



Orange Township Public Schools

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



August 15, 2022

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 a intentional and smooth transition as we start SY 2022-2023. Through the last three years, we were able to celebrate successes including but not limited to the strategic partnership with Apple allowing for our district to garner over \$300,000.00 in the effort to promote our computer science track at our secondary school locations, Forest Street Community School becoming a National Beacon Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, Scholarships totaling over 26 million dollars this past school year, the largest amount we have garnered in our school district, and the creation of Moving into Excellence, the five year strategic plan. 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. I want to share that we have created a Year in Review. The district will continue to share our narrative which will give you an outlook of things accomplished this upcoming school year. You can view the Year in Review by visiting the district website at www.orange.k12.nj.us. under latest news and information.

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 2022-2023, 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.

Rosa Parks Community School: New Assistant Principal: Ms. Sandra Guerra

Orange High School: New Assistant Principal: Yoniel Lopez, Ed.D.

Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation: New Assistant Principal: Mr. Michael Dixon

Forest Street Community School: New Assistant Principal: Ms. Shannon Keogh

Cleveland Street/Central Schools: New Assistant Principal: Ms. Daniele Washington

Lincoln Avenue School: New Assistant Principal: Ms. Aimie McKenzie-Smith

Supervisor of ELA Grades 9-12: Ms. Marcey Thomas

To add, the district also wishes to announce coaches appointed that will assist with pedagogy and practice. Additionally, we added a Restorative Justice Position at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation. The following staff members were appointed to those positions:

Restorative Justice Coordinator: Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation: Mr. Tarell Harp

Office of Special Education and Behavioral Intervention: Special Education Coach K-12: Ms. Sharonda Tanner

Office of STEM Focused Learning: Science Coach Grades K-12: Ms. Giannine Facchini

Office of STEM Focused Learning: STEM Coach Grades K-12: Mr. Mohamed Metwally

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 be filled with greatness for students and staff. As a district, we will continue with COVID testing. The testing of course is optional. We felt the success we had with the program and deem it necessary at this moment to continue the initiative.

Return to School Dates for Staff and Students: As a reminder, the first day for staff is Thursday, September 1, 2022. The first day will begin with the Superintendent’s Convocation with other exciting activities planned to bring a dynamic staff back together on one accord. Friday, September 2, 2022, is the school based professional development day. Monday, September 5, 2022, the district will be closed in observance of Labor Day. Tuesday, September 6, 2022, is the last district professional development day for STAFF ONLY prior to students returning on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

The day that we all have been waiting for, September 7, 2022, 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 the Week of August 1st 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.

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 the Week of August 22, 2022.

Superintendent’s Weekly Update: Yes, the Superintendent’s Weekly Update will continue district wide beginning the Week of September 5, 2022. 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 2022-2023

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	8:15 AM	2:50 PM	3:05 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

Please be advised that times are staggered from the previous school year. Thank you for your suggestions accordingly.

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/30018>.

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

To our families, I ask that 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.

The Board of Education is committed to visiting as many locations as possible this school year. As part of this tour, board meetings will be evident at different schools throughout the district. We ask that you mark your calendars and attend:

Month of the Board Meeting	Location
September	Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation (Auditorium)
October	Lincoln Avenue School (Cafeteria)
November	Rosa Parks Community School (Cafeteria)
December	Park Avenue School (Cafeteria)
January	Orange High School (Auxiliary Gymnasium)
February	Oakwood Avenue School (Gymnasium)
March	Forest Street Community School (Gymnasium)
April	Central Elementary School (Auditorium)
May	STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges (Gymnasium)
June	Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation (Auditorium)

Please be advised that all Board Meetings begin for Roll Call at 6:00 PM and will recess to Executive Session to end by 6:45 PM the earliest and no later than 7:30 PM.

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 September 1, 2022, for the Superintendent's Convocation and Special After Convocation LAUNCH to SY 22-23 and students as well as families on September 7, 2022. Staff, another communication about the Convocation is forthcoming under separate cover.

In Partnership,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools