



Orange Township Public Schools
Scholars Academy
Karen Machuca
Principal



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

August 24, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2020-2021 school year at Scholars Academy! We are your partners in education, jointly dedicated to helping your child grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. This school year will be filled with continued opportunities to stretch your child's practice either in person or virtually. It is going to be a great school year with a different look than in the traditional manner, however, one thing that will remain is the quality of instruction from dedicated staff in the best interest of your children. Please be reminded that students start their first day of school remotely on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**.

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, phone blasts, school website, and emails.
- We will provide basic supplies for your child to start off the school year! Details of pick up for those supplies will be announced.
- Office hours will be available 5 days a week for parents to reach out to staff members as needed.
- Details about the Preschool Program can be found on pgs. 43-44 in the Reopening Plan on the district's website.
- 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.

TIMEFRAMES

More details can be found on pgs. 32-33 in the Reopening Plan on the district's website. See chart below for dates and phases.

Prioritizing based on Need			
PHASE 1: 100% Virtual Learning 9/8/20 – 10/2/20 	PHASE 2: Remote Synchronous 10/5/20 – 11/25/20 Teachers report onsite for 2 days per week providing virtual synchronous instruction within their designated classrooms.	PHASE 3: Soft Launch 11/30/20 – 12/23/20 Prioritize face-to-face service for Group 1 students; those that are most impacted by the loss of in-person services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Students with disabilities ✓ Students with 504s ✓ English learners ✓ Students needing Tier III supports ✓ Students who were not equitably served through remote learning in spring 2020 	PHASE 4: Full Reentry 1/4/21 – End of Year PHASE 4A Prioritize face-to-face service for Group 1, Group 2, and Group 6 students; Tier III, Grades K, Grs 8 – 12 PHASE 4B Prioritize face-to-face service for Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Group 6 students; Tier III, Grs K, 1, 2, grades 8 – 12 PHASE 4C Prioritize face-to-face service for all Groups 1-6; All students return

SCHEDULING

In the Reopening Plan, more details are provided on pages 35-36 on the district's website.

Time	Activity	Type of Learning
8:30 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast time preparation/set up for the start of the school day (be sure that all technology is charged up and that materials and supplies for the day are ready in advance)	
9:00 am to 10:00 am	Greeting Time and Message Time – live instruction for children who are at home Read Aloud (story, discussion, questions)	Synchronous--Live with teacher video
10:00 am to 11:00 am	Work time children must be given activities to do on their own	Asynchronous--Independently
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Large Group Time: music and movement, songs, nursery rhymes, dance, etc. Small Group Time (teacher and para will break up into two small groups): Monday – ELA Tuesday – Math Thursday – Science Friday – SEL (Social and Emotional Learning)	Synchronous--Live with teacher video

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch/Nap Time for Children	
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	<p>Outside Time/Work Time (flexibility):</p> <p>Children can work independently on assigned tasks</p> <p>Children can engage in hands on activities and creative arts (i.e. painting, finger painting, drawing, playdough, collaging)</p> <p>Children can develop their large muscles by going outside or to the park to run, jump, play ball, ride a tricycle, etc.</p> <p>Children can engage in mindfulness strategies, yoga, and stress release activities</p> <p>Teachers are available to meet and to provide extra support to children as necessary</p>	Asynchronous--Independently

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. If you are a returning family, you will have the same access to ClassDojo and there is nothing for you to do. If you are a new family to our school, 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!

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