



Orange Township Public Schools

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



May 5, 2023

Good Day Orange School District Families and Staff,

I hope this communication finds you well. 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 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.

Heywood Avenue and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges are deemed Distinguished Schools by Project Lead the Way Congratulations to Heywood Avenue School and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges for being named Project Lead the Way Distinguished Schools. "PLTW empowers millions of students across the U.S. to unlock their potential by developing the in-demand, real-world knowledge and skills necessary to thrive beyond the classroom. PLTW Distinguished Program

Recognition celebrates districts and schools committed to helping students own their education by increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs."

Join us in congratulating the staff and students of Heywood Avenue School and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges on this honor.



Class of 2023-Scholarship Update: This past week, I requested scholarship totals for the Orange High School and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges. As shared previously, I will report out on scholarships, so the community and Board of Education are very much aware of information in real time.

- OHS - \$3,476,963 (As of January 6th)
- STEM - \$1,085,453 (As of January 6th)
- OHS - \$6,438,681 (As of February 10th)
- STEM - \$4,658,500 (As of February 10th)
- OHS - \$8,157,864 (As of March 3rd)
- STEM - \$9,097,208 (As of March 3rd)
- OHS-\$10,235,325 (As of April 12th)
- STEM-\$13,080,561 (As of April 12th)
- **OHS-\$14,641,700 (As of May 2nd)**
- **STEM-\$18,878,802 (As of May 2nd)**

Total Scholarship Amount as of May 2nd: \$33,520,502.00. Reminder, the Senior from the Class of 2022 amassed over 26.2 million dollars last school year. As you can see, this is the largest scholarship amount ever in our township's history and it is only May.

Congratulations thus far to the Class of 2023 as well as our guidance, instructional, and administrative staff members for working so diligently with our scholars. You all rock!

District Special Appreciation Highlights

Teachers' Appreciation Week: May 7th through May 12th is Teachers' Appreciation Week nationally. National Teacher Day was celebrated on March 7th until 1984, when it was moved to May. Behind the move was the National Parent Teacher Association and, instead of just one day, they named the entire first week of May to be Teacher Appreciation Week. The NEA followed suit the next year and held National Teacher Appreciation Day on the Tuesday of the week. Join me in wishing all of our teachers in the Orange School District a fantastic week. Further, we are appreciative of their continued tenacity and driven nature to provide our schools with an optimal educational process on a daily basis. Thank you for all you do!

Nurse Appreciation Month begins on May 1st: School Nurse's Day is Wednesday, May 10th.

The entire month of May is also designated by the American Nurses Association as National Nurses Month, with each week in the month dedicated to a different theme: self-care, recognition, professional development, and community engagement. Join me in celebrating our stellar school nurses within our district. They provide a level of care to staff, students, and families. Thank you to our school nurses for all you do, we appreciate you.

Bilingual Parent Advisory Meeting: The Virtual Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee meeting took place on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 6 pm. Important topics of discussion included: NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment), Bilingual/ESL Kindergarten and our ESL Summer School program. As shared, the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee Meeting is part of District Goal Number 2: Community Engagement as well as Strategic Plan Core Focus Area One: Home-School Community Connection.

Orange Week Announced: Save the Date: The Orange Township Public School District is proud to announce Orange Week 2023! Saturday, June 3, 2023 - Saturday, June 10, 2023. Orange Week, now in its fifth year, celebrates community pride and highlights neighborhood activities, businesses, and nonprofits in Orange, NJ. The annual theme for Orange Week is "Are you in?".

"OrangeWeek2023!" is launching on June 3, 2023, with our District Spelling Bee and District Tennis Tournament in collaboration with the USTA Eastern, NJ Symphony, Orange Recreation, and the Althea Gibson Foundation at Central Playground (351 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ) at 10:00am.

On Saturday, June 10, 2023, during the "OrangeWEEK2023! Color Festival" at Monte Irvin Orange Park, starting at 9:00 am, two special events are being featured: 1) 5K Color Run/Walk/Roll and Bike Rodeo, and 2) District STEM Festival. In addition to the featured events, there will be Music, Bouncy Houses, Arts & Crafts, Health Screenings, Vendors, Food Trucks, and more!

Please follow our district social media for updates including school and district events that will take place during our week-long celebration. To register and participate in our 5K Color Run/Walk/Roll event, use the QR code on the flier or link at: <http://bit.ly/448TT1u>. To learn more about OrangeWeek2023!

Oakwood Avenue School Giving Support to the Whitehouse Healthcare Center: Members of the Oakwood Avenue Community School Student Council collected and distributed items to the residents of the Whitehouse Healthcare Center. They also read them inspirational cards that Oakwood students and staff created. The visitors learned that some residents had written books while others were retired teachers or former politicians. They plan to visit again and teach the residents how to play Bridge.

Additionally, motivational speaker Larry Cureton addressed the young men at OACS, telling them to take the word can't out of their vocabulary, stop making excuses, train hard, and listen to what others have to say. Or allow others to hear what you say; it may be important to them. Finally, knowledge is key. When you know better, you should do better.



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 2022. 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. Please find the district calendar for SY 23-24 using the following link: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/32723>.

Reminder: Parent University Sign Up: Orange School Community: It's not too late to register for the April-May 2023 Adult Learning & Parenting Academy Virtual Course Offerings and take advantage of this week's classes: Parenting Adverse Childhood Experiences, Basics of Investing, and Empowering Yourself and Family. For more information and to register for Parent University courses, visit <https://bit.ly/3JhalF4> or scan the QR code on the flyer.



Elementary and Secondary Breakfast as well as Lunch Menus for the Month of May 2023: Each month, the district through Mr. Tyrone Dorsey's Office (Manager of Food Services) provides all families (pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary) with robust breakfast and lunch menus. Yes, the district in collaboration with our food services provider Chartwells have created a pre-kindergarten menu as well. All menus are evident on the district and school websites under latest news and information. Please find the link to view all the food choices for the Month of May:

Pre-K: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/May%20Preschool%20Menus.pdf>.

Elementary: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/May%20Elementary%20Menus.pdf>.

Secondary: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/May%20Secondary%20Menus.pdf>.

Board Meeting Dates: 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 22-23.

2023 Board of Education Business Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 (This meeting per the BOE will be cancelled)

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

***Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - Organization Meeting**

Upcoming Committee/Board Meetings (Public)

- Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting - Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 7:30p.m., held at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation, 400 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050. Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm

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>.

The following link is for the Strategic Plan: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3344>.

Throughout the course of this year, the reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us email has remained intact in order to answer questions that you may have. 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 all questions that you have. It is very important to keeping staff and families informed, particularly during these times but more importantly for you to get your questions answered directly from district personnel.

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.

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