

# Superintendent's Report Orange Public Schools “Good to Great”

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
“The Teaching Superintendent”  
September 11, 2024  
Focus Core Area Numbers 1- 4 District  
Goal Number 1-4 and All Sub Sections



# Summer School Programming

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- From the academic acumen to the social emotional supports, summer programming encompassed the whole child.
- Summer attendance was vital to acquisition of instructional understanding. We expected students to be present and engaged throughout the summer months.
- The district will provide those attending summer programming (academic programs) the end of session progress report to track progress. All summer administrators sent progress report to all schools for planning purposes for September 2024.

# DEPARTMENT & SCHOOL SUCCESSES

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Superintendent of Schools  
“The Teaching Superintendent”  
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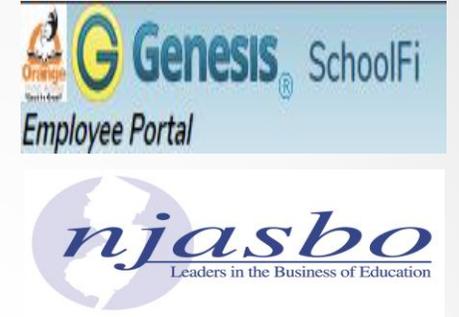
Focus Core Area Numbers 1- 4 District Goal Number 1-4 and All Sub Sections



# Office of the Business Administrator 2024-2025 Successes

## FINANCES

- **School Fi**
  - Financial System
  - Payroll/Personnel System
- **Asset Management System**
- Invited to present at the **NJASBO** Trustees Meeting



## FOOD SERVICES

- Continued the CACFP district wide supper programs. That provides supper meals to students in our district 21 Century program and other extended day program.
- Continued the partnership with the Hillside Community Foodbank. That provides students with meals to take home every Friday for over the weekend.
- Taken over providing of the summer lunch program. In all schools as of this summer 2024. The districts is now a sponsor with the USDA School nutrition services. The district now prepares and provides our district students. With Breakfast and lunch five days a week meals during the summer months.
- The food services department also has implemented the Farm to school program in our district schools. This Program is offered to the district by the Department of Agriculture. A no cost to the district. The district is reimbursed for the cost of providing fresh fruit and vegetable to students to take home to the student's households.
- The food service department has continued to raise the bar. In equipping the district school cafeterias. With upgraded equipment to serve our students hot foods, hot and cold foods cold. A lot of our equipment has been run with a large cost in repair to equipment. With the reimbursement dollars from all the district food service program. It has positioned our district food service program. To purchase new equipment in all district schools.
- Our districts food service now provides 100 % of all meals served to our district student. With the inclusion of the summer lunch program. We no longer have to receive meals from the city recreation department.



# Office of the Business Administrator 2024-2025 Successes

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

1. Implemented Uniflow Secure-Print
2. Alyssa's Law Compliance Initiative
3. CrowdStrike Deployment - Anti-Ransomware and Antivirus Deployment to All computers in District.
4. New District Swipe Stations for School FI attendance procedures.
5. Promethean Board displays Replacing old Smart Board Technology
6. Copier Refresh for Several Canon Copiers
7. Assist with the Technology Portion Of Building Maintenance Systems(Joint Project with Facilities)
8. Migrated HR ID system to Centralize Platform for Personnel ID's
9. Asset management System in place and have begun populating all District Technology Assets in the system with Asset Tags for each device in District. Put in place a asset tagging procedure and a tracking resources for All District Assets

### BOE

1. Wilson Amplifier Cellular Repeater Service

### CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL

1. On Boarding All New Building Technology
2. Ensuring School Building Technology Services are up.
3. Cleveland Street LED Sign

### OPA

1. Auditorium Renovation of Sound and Lighting Systems
2. Adding Vape Sensors Deployment with Meraki Solution
3. Wilson Amplifier Cellular Repeater Services.

### ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

1. Replace new wing Cameras with Meraki solution.
2. Deployed Apple MacBook Pros with Drawing Pad Devices to Art Room Course
3. Architectural Design Course Desktop Deployment
4. Graphic Design Desktop Deployments
5. Vape Sensors From Meraki Solution
6. Wilson Amplifier Cellular Repeater Service
7. Orange High School Apple Application - OHS now has an application in Apple App Store

