



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



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

August 19, 2022



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

Welcome to an exciting start of the 2022-2023 school year at Oakwood Avenue Community School! As we progress throughout the school year 2022-2023, I ask that continue as a school community, where we are partners, jointly dedicated and working together to growing your child socially, emotionally, and intellectually. This mutual support system will be paramount as we continue to move from “Good to Great”.

**Return to School Dates for Students:** Please be reminded that students report for the first day of school on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022**. This school year will be filled with new and continued opportunities to stretch your child’s imagination, innovation, and creativity. We have a dedicated staff of new and returning teachers and staff who are committed and steadfast to providing a great school experience at Oakwood!

**Mask Mandate Update:** Effective Tuesday, July 5, 2022, the mask mandate moved to an optional status for our district school and administrative buildings. Throughout the summer, I viewed staff and students wearing their masks, and this is completely fine. If there is an uptick in cases within the school district, I will reserve the option to return to mandatory masks for an unspecified period. Please continue to remain safe as we are embarking on a school year that will filled with greatness for students and staff. As a district, we will continue with COVID testing. This of course is optional, but we felt the success we had with the program and deem it necessary at this moment to continue the initiative.

**Oakwood Back to School Night (BTSN):** Please save the date and join us at Oakwood Avenue Community School on September 26, 2022, at 6:00 PM. Back to School Night is the time for parents and students to check out the school and classrooms, meet teachers and staff, and find out what is in store for the upcoming school year.

Please see the information below regarding school procedures:

**SCHOOL YEAR ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIMES FOR STUDENTS**

School Level	Arrival Time for Students	End Time for Students
<b>OAKWOOD AVENUE SCHOOL and all Elementary Level (including Pre-Kindergarten)</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>

**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.
- Breakfast in the classroom will take place this school year.

- Students should arrive to school prior to the 8:30 a.m. to assure on time arrival to school. 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 8:30 a.m.
- All students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m.
- Please arrive on time to pick up your child. On-time pick up is essential to a positive and productive home-school partnership.
- 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 onto the blacktop from the side entrance (near the ramp) 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 (near the gym) onto the blacktop 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 will be distributing hardcopy student schedules on Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Oakwood Avenue School. You can also access your child's student schedule online through the 'Parent Portal'.

## **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES**

For information regarding classroom supplies, please visit [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us) and select 'Our District' and then 'Our Schools' and 'Oakwood Avenue Community School' to access the school website for a list of classroom supplies and other important school information and news.

## **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 14, 2022. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 2022-2023.

## **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:**

- **Academic Support – Grades TBD in the Month of September**  
October 18, 2022 - May 18, 2023 (Tuesday - Thursday) 3:15PM - 4:15PM
- **School Clubs - Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**  
October 21, 2022 - May 19, 2023 (Fridays ONLY) 3:15PM - 4:15PM

Chess  
Robotics  
Debate  
Geography Bee  
Student Council  
Visual & Performing Arts  
Bridge  
Newspaper

## **CHROMEBOOKS**

Students are to bring their district issued Chromebook to school on a daily basis; fully 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