nj.us</u>

# **SEL – Social and Emotional Learning**

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was enacted in 2015. The law includes requirements to enhance the Social Emotional Learning supports in school environments in areas i.e. programs, instructor training and assessments that incorporate SEL.

Implementation of Social Emotional Learning Practices for all students will be measured by the reduction of chronic absenteeism, in/out of school suspensions and HIB incidents through components such as:

- 1. Alternative Programs
- 2. Restorative Justice



### **Field Trips**



Educational field trips are planned to enhance learning experiences correlated with the subject or content. Students must have written permission from a parent or guardian *prior* to attending the field trip. All field trips are chaperoned by school personnel and occasionally with the assistance of a parent or parents. A standard walking trip permission request will be sent home for parents to sign and return to the students' teacher giving the child permission to accompany his/her class in walking/district trips.

Students who are suspended at any time during the school year may be required to have a parent accompany them on a field trip.

### **Book Fines**

#### Textbooks

All textbooks are collected at the end of each school year. Students who have lost or damaged books during the school year will be charged fines for the book (s). Lost books will be assessed at the original price of the book(s).

#### Library books overdue fine

All library books are to be returned to the library on a timely manner. Students who have misplaced or lost books must bring an envelope with the amount owed in cash. Any outstanding debts to the school will cause a student's report card to be withheld until all debts are paid.

### Money and Valuables



Students are not to bring money to school unless it is absolutely necessary. The school cannot assume responsibility for a student's money or valuables left in his or her locker, desk or coatroom. In accordance with Board policy students are **not allowed** to bring electronic devices to school. This includes cell phones, iPods/MP3 Players, games, or any other electronic devices (<u>unless authorized for a specific school</u> program designed and approved by the principal).

\*\*\* If students bring any of these devises to school they must be turned off and stored in their locker or main office for the entire day. If student is found in violation items will be confiscated and <u>will not be</u> <u>returned</u> until a parent comes to pick them up.

### **PTO News**

## "NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO SUCCESS IN SCHOOLS THAN THE QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AND AMONG STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENTS" Dr. James P. Comer

Please join and support the OACS PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). This is your organization. Your input, commitment and hard work are needed to support activities and programs in OACS. The PTO makes it possible for OACS to provide additional field trips, special events and rewards/incentives for our children during the school year. Your ideas and help are needed.

## **Parking**

# PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS AND ESPECIALLY DURING DISMISSAL TIME.

When you <u>illegally park</u> in front of the school exits, you block the view of other cars driving past making it difficult to see the children crossing the street. The Orange Police Department will issue citations to those individuals who ignore posted NO PARKING SIGNS. Barriers are positioned along the front yellow curb of the school to ensure that children are safe crossing the street and to allow those children who receive transportation easy access onto the school buses. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

on Time• Participate in Classear Your Uniform• Try Your Best
• Try Your Best
• Stay on Task
me prepared to Class • Finish Your Work
mplete Your
mework

# **OACS Leader Expectations**

# **Oakwood Avenue Community School**

# **Staff Organization**

Gaines, Dana				Jackson, Cynthia	Hunter, Katrina		
Principal				Administrative Assist. 400	Security	500	
TEACHER GE	HR	GR	EXT (*)	PARAPROFESSIONAL	HR	<u>Gr.</u>	EXT (*)
Kenny, Kristin	2-A	PRE-K	112	Battle, Susan	W3	SPED	309
Mitchell, Laura	2-B	PRE-K	113	Wright, Vicki	3	KDG	202
Lopez, Jesenia	3	KDG	202	Saniel Collin, Saniel	2A	PRE-K	201
Francis, Lakenya	4	1	203	Celestine, Deborah	2B	PRE-K	112
Roos, Mariana	5	2	205	Baskerville, Sabrina	E-125	SPED	125
Blake, Florita	6	<b>Bi-Ling</b>	206	Lopez Rojas, Rosario	E-125	SPED	125
Hrabar, Claudia	8	3	302	Duncan, Zakiyyah	1	SPED	200
Jones El, Kama (MA)	9	4&5	301	Shivers, Kristina	1	SPED	200
Bresnihan, Brenda (ELA)	W-1	4&5	311	Smith-Coates, Katrina	13	SPED	303
Meredith, Antoine (SS)	W2	4, 5,6,7	310	Casimir, Ruth	6	<b>Bi-Ling</b>	206
Olivero, Viviana (Sci)	W4	4, 5,6,7	305				
Ntofas, Konstantinos (MA	W-5	6&7	306	NURSE OFFICE			
Lundy, Sonya (ELA)	W6	6&7	307	Powell, Judith	Clinic		109
						/ <b>ТЕЛЛА</b>	
TEACHER SE	GUIDANCE AND CHILD STUDY TEA		CST	211			
Burrell, Rose	E-125	Kdg	125	Kehr, Elyse Petiote, Carline		CST	211
,		· · ·		,			
Hunt, Melissa	1	1 & 2	200	Dr. Alkins-Guallab, Pamela			211
Frost, Benjamin	13	3,4,5	303	Venable, Pamela	Counselor 1		107
Chouloutte, Fabiola	W-3	6&7	309	Teed, Emily		SPEECH	
TEACHER ESL				TEACHER SPECIALIST			
Hou, Jeffrey	A1	ESL		Toriello, Teresa	AUD	Music	300
Park, Inyong	6	ESL	206	Keshner, Britt	AUD	Drama	299
				Heaslip, Jenna	11-A	Art	305
				Willis, Larry	12	Tech Co	312
				Luke, Stephen	GYM	PE	128
				Rodriguez, Ana	11	Spanish	304
				Raimondi, Ellen	205	Comp. Lit	215