### STEM

1. Engineering Lab Apple MacBook Pro Deployment
2. Vape Sensor Deployment with Meraki solution.



# Office of the Business Administrator 2024-2025 Successes

## FACILITIES

<p><b><u>CENTRAL</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fence Replacement</li> <li>➤ Intercom Repair</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>FOREST</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Univents</li> <li>➤ Doors</li> <li>➤ Water make Up System</li> <li>➤ Roof Repair</li> <li>➤ Pumps</li> <li>➤ HVAC Work</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>HEYWOOD</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Roof Repair</li> <li>➤ New Boilers</li> <li>➤ Stage Work</li> <li>➤ Flooring</li> <li>➤ Fire Panel Replacement</li> <li>➤ Pumps</li> <li>➤ Intercom Repairs</li> <li>➤ Univent Repair</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>JRLECC</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Compressor</li> <li>➤ New Roof</li> <li>➤ Fencing</li> <li>➤ Intercom</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>LINCOLN</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chiller Repairs</li> <li>➤ LSRP</li> <li>➤ Heat Pump</li> <li>➤ Fence Repair</li> <li>➤ BMS</li> <li>➤ LSRP</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>OAKWOOD</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fence Repair</li> <li>➤ New Boilers</li> <li>➤ Environmental Testing</li> <li>➤ Electrical Upgrade</li> <li>➤ Intercom Repair</li> <li>➤ Plumbing Repairs – Fixture Replacements</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>OECC</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New Roof</li> <li>➤ Nurse's Office</li> <li>➤ Flooring</li> <li>➤ Heating, Blower, Coil Repairs</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>OHS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chiller Work</li> <li>➤ Cosmetology Culinary</li> <li>➤ Grease Traps</li> <li>➤ Pumps</li> <li>➤ Electrical Upgrades</li> <li>➤ Gym</li> <li>➤ BMS System</li> <li>➤ Recycling</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>OPAI</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Locker Replacements – 1st and 2nd Floor</li> <li>➤ RTU</li> <li>➤ Storm Drains</li> <li>➤ Café Door</li> <li>➤ New Kitchen</li> <li>➤ Electrical Upgrades</li> <li>➤ Intercom</li> <li>➤ Rekey</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>PARK AVE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Roof Repair</li> <li>➤ Chiller Replacements</li> <li>➤ Pumps</li> <li>➤ Intercom Repair</li> <li>➤ Backflow</li> <li>➤ Door Repair</li> <li>➤ BMS</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>ROSA PARKS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ AHU</li> <li>➤ New Chillers</li> <li>➤ Regulator</li> <li>➤ Heat Pump</li> <li>➤ Fence Repair</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>STEM</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Roof Repair</li> <li>➤ HVAC Services</li> <li>➤ Chemistry lab</li> <li>➤ Electrical repairs</li> <li>➤ Kitchen Renovation</li> <li>➤ New Boiler</li> <li>➤ Fixtures</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>SCHOLARS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Playground Repair</li> </ul>			

National Association for the Education of Young Children's  
National Conference & Bank Street PD

WELCOME!

Early Childhood Education

Office of  
Early  
Learning  
2024-2025  
Successes



We were so proud to have two preschool staff members (Shardea Brown and Nicole O'Donnell) present at the **National Association for the Education of Young Children's National Conference** in Tennessee. Their topic was Process over Product – the session was informative, fun, and hands-on. As you can see, there was standing room only! Way to go Orange Preschool Team!



We were so proud of the block makeovers in our first-grade classrooms. With the help from our **Bank Street Partners**, we were able to provide makeovers in all our elementary schools. We encouraged students to join the makeovers as we explained the rules and cleanup process...they were extremely helpful and did an excellent job explaining block play to their peers. After the makeovers, the children were able to explore, create, and imagine all on their own.



# Office of Humanities 2024-2025 Successes

## NJGPA GRADUATION READY

- Shout out to the team of Mr. Belton, Ms. Madariaga, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Denis and the 11th grade team of English teachers that moved the high school NJGPA scores for Orange High up to 70% passing form 57% from the previous year; 13% INCREASE!

## THE RETURN OF ALL CITY!!

- Shout out to Mr. Clerie and the entire Visual and Performing Arts Department for the successful execution of All City with special thanks to Ms. Bogle, Ms. Politi, Ms. Guerriero, Ms. Keshner, Mr. Seidel, Mr. Etienne, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Abazia, Ms. Neale-Scott, Mr. Lockhart, Ms. Gu, Ms. Haynes, Mr. Carrias, Mr. Hayden, Ms. Barrow, Ms. Hall, and M





# Office of Innovation and Community Engagement 2024-2025 Successes



## ➤ YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT OHS

The Young Women's Leadership Summit at Orange High School occurred on Thursday, January 11th. The program's theme, "Grounded and Grinding" was exemplified in each of the women in attendance, through the activities designed, keynote address, and panel discussions. This summit was attended by over 120 high school females, grades 9 - 11, and all left with a greater sense of empowerment and purpose.



## ➤ BOYS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT OHS

Orange High School hosted the Young Men's Leadership Summit for 100 high school students on Thursday, January 25, 2024. The event aimed to inspire and guide young male students towards leadership and success. The theme for this year's summit was "A Product of My Environment," reflecting the importance of understanding the impact of surroundings to lead to personal growth.



# Office of Innovation and Community Engagement 2024-2025 Successes



- **OHS NAVAL JROTC**  
becoming a funded ROTC  
program via the U.S. Navy.

- **INAUGURAL  
DOC FILMBOOT**  
student-created  
documentaries being  
screened at a 150-seat  
theater at SOPAC.





# Office of Innovation and Community Engagement 2024-2025 Successes



## HOMECOMING READY MOVIE SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION AT OPA (HBCU AWARENESS)

Students from OPA II and STEM Academy gathered in the newly renovated OPA II auditorium for a movie screening of the film "Homecoming Ready." After the first film, there was a brief question and answer session, followed by the second film and a panel discussion.

