



Orange Township Public Schools
Scholars Academy
Karen Machuca
Principal



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

August 24, 2020

Dear Scholars' Academy Students and Parent/Guardians:

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to begin the Scholars Academy Gifted and Talented program the week of **September 21st**. Due to Covid-19 and following Plan B of the district's reopening plan, the Scholars Academy program will be virtual for this school year.

No matter the distance, the staff are preparing high quality and engaging lessons for your child and have been involved in several professional development sessions over the summer to add more interactive activities in our virtual classrooms. The staff include: Mrs. Nadbielny (STEM teacher), Mrs. White (Math teacher), and Mrs. Dormann (Science teacher). Lessons will be posted in Google Classroom and ClassDojo. It is extremely important that your child review their lessons and to note the google meet sessions with the teacher for their live instruction. Please see the schedule below.

| Day of the Week | Grades | Time for Synchronous Instruction via Google Classroom or Google Meet | Asynchronous Instruction (Working Independently) will occur on the other days of the week. This will provide the adequate time for students to get their GT projects and assignments completed over a week's span similar to the previous routine. |
|-----------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 1st | 1:15-2:45 pm | |
| Tuesday | 2nd | 1:15-2:45 pm | |
| Wednesday | 3rd | 1:15-2:45 pm | |
| Thursday | 4th | 1:15-2:45 pm | |
| Friday | 5th | 1:15-2:45 pm | |
| | K | See homeschool schedule for Synchronous Instruction | On going Project-Based Learning |

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

First and foremost, we are here to support your children and your families with a balanced educational program no matter the virtual distance.

- To begin, we will be in daily communication with you via ClassDojo, Google Classroom, phone blasts, school website, and emails.
- Office hours will be available 5 days a week for parents to reach out to staff members as needed.
- The District continues to provide packaged 'Grab-and-Go' breakfast and lunch, during all virtual/remote phases at no cost to families, at multiple locations for pick up. The selected locations are

- OECC (includes students from Cleveland Street School), located 397 Park Avenue
- Scholars Academy, located at 268 Capuchin Way
- Forest Street School, located 651 Forest Street
- Heywood Avenue School, located at 421 Heywood Avenue
- Lincoln Avenue School, 216 Lincoln Avenue
- Oakwood Avenue School, located at 135 Oakwood Avenue
- Park Avenue School, located at 231 Park Avenue
- Rosa Parks Community School, located at 369 Main Street

- Please be advised that all locations will host the breakfast/lunch grab and go program from 7:30 AM until 1:30 PM; Monday through Friday. Students may pick up their meal from any of the locations listed above.

Social distancing as well as the wearing of a mask is required when reporting to all locations. It is important to note, once students receive their breakfast/lunch grab and go bags it is the expectation to return to their respective homes.

SELF CARE

As per the Reopening Plan, “research shows the importance of mental and emotional well-being for students and staff, which has both psychological and ultimately academic outcomes. Access to school counselors and school-based health clinics helps students. Counselors and school based health centers will play an extremely important role in the adjustment period when buildings reopen.” We will support students, staff, and families with wellness opportunities and activities throughout the school year. More resources available at <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3058>

VIRTUAL PLATFORMS

Our virtual platform will be ClassDojo and Google Classroom. If you are a returning family, you will have the same access to ClassDojo and Google Classroom and there is nothing for you to do. If you are a new family to the program, the teacher will provide an invitation to you with a class code. You can add the code via the website (Classdojo.com) or you add the code in the ClassDojo app on your phone. ClassDojo will be updated daily with assignments, videos, announcements, and activities for your child. In addition, we use Google.meet to have live instructional classes with students and to communicate with parents such as Back to School night which is September 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

AFTER CARE OPTIONS

As per the Reopening Plan, “the district is currently working with the YMCA to assist with providing childcare for those families that are in need. YMCA will provide parents with payment structure.”

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT!

Please mark your calendars for our virtual Back to School-Open House night on **Monday, September 28, 2020** at 6:00 p.m. via google.meet. The google.meet information will be posted in ClassDojo.

This school year will certainly look different but our goal is to support your child’s learning journey, collaborate with you along the way, and embrace this educational partnership that we will have together as a school community as we continue to move our district from Good to Great!

Wanting the Best for Your Child,

Karen Machuca

Mrs. Machuca

Principal