# Addendum for Emergency School Closure and Health and Safety Measures:

The school district will only return to remote learning if there is a declared health emergency order. An emergency closure can only be determined by the Governor of New Jersey. With that being said, in the hybrid space, students will be in buildings with the expectation of masks as well as social distancing implemented. The following points are about the hybrid and remote models.

### Hybrid or Remote Option

If the district has to institute a hybrid or remote option (per the Governor's orders ONLY), synchronous; live instruction will be at the apex of the model. Additionally, we will continue to utilize Zoom and/or Meet to promote real time instruction for students across the school district. Students will be engaged in the core subjects as well as elective classes accordingly in the synchronous fashion. Office hours will be utilized to promote sound individualized approaches to teaching and learning. Schedules will be made available accordingly should an emergency closure have to take place.

### Standards for Health and Safety

Masks are required wherever social distancing cannot be accomplished

Access to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), hand sanitizer, partitions (if applicable) etc. As you tour the schools, this has already been solidified. PPE is available to staff and students.

Daily Cleaning/sanitizing demands (We are keeping this mandate as we did in the Spring and Summer to ensure our continued health and safety.)

Educational Effectiveness while Social Distancing....

### <u>Masks</u>

The following principles apply to the use of masks in schools:

- Masks and/or barriers do not preclude an individual from being identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case.
- Information should be provided to staff and students on proper use, removal, and washing of masks.
- The most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven such as cotton and cotton blends, breathable, and in two or three fabric layers. Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those that use loosely woven fabrics, and ones that do not fit properly are not recommended.
- Masks should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled or damp/wet. Disposable face masks should be changed daily or when visibly soiled, damp or damaged.
- Students, teachers, and staff should have access to additional disposable or cloth masks in case a back-up mask is needed (e.g. mask is soiled or lost during the day).
- Clear masks that cover the nose and wrap securely around the face may be considered in certain circumstances including for the teaching of students with disabilities, young students learning to read, or English language learners.

### Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

The Orange District schools will continue to teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer). Schools will inform students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately. Schools will maintain adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no touch trash cans.

Hand hygiene should take place:

- Upon arrival at school.
- Before Leaving for the day.
- Before and after meals and snacks.
- After going to the bathroom.
- After blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue.
- When hands are visibly soiled. Assist/observe young children to ensure proper hand washing

### **Illness While on the School Site**

- Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated away from others until they can be sent home. All schools have been outfitted with an isolation room.
- Students who are sick and not already wearing a mask will be provided one to wear unless the student has a contraindication to doing so. If a mask is not tolerated by the ill student or staff member, other staff should be masked and follow maximum physical distancing guidelines (at least 6 feet away).
- The school nurse examination will include questioning the ill student (or parent/guardian) and staff whether they have had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days meeting the definition of a close contact. Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider. Persons with COVID-19-compatible symptoms should undergo COVID-19 testing.

Schools with testing capacity should test ill students and staff, consistent with any federal and state requirements, including requirements regarding parental consent. Ill individuals who test positive should be reported to the Local Health Department (LHD) and contact tracing should begin. The district will handle all contact tracing as outlined in the Reopening of Schools Plan posted on the district website on June 15, 2021. Ill individuals that test negative should be referred to a healthcare provider, who may consider additional COVID-19 testing.

# Oakwood Avenue Community School Parent & Student Handbook

# **Signature Page**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please review the information presented in our school's Parent and Student Handbook. In addition, please sign, date, and return this page to your child's homeroom teacher by <u>Thursday, September 16, 2021.</u> By signing this contract, you are agreeing to follow district and school policies and procedures and work collaboratively to ensure your academic success.

Your signature will confirm receipt of this very important document.

Sincerely,

Dana Gaines

Dana Gaines Principal

Parent Name (please print)

Parent Signature

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Grade

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher's Name

# **Oakwood Avenue Community School**



# **"WORKING TOGETHER"**