- Moderator: Faith Alcantara, Executive Director of the Office of Innovation and Community Engagement
- Bill Parish, film producer, and graduate of Hampton University
- Ms. Myrcele Neal-Scott, OHS Band Director, and graduate of Florida A&M University
- Mr. Tarrell Harp, OPA II Restorative Justice Coordinator, and graduate of Morehouse College
- Mrs. Felecia Williams-Ware, Supervisor of Guidance, and graduate of Morgan State University
- Ms. Annesa Archibald, alumna of STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges, and current student of Florida A&M University
- Mr. Gelen Simeon, alumnus of Orange High School, and current student of Lincoln



**Office of  
 Special Services  
 &  
 Behavioral  
 Intervention  
 2024-2025  
 Successes**

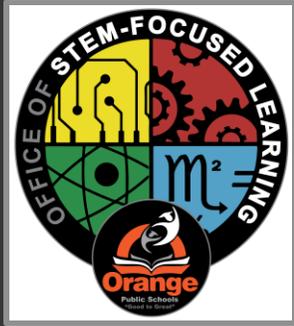
**SEMI PROGRAM**

Through hard work and collaboration with the SEMI Coordinator and the Child Study Team, the district took a deep drive in the revamping of the SEMI program. As a result, the district exceeded the 2023-2024 State benchmarks. These additional funds are utilized to meet the needs of our students, which allows us to expand our Handle with Care Training.



**SEMI BENCHMARK**

School Year	2023-2024	2024-2025
<i>Benchmark</i>	\$181,237.19	\$203,062.18
<i>Achieved</i>	\$254,557.74	



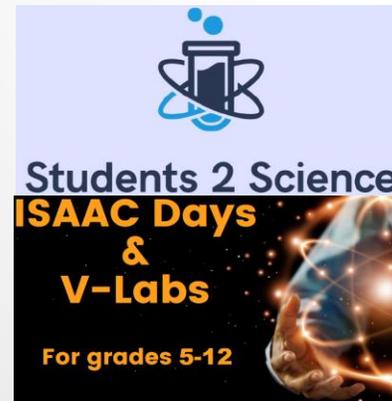
# Office of STEM-Focused Learning 2023-2024 Successes

## Science

Implementation of  
Nationally-normed  
Diagnostic Assessments



Expanded Opportunities  
for Onsite Lab Work  
Through S2S

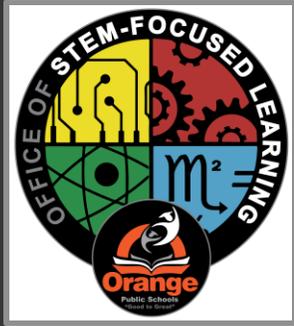


District-wide Solar Eclipse Events



Revised and NJSLA-Aligned  
Unit Assessments





# Office of STEM-Focused Learning 2023-2024 Successes

## STEM

Launch of the Architecture and Design Program at OHS



Expanded Enrollment in NJIT's Summer Early College Preparatory Programs



Center for Pre-College Programs

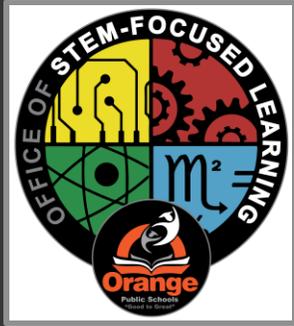
Revitalization of RWC Partnership with NJIT



Both High Schools Competed  
Result: First Place for Stiffest Bridge



High School Division



## Office of STEM- Focused Learning 2023-2024 Successes

# Mathematics

Grade 6 NJSLA ↑ 4.2% Grade 3 NJSLA ↑ 5.4%

Grade 7 NJSLA ↑ 3.2%

Grade 4 NJSLA ↑ 2.5%

**District NJSLA ↑ 4.5%**

Algebra 1 NJSLA ↑ 11.2%

Geometry NJSLA ↑ 6.3%

**Highest Algebra 1 NJSLA  
Results in District History!**

**District NJGPA ↑ 9.6%**

STEM NJGPA ↑ 2.7%

OHS NJGPA ↑ 7.0%



# Central Elementary School 2024-2025 Successes

## FIRST ANNUAL CAREER DAY EVENT

On April 18, Central Elementary School hosted their **First Annual Career Day** event. Various career professionals came and shared their valuable insights and experiences to inspire the students. The visiting professionals showed great enthusiasm and dedication to helping our students find different paths to success. Their commitment to education and community engagement left a lasting impact on our students, fostering a deep sense of curiosity and igniting powerful aspirations. Mrs. Murray, second grade teacher and her committee did a fabulous job organizing this event.





# Central Avenue School 2024-2025 Successes

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAFETY PATROLS

On March 25th, Central Elementary School celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Safety Patrols, under the advisership of Denise Parrish, school safety officer. The celebration included collaboration with four other district schools. Through the safety patrol program our students are taught to be good citizens and teach school safety to their peers. They serve as role models for younger children, who look up to them. Thank you to Dr. Fitzhugh, OHS ROTC, Mayor Warren, OPD and Mr. Armstrong for their support of this program.





# Cleveland Street School 2024-2025 Successes

During the 2023-2024 school year, our students at Cleveland had the opportunity to engage in several enriching field trips/activities that brought the "joy of learning" to life. These experiences not only enhanced their educational journey but also provided exposure to new environments and learning opportunities outside the classroom.

- **VISIT TO DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY (HBCU):**

A group of our students had the privilege to visit Delaware State University, one of the nation's esteemed Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). This trip offered them a glimpse into the vibrant campus life, rich history, and academic opportunities available at an HBCU, inspiring many to consider the possibilities for their future education.

- **EXPLORATION AT LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER:**

Another highlight of the year was our visit to the Liberty Science Center. Here, students immersed themselves in interactive exhibits and hands-on learning experiences that made science both exciting and accessible. From exploring cutting-edge technology to understanding the natural world, the trip sparked curiosity and deepened their understanding of various scientific concepts.

- **50 YEARS OF HIP HOP EXPERIENCE:**

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop, students participated in an exciting event where they learned about the history and cultural significance of Hip Hop. They engaged in various activities, including performing, reading, and creative expression, that celebrated the rich legacy of Hip Hop. This experience not only educated students about the genre's impact on music and culture but also allowed them to express themselves through the art form.





# Forest Street Community School 2024-2025 Successes

## NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

In March 2024, Forest Street Community School launched its very own chapter of the National Junior Honor Society and celebrated their first induction ceremony. National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students. A total of nine (9) students were inducted during an evening ceremony, in front of parents, teachers, peers, and the community. The inductees were:

- Eno Appiah
- Ana Julissa Pagan
- Jacob Serrano - President
- Amelia Bamisaye
- Carter Ellerby - Vice President
- Rafael Fajardo
- Mikel Gordon
- Thiago Morais
- Benjamin Vargas Espino



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

**Forest Welcomes NJHS Inductees**

More than just an honor roll, the National Junior Honor Society serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a middle school student. Our chapter is committed to working hard to bring the accomplishments of outstanding students to the attention of parents, teachers, peers, and the community.



# Forest Street Community School 2024-2025 Successes

## TENNIS TOURNAMENT

On June 1st, Forest Street Community School participated in the district Tennis Tournament. Under the leadership of Mr. Jacob Warta and Mr. Marc Grillo, our scholar athletes proved that their hard work and dedication paid off. Forest students placed in all competitions.

Paola Chuqui Alvarez	1st Place (4th/5th Grade Category)
Mason McKay	2nd Place (4th/5th Grade Category)
Luna Sanchez	4th Place (4th/5th Grade Category)
Jaylah Campbell	3rd Place (6th/7th Grade Category)
Amelia Bamisaye	4th Place (6th/7th Grade Category)



## LUMINARY LABS

Forest Street Community School 7th Grade students explored cryptography and cyber security, under the direction of technology teacher, Ms. Bridget Florczak and NJIT pros from Luminary Labs. This interactive workshop sparked interest with many of our girls as they expressed their desire to learn more!





# Forest Street Community School 2024-2025 Successes

## PASSION DRIVEN SCHOOL

On June 10, 2024, Forest Street Community School was designated a Passion Driven School. Over the course of two years, Forest has made intentional self-care a priority for the adults in their school. Our teachers have also taken a proactive approach to discipline utilizing restorative practices.



## READING TREASURES

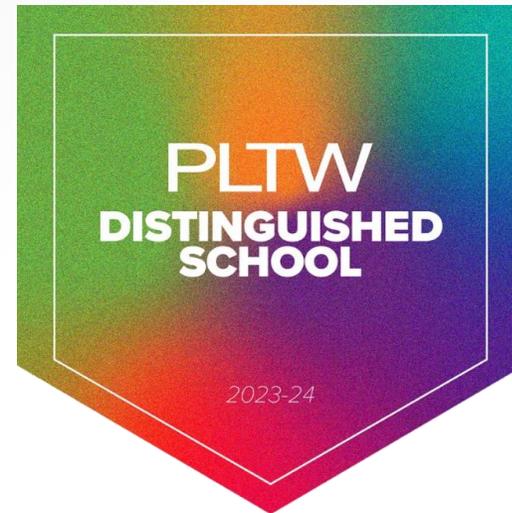
Forest Street Community School piloted the Reading Treasures program for our Kindergarten through 2nd Grade students. Each student received a backpack of “Just Right Decodable Books” selected just for them as per their phonemic needs identified by Acadience. Our students were so excited about receiving their individual books. New sets of books were delivered to our building every 3 weeks. Students participated in Buddy Reads with their peers and students on higher grade levels to enhance their confidence and improve their literacy skills.





**Heywood  
Avenue  
School  
2024-2025  
Successes**

**PROJECT LEAD THE WAY DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOOL 2023-2024**



**DIGITAL MARQUEE**

**Community Engagement: As part of this initiative, the school purchased a digital marquee to share messages about the school to the Heywood Avenue School Community.**

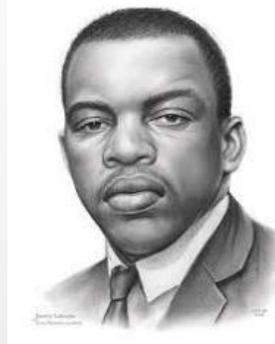
**The marquee has been a positive addition to the school community.**



# John Robert Lewis Early Childhood Center 2024-2025 Successes

## SUCCESSSES

- Chronic Absenteeism decreased by 11% from the '22-'23 school year.
- 97.5% (79/81 students) of the PreK 3 and 4 children mastered their targeted tier score in the Social Emotional Learning category.
- JRLECC Instructional Coach, Shardea Brown, and PreK Teacher, Nicole O'Donnell, presented a workshop titled "Process over Product: Documenting Art in Meaningful Ways to Enhance Learning" at the annual NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) conference in Nashville, Tennessee.





# Lincoln Avenue School 2024-2025 Successes

## Stock Market Game Winners & Dojo Store

The winning team from Ms. Dover's students was "Earth's Fashion". The students are Janaye MM., Jayden M. Julian F., and Alexander PS. Their team turned the initial \$100,000 into \$139,144.64.

The winning team from Ms. Roberts's students was "Machine Boys". The students are Alex MR., Austin P., Mike AA., and Ethan A. Their team turned the initial \$100,000 into \$175,810.41.

In addition, "Machine Boys" from Ms. Roberts's class was the overall District Winning Team! Their \$75K+ profit was the highest of all 74 teams in the competition!

The Dojo store is part of our behavior management program where students earn points for positive behaviors that they can use to purchase items from the store. This was a great success, and we plan to continue for the 24-25 school year.





# Oakwood Avenue Community School 2024-2025 Successes

## THE OAKWOOD AVENUE SCHOOL GARDEN

Oakwood Avenue Community School 6th and 7th Grade Science teacher, Dr. Joya Clark, teaches her students hands-on learning and collaborative interaction in the classroom and how those skills apply to real world community applications. The Oakwood Avenue School garden has become a hub of activity and learning as students learn the intricacies and science of maintaining a garden, from planting to harvest. Expanding on the work in the Science classroom, Oakwood students learn about biology, ecology, and sustainability through their work in the garden. The experiences of interacting in this living classroom has fostered curiosity, ingenuity, and a meaningful interest in a STEM education. Fly Oakwood Eagles, Fly!





# Orange Early Childhood Center 2024-2025 Successes



## SUCCESSSES

- We met and/or exceeded all of our performance goals for our ASP
- All Early Childhood Administrators and Teachers are deeply engaged in learning and implementing the new PreK Creative Curriculum
- With our attendance matters campaign, attendance improved at OECC throughout SY 23-24



# Orange High School 2024-2025 Successes



Mr. Santiago's students attended a hands on lab of gel DNA electrophoresis which is one of the required skills needed for modern medicine and technology. This lab allowed students to get practical hands- on experience of advanced lab skills. This was a pivotal moment for them as it gave them a glimpse into many science careers that are available for them.



We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of our AP teachers at Orange High School. Ms. Anto (AP Spanish Language & Culture), Ms. Lemke (AP World History & US History), and Mr. Worthington (AP English Literature) have led their students to an impressive average score greater than 3 on their AP exams. Their dedication and expertise exemplify the high standards we uphold at our school. Congratulations to these outstanding educators!



We are thrilled to announce that our very own science teacher, Ms. KeelHuff, has been awarded the prestigious Princeton Prize for Distinguished Secondary School Teaching. Ms. Keel-Huff was honored at Princeton University's 2024



The Orange tornadoes faced off against 13 schools and took 1st place in the *Stiffest Bridge* structural category, with their bridge modeled bridge using CAD software holding over 190 lbs.





# Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry & Innovation 2024-2025 Successes

## Opportunity 1: Building Teacher Capacity

While OPA of I&I has experienced an enormous amount of success during the 2023-2024 school year, what we want to highlight the most is being a Verizon Innovative Learning School. We are proud of our growth in these two areas and will continue to build upon these successes during the 24-25 school year.

At least 50% of our teachers have grown one or more levels on the TIMS Matrix. This was accomplished through, our weekly Common Planning Time to model best practices and ed-tech tools, while also checking in on the teachers to determine if additional support is needed. The Teacher Leader Corp is also leveraged to provide support to teachers during these meetings and to clarify VILS expectations if needed.

Our first cohort of the **Teacher Leader Corp** met for the first time on Dec 11th to review the purpose of the team and set goals for the school year. Our Teacher Leaders were recommended by the Principal and the VILS Coach, and all members were willing to participate.

**Goal # 1** - Prepare your class for a Pineapple Visit. Show digital collaboration or any other important elements that are important to have in place for student collaboration.

**Goal # 2** - Support your PLC by providing Professional Development on tools or strategies that are needed to the c



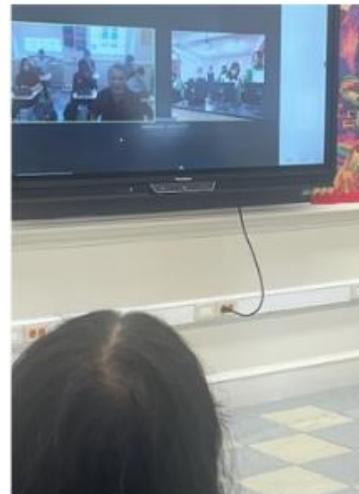


# Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry & Innovation 2024-2025 Successes

## Opportunity 2: Digital Collaboration

Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation teachers have been learning on the Digital Collaboration track. This pathway has significantly enhanced our students' communication and collaboration, and some teachers are being pushed to think outside the box while being more creative in providing student choice. The result has been increased student engagement and more confident students.

One such example occurred in Mr. Freddy Camarena's Spanish class. He facilitated a partnership between his students and students in Peru. The classes met over Zoom to participate in an online competition, which allowed them to practice and assess the language they were learning. Prior to the call, the students had an opportunity to introduce themselves using Flip and ask their assigned partner a question. The partners then responded to them in the language they were learning.





# Park Avenue School 2024-2025 Successes

## Orange Public Schools 2024 Geography Bee

Park Avenue was a co-champion in the Orange Public Schools 2024 Geography Bee. Our team of all seventh graders and one sixth grader spent weeks reviewing geography and were strong contenders against all



### All Autism Classes Park Avenue began utilizing iPads

All autism classes Park Avenue began utilizing iPads as assistive communication devices to better support our student's needs.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

# Read Across America Celebrations

### Spirit Week

To celebrate Read Across America, staff and students were excited to participate in our spirit week. Staff and students enjoyed dressing up in their favorite characters.



### Reading Buddies, Friday March 1st, 2024

Our 7th Grade students had an opportunity to visit Central Elementary and John Robert Lewis Early Childhood Center. Our students were able to read to several classes in English and in Spanish.

Rosa Parks  
Community  
School  
2024-2025  
Successes





# Rosa Parks Community School 2024-2025 Successes

## STEM DAY 2024



ROSA PARKS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**S** **T** **E** **M** **DAY**  
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024**

RPCS Gymnasium  
9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Presented by the  
**RPCS STEM TEACHERS**

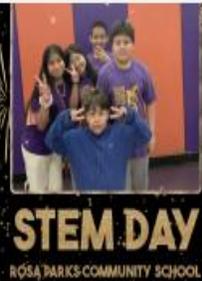
"Leave Your Mark!"

**STEM Day was a HUGE SUCCESS!** ALL the students at RPCS had a meaningful and enjoyable experience as they participated in the different stations. All stations were lead by our Math and Science teachers with the support of student helpers from grades 3-7. .



Here is a little video clip highlighting all of the stations and activities:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14mH55JjYA6xxvCAuGsMIKN5b90K4VIWj/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14mH55JjYA6xxvCAuGsMIKN5b90K4VIWj/view?usp=drive_link)





# Scholars Academy 2024-2025 Successes

## SUCCESS #1:

Under the leadership and planning of Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS),

Mrs. Maria Adame, Scholars Academy's gym was turned into Safety Town with the community partnership from University Hospital.

Students were able to cross the street properly, meet with the Orange Fire Department, review bicycle safety, fire safety rules, review safe water activities, and take a mini train ride too!



PIC•COLLAGE



# Scholars Academy 2024-2025 Successes

## SUCCESS #2:

The 2nd grade classes in the gifted education program spent numerous weeks and research under the guidance of Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Worthington, to open up Scholars Academy's STEM Heroes Wax Museum: Where Heroes Come to Life in which families and district personnel were able to see the students dressed up in character and learn about the various STEM heroes who have made an impact in our world today!

Parents were also able to experience the VR headsets in the NASA space station!





**STEM**  
**Innovation**  
**Academy of**  
**the Oranges**  
**2024-2025**  
**Successes**

**RANKED**  
**#13**  
**IN NEW JERSEY**

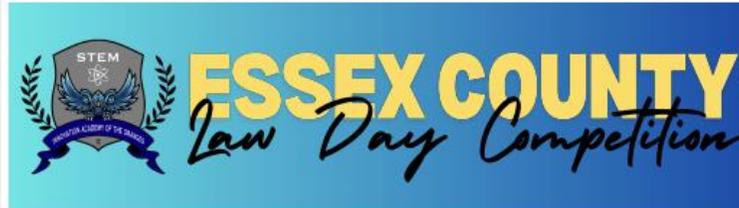
**#WE RISE TOGETHER**

**BEST**  
**HIGH SCHOOLS**  
**U.S. News & WORLD REPORT**  
**NATIONAL**  
**2024**

**& TOP 5% IN THE NATION!**



# Innovation Academy of the Oranges 2024-2025 Successes



On Friday, May 3, 2024, the Annual Law Day Student Awards Ceremony honored the achievements of STEM Scholars. **Makiah Haynes** secured the first position for her exceptional poetry submission. Additionally, **Carolina De La Roca** and **Jayden Moinvil** received Honorable Mentions for their remarkable artwork.





# Twilight Program 2024-2025 Successes

## ANNUAL SCHOOL TWI-LIGHTS

- In the 2023-2024 academic year, we Introduced the Ice cream social as an opportunity for both staff and students to launch the school year.
- Whole School Salsa dance lesson hosted virtually from Puerto Rico with dance Instructor (relative of World Language staff member).
- MOU Mondays were dedicated to the completion, review and revision of student memorandum of understanding.
- We held regular navigation meetings which helped care advisors meet the needs of our students.
- “In-Class Care” continued to provide students with the additional support they need but are hesitant to ask for.
- In order to prevent persistent failure due to missed assignments and assessments, fluid Fridays allowed students to work diligently, in this self-paced day of instruction, to "go green" (fill the gaps between teacher expectations and student performance) ALL students were expected to end each quarter with a grade of 80 or better. It demonstrated their ability to show self-discipline and display independent learning while abandoning unproductive behaviors.
- Art Exhibits: Under the guidance of Ms. Alexander, Twilight hosted Its very first (and second) art shows. These events showcased the focus and efforts of our students; especially If they were not passionate about the arts.
- Compass Night did not disappoint. There were representatives from community colleges, four-year colleges, armed services, vocational and the department of labor for Essex County.
- The Trimester Extension returned specifically to support Orange High School Seniors who had attendance failures or required recovery for a course that would have otherwise been taken in summer school.
- The Twilight U Tattletale is a Monthly common climate document that shows student attendance, movement, challenges, needs throughout the evening.

# Graduation Rates

SY 2021-2022

SY 2022-2023

SY 2023-2024

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Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

# Graduation Rate Comparison

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- **Class of 2022**
- **STEM (97.8%)**
- **OHS (77.1%)**
- **District (79.8%)**

# Graduation Rate Comparison

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- **Class of 2023**
- **STEM (100%)**
- **OHS (88.4%)**
- **District (90%)**

# Graduation Rate Comparison

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- **Class of 2024**
- **STEM 100%**
- **OHS 88.3%**
- **District 94.1%**

**Last year, we were at 90% now; 2024; we are at 94.1% we are almost at 100%.....**

# School Began on September 6, 2024

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	8:20 AM	2:50 PM	2:55 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

# Important Information as we move to open on September 6, 2024

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- **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.
- **Superintendent's Weekly Update:** Yes, the Superintendent's Weekly Update will continue district wide beginning the Week of September 9, 2024. 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.
- **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.

# Important Information as we move to open on September 6, 2024

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- The following link is for the District Goals:

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.orange.k12.nj.us%2fPage%2f29953&c=E,1,SjAcG1hBsVvmshuMNmercy8sPpTlCSjJeJEhma0rV3KlfxLAmFrqFvjyqEdJRpq\\_oln-Mhwe1xii1F4mhZfCnIGNQuiMo9xhPmICu3d\\_oi6BNq7GlZM,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.orange.k12.nj.us%2fPage%2f29953&c=E,1,SjAcG1hBsVvmshuMNmercy8sPpTlCSjJeJEhma0rV3KlfxLAmFrqFvjyqEdJRpq_oln-Mhwe1xii1F4mhZfCnIGNQuiMo9xhPmICu3d_oi6BNq7GlZM,&typo=1)

- The following link is for the Strategic Plan:

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.orange.k12.nj.us%2fPage%2f29953&c=E,1,SjAcG1hBsVvmshuMNmercy8sPpTlCSjJeJEhma0rV3KlfxLAmFrqFvjyqEdJRpq\\_oln-Mhwe1xii1F4mhZfCnIGNQuiMo9xhPmICu3d\\_oi6BNq7GlZM,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.orange.k12.nj.us%2fPage%2f29953&c=E,1,SjAcG1hBsVvmshuMNmercy8sPpTlCSjJeJEhma0rV3KlfxLAmFrqFvjyqEdJRpq_oln-Mhwe1xii1F4mhZfCnIGNQuiMo9xhPmICu3d_oi6BNq7GlZM,&typo=1)

# Back to School Nights Announced: July 2024

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- **Back to School Nights (BTSN) Announced:** All Back to School Nights were announced in the month of July 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](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us). under latest news and announcements to view the calendar of BTSN programs district wide. The next slide will provide you with all dates. This information was posted on the district website as well as our social media handles.

Back to

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School  
Nights  
September-  
October 2024

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Date for Back to School Night</b>
Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation	Thursday, September 19, 2024
Rosa Parks Community School	Monday September 23, 2024
Scholars Academy	Thursday, September 26, 2024
John Robert Lewis ECC	Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Orange Early Childhood Center	Wednesday September 25, 2024
Central Elementary School	Thursday, September 12, 2024
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges	Wednesday, September 11, 2024
Heywood Avenue School	Monday, September 30, 2024
Park Avenue School	Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Twilight Program	Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Lincoln Elementary School	Wednesday, September 18, 2024
Oakwood Avenue Elementary School	Monday, September 16, 2024
Cleveland Street School	Tuesday, October 1, 2024

# Strategic Plan Core Focus Areas

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

September 11, 2024

All District Goals and Sub  
Sections

All Core Focus Areas of the Orange Strategic Plan



# Core Focus Area One

## Core Focus Area One: Strong Home-School Community Connection

Establish and communicate a shared vision for family-school engagement by a committee of stakeholders, led by the Superintendent of Schools.

Revise the framework for parent, family, and community engagement in order to increase student and family connectivity to community resources, programs, services, and partnerships.

Ensure that meaningful communication with families and community members is readily available and easily accessible.

Integrate ongoing and meaningful input from parents and stakeholders into planning and decision-making,

Increase capacity across the district through the implementation of research-based strategies to engage families and communities in education and develop successful parent-family-community partnerships.

Continue to establish community and business partnerships to strengthen student work-based and out of school learning experiences.

# Core Focus Area Two

## Core Focus Area Two: Student Universal Supports

Develop a district wide universal learning supports system that addresses barriers to learning and teaching and eliminates the predictability of outcomes for all students based on race, gender, socio-economic status, learning modality, language, or sexual orientation

Conduct a comprehensive assessment (program evaluation) to develop a district-wide universal learning supports plan and select relevant programs, interventions, and tiered supports match the unique needs of each school and student.

Build capacity to collaborate with existing providers and recruit new partners, strategically bringing additional resources into the school that builds capacity without duplicating efforts.

Develop a system for ongoing data tracking and evaluation to ensure high-quality implementation and continuous improvement of student learning supports.

Work together with parents, caregivers, and community partners to help schools meet the needs of the whole child.

# Core Focus Area Three

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## **Core Focus Area Three: Human Capital and Job-Embedded Professional Development**



Establish a model to recruit, support, and develop newly hired teachers and staff through coaching, peer collaboration, fellowships, and residencies, and mentorship.



Establish an effective leadership development framework that strengthens and aligns support for school leaders to serve as instructional leaders.



Implement job-embedded professional development that provides differentiated support and learning opportunities for instructional staff, creates leadership opportunities for teachers and coaches, and affords incentives for continuous learning.



Allocate the resources and staffing necessary to ensure that special learners and ELL students receive mandated services and programs to meet their learning needs.



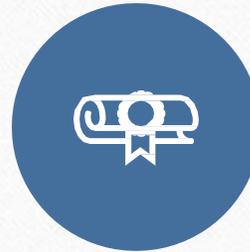
Adopt a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI Framework) that supports the development and retention of a diverse workforce and addresses systemic inequities.

# Core Focus Area Four

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## Core Focus Area Four: Rigorous and Relevant Curricula and Instruction



Continue to identify, develop, and implement inclusive, evidence-based, and college and career ready standards-aligned pre-k through grade 12 instructional materials and curricula for all learners and subgroups, and across all disciplines.



Advance the use and management of a multi-faceted district-wide assessment system that is aligned to curricula, integrates multiple measures, and allows accessibility and modifications, and that acts as a continuous thread of instructional practice.



Continue to identify, develop, and leverage digital design formats and capabilities that can support learning in in-person, remotely, or in hybrid formats, enabling improved continuous access to and engagement with instructional content.

# Core Focus Area Four

## **Core Focus Area Four: Rigorous and Relevant Curricula and Instruction**

Coordinate efforts with state agencies and community partners to establish a strong Early Childhood/Pre-K 3 continuum that prepares students for elementary schools and generates enthusiasm for learning.

Build out career-centered programs that specialize in the skilled trades, applied sciences, modern technologies, and career oriented courses, and opportunities for students to gain work experience through internships, job shadowing, on the job training, and industry certification opportunities.

Research, identify, and integrate evidence-based pre-k through grade 12 social-emotional learning (SEL) aligned resources and practices throughout curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development rating.

# COMMUNITY

## DISTRICT

### SCHOOL

#### STUDENTS

STATE  
POLICIES

SOCIAL SERVICES

BUSINESS &  
INDUSTRY

FEDERAL  
POLICIES

FAMILIES

RESOURCES

SYSTEMS

FAMILIES

HIGHER  
EDUCATION

LOCAL  
COMMUNITY

RELATIONSHIPS

PRINCIPALS  
TEACHERS  
STAFF

DISTRICT  
POLICIES

TRANSPORTATION

CULTURE &  
CLIMATE

AFTER  
SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS

SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT  
DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

CURRICULUM

ELECTED  
OFFICIALS

MUNICIPAL  
SERVICES

LOCAL POLITICS

COMMUNITY  
BASED  
ORGANIZATIONS



# Facilities Committee Meeting

PRESENTED BY: MR. EDWIN VASQUEZ  
MANAGER OF FACILITIES AND  
GROUNDS

FOCUS CORE AREA NUMBER 1-4  
DISTRICT GOAL NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024



## District Facility Maintenance & Custodial Services Updates

- ▶ **Thorough cleaning and disinfecting occurs daily for all of our touch points in the building (examples include but are not limited to door handles, bathrooms, entrances, exits, and handrails)**
- ▶ **Walk-throughs of all district school facilities**
- ▶ **Meetings between the District and PCI are held regularly based on updates related to COVID-19 mandates and expectations**
- ▶ **Facility projects continue so we can ensure a safe and clean learning environment for our children and staff.**

# Update on 2024 Summer Facility Projects

Heywood Avenue School – the replacement of one of the boilers was completed and we passed inspection.

Rosa Parks Community School – the chiller replacement was completed

Park Avenue School – the chiller replacement and roof repairs were completed.

Oakwood Avenue Community School – uninvent replacement was completed

Orange High School – Room 113 is undergoing renovation to become a state-of-the-art cosmology room is 90% completed.

Orange High School - The renovation upgrade to our culinary room has begun 90% completed

Orange Early Childhood Center – roof replacement 90% completed waiting on the flashing and new gutters to be installed.

# Update on 2024 Summer Facility Projects

John Robert Lewis: roof replacement 90% completed waiting on the flashing and new gutters to be installed.

Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation: new lockers were installed on the first and second floor.

Orange Public Schools: painting of the school building were completed , which included all stairwells, restrooms, hallways, and classrooms scheduled for painting this year.

Cleveland Street School: We are officially moved into Cleveland STREET SCHOOL!!!!!!

# Facilities Projects

- ▶ The next few slide will show the some of the work we were able to accomplish this Summer



# Rosa Parks Chiller replacement



# Park Ave School Roof Repair



# Park Ave School Chiller Replacement



Orange Preparatory of Inquiry and Innovation New Lockoer



# Orange High School Cosmology Room

# In the Month of September 2024

- ▶ The team and I, under the direction of Mr. Ballard, will continue to meet with the Schools Development Authority and Terminal Construction to make sure that there is progress related to the Construction at the Orange High School Punch-list items and the Cleveland Street School Project.

# Reminder from the Office of Facilities

We will continue to update the community, staff, and Board of Education members of all progress.



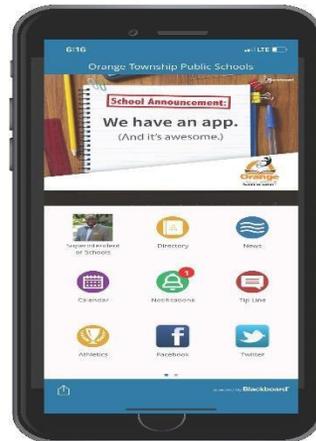
The health and safety of staff and students are at the apex of all facilities undertakings.

Reminder: The Orange App  
Have you signed up?  
You know I am sending blasts out for folks to sign up...Stay Tuned

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### Announcing the NEW Orange Public Schools Mobile App!



Designed specifically to keep you better informed, in REAL time!

Available for Apple and Android devices.

The app is **FREE** and available for **download today. You are encouraged to sign up.**

Download the new app in 3 easy steps:

1. On your smartphone, go to the iTunes App Store® or Google Play®
2. Search **Orange Public Schools**
3. Then select our **Orange Public Schools** app for free download

School news in the palm of your hand, your new Orange Public Schools mobile app is just a few taps away.



**Download it today!**

# Orange Public Schools Social Media

## Social Media Hashtags:

#GoodtoGreat

#MovingintoGreatness

#OrangeStrong

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