



**Orange Township Public Schools**  
Oakwood Avenue Community School  
Mr. Dana Gaines, Principal



Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

August 16, 2021

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
- ✓ Fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin
- ✓ Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ✓ Chills
- ✓ Repeated shaking with chills
- ✓ Muscle pain
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Congestion or runny nose
- ✓ 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 sweatpants 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.

**CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:** For information regarding classroom supplies, please visit [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us) 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  
Principal

