

# WEEKLY UPDATES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023  
EDITION

WHAT'S NEW  
FROM  
DR. FITZHUGH



Good Day Orange School District Families & Staff,

I hope this communication finds you well. Additionally, I am hopeful each of you are in great health and spirit. We had yet another exciting week within the Orange Public School District.

*As a reminder, continue to visit our district website [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us) under latest news and information as well as our social media handles to get the most up to date district updates.*

As promised, we will continue to provide information in real time, so you are always in the know. Back to School Nights continued this week. Special thank you to our staff for preparing to meet with families. To our families, thank you for being ever so present. Again, we are ONE Orange. It is important that families attend these sessions as we launch our school year.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and belief in our school district. I extend to each of you a great weekend.

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

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH HAS BEGUN DISTRICT WIDE



AS YOU ARE AWARE, HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 AND WILL CONCLUDE ON OCTOBER 15, 2023. ALL SCHOOLS WILL HAVE A HOSTING OF ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE THE HISPANIC CULTURE. PLEASE BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THESE EVENTS SO YOU CAN BE A PART OF THEM. A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ACTUALLY BEGAN AS A COMMEMORATIVE WEEK WHEN IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN JUNE OF 1968 BY CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN GEORGE E. BROWN.

THE PUSH TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATINX COMMUNITY HAD GAINED MOMENTUM THROUGHOUT THE 1960'S WHEN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT WAS AT ITS PEAK AND THERE WAS A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE UNITED STATES' MULTICULTURAL IDENTITIES.

ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1989, PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH WHO HAD BEEN A SPONSOR OF THE ORIGINAL HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK RESOLUTION WHILE SERVING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1968 BECAME THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO DECLARE THE 31-DAY PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 15TH TO OCTOBER 15TH AS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## BILINGUAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING



THE OFFICE OF BILINGUAL/ESL & WORLD LANGUAGES VIRTUAL BILINGUAL PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, HOSTED BY:

**NURKA NIEVES, ED.D.,**  
**SUPERVISOR OF BILINGUAL/ESL & WORLD LANGUAGES K-5TH**  
**&**  
**MR. FRANKLIN TAFUR,**  
**SUPERVISOR OF BILINGUAL/ESL & WORLD LANGUAGES 6-12TH**

WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023, FROM 6 PM - 7 PM,  
TO GIVE THE OVERVIEW OF THE BILINGUAL/ESL PROGRAM  
2023/2024.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S CLASSDOJO FOR THE MEETING  
INFORMATION AND LINK.**



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

ON SEPTEMBER 15, THE ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER CELEBRATED ITS 1ST ATTENDANCE SPIRIT DAY! WE KNOW THAT ALONG WITH SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND READINESS SKILLS, CONSISTENT ON-TIME ATTENDANCE IS A HABIT THAT LASTS. EACH MONTH, STUDENTS WILL WEAR THEIR "ATTEND TODAY. ACHIEVE TOMORROW. PRESCHOOL MATTERS." SHIRTS TO SHOW THEIR PRIDE AND EXCITEMENT OVER GOOD AND IMPROVING ATTENDANCE.





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

SEPAC MEETING IS UPCOMING-COME ONE COME ALL



WELCOME TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR.

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023, AT 6 PM, AND THE DISCUSSION ITEMS ARE:

- › MISSION OF SEPAG
- › NEW INITIATIVES
- › UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S CLASSDOJO FOR THE MEETING LINK.  
SEE THE FLYER FOR DETAILS.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## SCIENCE EXPLORATION AT PARK AVENUE

AT PARK AVENUE SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 15, MS. BEAGHEN'S FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS, WITH SCHOOL COORDINATOR MRS. MOINVIL, TOOK THE SCIENCE LESSON OUTSIDE TO SAMPLE THE SOIL IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS AROUND THE SCHOOL. THEN, THEY OBSERVED THE DIFFERENT SOILS AND COMPARED AND CONTRASTED THEM. THEY DESCRIBED EACH SAMPLE'S PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS, INCLUDING THE COLOR, TEXTURE, SIZE, AND AMOUNT OF HUMUS. SEVERAL STUDENTS EVEN DISCOVERED PILL BUGS AND SPIDERS! BEING GOOD HUMANITARIANS, THE STUDENTS RETURNED THE ORGANISMS TO THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT MADE  
TAPINTO EASTORANGE/ORANGE REGARDING  
THE VERIZON VILS PROGRAM



## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

On September 9, 2023, Orange Public Schools celebrated being selected to be part of the Verizon Innovative Learning Initiative during a kickoff event at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation, in which students received their own devices.

See the TAPinto East Orange/Orange article highlighting the event at <https://bit.ly/3PEpbYQ>.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS-TORNADO FOOTBALL HAS BEGUN

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023, THE ORANGE TORNADO FOOTBALL TEAM HOSTED WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL (NEWARK) FOR THE FIRST 2023 HOME OPENER. WHILE THE TORNADOES HELD DOWN THE FIELD FROM START TO FINISH. OUR TORNADOES WERE VICTORIOUS TO SAY THE LEAST; WINNING AGAINST WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL, 40-0. CONGRATULATIONS TEAM! OUR RECORD NOW STANDS AT 2-1.





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## DISTRICT CALENDAR



Families and staff, as you plan your days and weeks, the following link (<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/31659>.) to the district calendar approved by the Board of Education in February 2023.

The calendar can assist you by 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).

*Throughout the course of this year, the [reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us) email has remained intact in order to answer questions that you may have during this unique experience. While email responses are often returned within hours of receipt, please allow 24-48 hours for an email response. The district wants you to hear from us with any and all questions that you have. It is very important to keeping staff and families informed, particularly during these times.*

Please find the district calendar for SY 23-24 using the following link:  
<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/32723>.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Families, the district announced Back to School Night in the beginning of July 2023 for planning purposes. Below is the listing of Back to School Nights. Please be reminded that these nights are in person at the school location. Back to School Nights began on Monday, September 11, 2023 at Orange High School and Twilight and concluding on Thursday, September 14, 2024 at Orange Early Childhood Center as well as Oakwood Avenue School. Parents, thank you for showing up and out for your scholars. We are certainly beginning in the right direction as it relates to Core Focus Area One of our Strategic Plan: Strong Home-School Community Connection as well as Core Focus Area Four Rigorous and Relevant Curricula and Instruction. Parents, continue to ask questions. We are here to support the scholars through and through. We need ALL students present and ready to learn each and every day from pre-kindergarten to Grade Twelve.

NAME OF SCHOOL	DATES FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT
JOHN ROBERT LEWIS ECC	MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023
ORANGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY OF INQUIRY & INNOVATION	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
ROSA PARKS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
SCHOLARS ACADEMY	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
STEM INNOVATION ACADEMY OF THE ORANGES	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



Orange Public Schools  
Office of Early Childhood Learning  
Jacquelyn Blanton, Ed.D, Executive Director of Early Learning

## 2023-2024 School Year

## Preschool Registration

**MUST BE 3-YEARS-OLD  
BY OCTOBER 1, 2023!**

### PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Breakfast & Lunch
- Special Needs & ELL Services
- High Scope Curriculum
- Certified Trained Staff
- Middle States Accredited
- And a lot more...

**ORANGE  
RESIDENTS  
ONLY!**

### DATES:

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
10:00-12:00

REGISTRATION LOCATION:  
ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER  
397 PARK AVE, ORANGE, NJ

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [ORANGE.K12.NJ.US/DOMAIN/528](https://ORANGE.K12.NJ.US/DOMAIN/528)

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

Child's Original Birth Certificate

Vaccination Record

Current Lease or Mortgage Statement

2 Additional Proofs of address

Photo I.D. of Parent/Guardian

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email contact: [prekindergartenregistration@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:prekindergartenregistration@orange.k12.nj.us)

Orange Early Childhood Program includes all children regardless of abilities. If you are concerned that your child is learning or developing differently, you can call the District to request an evaluation for preschool special education and related services.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## SCHOOL YEAR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS SY 2023-2024:

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

*As a reminder, the following chart outlines the school start and end times for this school year. As shared in June and August 2022, these times were presented via letter as well at board of education meetings.*

### INTERIM REPORT CARD ONE POSTING WINDOW

Families, the Interim One Reporting Window opens on September 29th and will close on October 10th. This time will allow our staff to insert comments and grades at this point in the marking period. Distribution will take place on October 12th. Please mark your calendar accordingly.


If you have not signed up for the Parent Portal or are experiencing difficulty in doing as such, please email [reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us).



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAM REMINDER:



The Orange Public School District is participating in a federal program available to select schools as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Our participation means that all students attending the Orange Public Schools are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at no charge throughout the current school year.

Annually, our families must complete the Household Information Survey in order for us to provide the Department of Education with the information it needs to ensure that our district will continue to receive critical state funding. Each family must return the completed survey, distributed at each school, to their principal or designee by Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

The household surveys can also be filled out and submitted online. To view the family letters and complete the required surveys in English, Spanish, or Haitian Creole, visit [www.orange.k12.nj.us/HouseholdSurvey](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us/HouseholdSurvey).

## ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LUNCH MENUS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

*The following links will allow all families to view the preschool, elementary, and secondary lunch menus for September 2023.*

- **Pre-School:** [Click HERE for Pre-School.](#)
- **Elementary:** [Click HERE for Elementary Schools.](#)
- **Middle School:** [Click HERE for Middle School.](#)
- **Orange High School/Twilight:**  
[Click HERE for Orange High School/Twilight.](#)
- **STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges:**  
[Click HERE for STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges](#)





# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## BOARD MEETING DATES & REMINDERS

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTED TO CHANGE THEIR MONTHLY MEETINGS FROM TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT THE REORGANIZATION MEETING. KINDLY REVIEW THE NEW DATES FOR SY 23-24.

### 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, October 11, 2023  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023

### UPCOMING COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS (PUBLIC)

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

#### ORANGE BOARD EDUCATION PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:30p.m., held at OPA-II,  
400 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050.

Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm.

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### DISTRICT GOALS AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN REMINDERS

*As we continue to Move into Greatness, I want our families and staff to continue to engage with the strategic plan and district goals.*

THE FOLLOWING LINK IS FOR THE DISTRICT GOALS:

[HTTPS://WWW.ORANGE.K12.NJ.US/PAGE/30018](https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/page/30018).

THE FOLLOWING LINK IS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

[HTTPS://WWW.ORANGE.K12.NJ.US/DOMAIN/3344](https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3344).