



Orange Township Public Schools

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



June 30, 2020

Good Day Families and Staff,

The health, safety, and well-being of our school community are the top priorities of the Board of Education, administration, faculty, and staff within the Orange Township Public School District. The district has policies in place to address the well-being of all students and staff. Policy 8451 addresses the Control of Communicable Disease. As a district, we have been monitoring the alerts from the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control.

On Friday, June 26, 2020, Governor Murphy announced that school will reopen in September, keeping in mind health precautions to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Two weeks prior to the announcement, I began scripting possible scenarios that related to the return to school. As you know, many scenarios have to be strategically thought out. With that being said, the Return to School Plan will incorporate the voices of staff, Board of Education Members, health officials, and families. These representatives will evaluate the state guidelines and requirements released by Governor Murphy in order to provide input and recommendations into the district's reopening plan. As stated by Governor Murphy, "there is no one-size fits all approach to suit the unique challenges faced by each school district across the state."

The Reopening of School Committee will look into the following areas:

- 1) Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- 2) Curriculum Programs
- 3) Health and Safety
- 4) Technology
- 5) Funding
- 6) Athletics, Co-Curricular as well as Before and After School Programs
- 7) Facilities and Operations
- 8) Required Student Transportation

In the next few days, I will launch a Google Sheet inviting stakeholders to volunteer to sit on the Reopening of School Committee. It is important to note, that these meetings will be virtual in order to ensure the health and safety of all participants. There will be a series of discussions regarding the eight indicators above. Remember, we cannot do it without stakeholder support and buy in. Please mark your calendars accordingly: these virtual meetings will take place beginning July 9th. It is important to note that while each district's plan will look different due to a variety of variables, it is certain that all plans will need to strike a balance between onsite traditional learning and remote learning. I am certain that the conversation that comes out of these meetings will allow for a plan that will ensure academic strides for the students that we service.

I want to thank you for your continued support of the Orange Township Public School District. Again, we are committed to the health and safety of all stakeholders that enter our doors. The most current information as it relates to the Coronavirus as well as preventative measures are posted on the district website, www.orange.k12.nj.us, on the COVID-19 Resource Page. We will continue to update the district website accordingly as more information becomes readily available.

Educationally yours,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools