

# Orange Township Public Schools

Park Avenue School

**Ms. Natasha N. Cox, Principal**

Ms. Aimie McKenzie-Smith, Assistant Principal



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

August 19, 2024

Greetings Park Avenue Families,

We are excited to welcome back all of our Panthers to the 2024-2025 school year. I trust that this communication finds you enjoying the remainder of summer and eager to return to Park Avenue School. This promises to be a school year anchored in excellence for our staff, students, families and community members.

I look forward to welcoming all new and returning students for the first day of school. On **Friday, September 6, 2024**, drop off will begin at **8:05 am** and all students are expected to arrive no later than 8:30 am. Please note that the drop off time has been modified for the first day of school and all students will arrive through the front entrance on the first day of school. Dismissal is at **3:00 pm**. Students should be arriving on time daily and in school uniform.

Please save the date for our Back to School Night on **Tuesday, September 17, 2024, from 6-8pm**. This will be a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers and hear about our school-based initiatives.

## **PARK AVENUE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Park Avenue School is to provide a positive and safe learning environment where all students acquire the academic knowledge and skills to ensure a future of achievement and to instill the core values of responsibility, respect, empathy and integrity.

## **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES**

Visit [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us) and select 'Our District' and then 'Our Schools' and 'Park Avenue School' to access the school website for a list of classroom supplies and other important school information and news.

## **DISTRICT CALENDAR**

As you plan your days and weeks, be sure to visit the [2024-2025 District Calendar](#) to review important dates. The calendar can assist you in knowing all days in session and off session. Should you have any questions, you are encouraged to email [reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us) for accurate information.

## **MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS**

- Students are not permitted to arrive until 7:45 am. Please note that morning drop off for the first day of school has been adjusted to 8:05 am and all students will enter through the main entrance.
- Instruction begins promptly at 8:30 am.
- **The following entrances will be used to enter the building:**
  - ★ **Main Entrance** - SE and Kindergarten students
  - ★ **Park Place (Gymnasium Door #4)** - Grades 1-4
  - ★ **Park Place (Cafeteria Door #5)** - Grades 5-7

## **DISMISSAL ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS**

- Student dismissal is 3 pm.
- Only students in SE classes and bus students will be dismissed prior to 3 pm. Please note that early pickups will not be permitted after 2:30 pm to ensure a smooth dismissal for our bus students.
- It is the expectation that all students will be picked up promptly at dismissal. Students picked up beyond 3:10 pm will be released from the library. Please use **door number 13** for all late pickups.
- **The following doors will be used to exit the building:**
  - ★ **Main Entrance**- SE students
  - ★ **Park Ave (Gym Door #2)** - Grades K-1
  - ★ **Park Ave (Front Gated Area from Door #14)** - Grades 2-3
  - ★ **Park Place (Cafeteria Door #6)** - Grades 4-7

## **STUDENT ATTIRE**

Students should dress appropriately for a school setting and uniforms should be worn daily. Park Avenue Spirit Wear is also acceptable at all grade levels. Sneakers must always be worn for physical education classes.

**It is the expectation of the following in terms of dress:**

### **Boys (PreK-4th Grade)**

- Collared shirts: Long or Short Sleeved (White/Light Blue)
- Pants: Navy Blue (or Shorts, if seasonally appropriate)
- Sweaters: Pull-over or button down (Solid Color)

### **Boys (5th-7th Grade)**

- Collared shirts: Long or Short Sleeved (White)
- Pants: Khaki or (or Shorts, if seasonally appropriate)
- Sweaters: Pull-over or button down (Solid Color)

### **Girls (PreK-4th Grade)**

- Collared shirts: Long or Short Sleeved (White/Light Blue)
- Pants/Skirts: Navy Blue (or Shorts, if seasonally appropriate)
- Sweaters: Pull-over or button down (Solid Color)
- Girls may wear solid color white or navy tights

### **Girls (5th-7th Grade)**

- Collared shirts: Long or Short Sleeved (White)
- Pants/Skirts: Khaki (or Shorts, if seasonally appropriate)
- Sweaters: Pull-over or button down (Solid Color)
- Girls may wear solid color white or navy tights

**The following items of clothing are considered to be inappropriate and are not to be worn:**

Blouses and sweaters that show a bare midriff, halter tops, bandanas, tank tops with thin straps, short shorts, short mini skirts, clinging or form fitting spandex leggings (without the appropriate length skorts, shorts, skirt or dress), pants/jeans worn below the waist, and pants/jeans with rips 4” above the knee (including any rip that shows through to skin, undergarments or fabric). Sleepwear is not permitted.

Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times. Specifically flip flops or slides are not to be worn due to the safety factor when using the stairs. All sandals must be closed toe and secured at the ankle for safety. Crocs may be worn only with the backstrap properly secured.

**STUDENT ABSENCES**

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to the PAS Main Office at 973-677-4124. (Please note that the Main Office hours are 8 am - 4 pm.) The district policy indicates that a student must be in attendance for 163 school days in order to be considered to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade/course to which they are assigned.

**FORMS**

Students will receive multiple forms on the first day of school. Please review and complete all forms and return them to the school by September 13, 2024. It is important that these forms are returned in a timely manner to ensure active communication with you throughout the school year.

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Park Avenue’s after school programs will begin the week of September 9. Please see available options below.

- After School Enrichment (grades 3-7) will begin on Tuesday, September 17th. This consists of tutoring and extracurricular clubs and will be held on Tuesdays-Thursday from 3:00-5:00 pm.
- Empower U will begin on Monday, September 9th, and will run from 3:00-5:30 pm.

**CHROMEBOOKS**

Students in grades 1-7 are to bring their fully charged, district issued Chromebook to school on a daily basis. No personal devices are necessary.

**COMMUNICATION**

- Being able to communicate with our parents is extremely important. All teachers and staff will be connected to our students and families using Class Dojo. Please ensure you have connected with your child’s classroom teacher on this platform. Be sure to check the “School Story” and any announcements to receive the most up to date information regarding school/class events.
- Email, phone blasts and texts will also be used to communicate with families. Please listen to phone blasts sent by the school and/or District. They include important information and guidance.
- Please ensure that we always have your updated contact information in Genesis. It is imperative that all school personnel are able to reach you should the need arise.
- If you have not signed up for the Orange App, you can download it on your Android or Apple iPhone.
- Parent Portal will be the means of accessing all your student’s important information, including progress, grading reports, missing grades, and other concerns that might impact your student’s performance or well-being. If you have not done so, please ensure that you sign up for Parent Portal.

- The School District’s social media platforms are a great source for reviewing updates and important information, as well as celebrating our students and their accomplishments. You can also follow our school on Instagram at Park.AvenueES.

### **DISTRICT GOALS AND STRATEGIC PLAN**

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 the development of the whole child, as well as the district’s partnership with families.

The following link is for the Strategic Plan: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/29953>

The following link is for the District Goals: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/185> → <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/45/24-06-17%20Orange%20Public%20Schools%20District%20Goals%20SY25.pdf>

**I am looking forward to a positive and productive school year and I look forward to seeing all students on September 6, 2024, on time and in uniform.**

**Educationally Yours,**

*Natasha N. Cox*

Ms. Natasha N. Cox  
**Principal**