



**Orange Township Public Schools**  
Central Elementary School  
Ms. Denise White, Principal



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

August 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I hope you are keeping safe and that you have had some time to enjoy the summer with your family. As the new principal of Central Elementary School, I am excited to partner with you to ensure our scholars achieve their highest potential. As we look forward to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we must first reflect on the 2019-2020 school year. First, I would like to commend the Rosa Parks Community School family for their resilience, determination, and assistance in ensuring the well-being of all students, staff and families during what can only be described as a difficult time for all.

As we look forward to the beginning of the new school year, I would like to assure you that the Orange Public School District, in general, and the Central Elementary School team, in particular, are dedicated to working with you to support their social, emotional, academic and intellectual growth, even in times that are different to what we know as normal.

In July RPCS was redesigned to reflect a campus model. The students in grades Kindergarten through grade 2 were assigned to the new Central Elementary School. Students in grades three through seven were assigned to RPCS under the continued leadership of my colleagues and partner, Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles. I know first hand that the developmental needs of our scholars in grades K-2 is very different from that of our scholars in grades 3-7. Yet, we are one school community and committed to differentiating and integrating the learning we do to serve all of our students and families equally. We have been working together all summer to continue all the great work that you are familiar with. We will continue this collaboration to ensure we move these two exceptional schools from Good to Great. I look forward to our work together.

As you are aware, there continues to be questions, concerns, anxiety and uncertainty as it relates to the plan to reopen schools. The Superintendent, Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh, II, has held several meetings, sent information and held town hall meetings to address the district's plans for reopening, giving all stakeholders the opportunity to be a part of the discussions on how to reopen safely. On Tuesday August 11, 2020 the Board of Education approve Plan B as outlined in the School Reopening Plan (please see the School Reopening Guidelines 2020-2021). Plan B will be structured to address the needs of our students while following the health and safety guidelines outlined by the Department of Education. Based on Plan B:

- September 8, 2020 through November 25, 2020 (**Phase 1** (100% Virtual Learning) and **Phase 2** (Remote Synchronous) **all students will attend school virtually.**
- November 30, 2020 through December 23, 2020 (Phase 3 Soft Launch) **students needing additional support return to the site on an abbreviated schedule and day this includes SWD, ELL and Tier III students.**
- January 4, 2021 through June 24, 2021 (Phase 4: Full Re-Entry) **all students return to the site on an abbreviated schedule and day.**

Please see some extremely important information regarding new school procedures that align to the School Reopening Guidelines are included below. You will receive additional information on these as well as

opportunities to pick up supplies and devices at our **Virtual Open House Sessions** (August 26 and 27, 2020) and our **Back to School Night** (September 22, 2020 from 6-8PM). Please mark your calendars.

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- Students are expected to attend school daily; whether in the virtual space or once they are scheduled to return to the building. Student attendance will be taken during homeroom and then by each teacher during their synchronous instruction. This will be on **Mondays-Fridays in Phase One. In Phase Two** during asynchronous instruction on Wednesdays, students must sign into their homerooms to get their attendance recorded. **Students must complete and submit the assignments assigned for the day**
- If your child is going to be absent please notify the teacher and the secretary Ms. Hall [hallbe@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:hallbe@orange.k12.nj.us) They can also be reached by phone at 973-677-4110 on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.**
- The District and State's Attendance policy are still in effect during virtual instruction and the abbreviated and staggered days and schedule.

### ENGAGEMENT

- All students are expected to engage in the lessons and actively participate just as if they were sitting in the classroom. This is the expectation for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. It is the expectation for **all subjects** that students are assigned.
- All students must access the assigned platforms communicated by the teaching staff. This is how students will be engaged in the teaching and learning during this time. Please ensure that your students are engaged as outlined in his or her schedule.

### COMMUNICATION

- Being able to communicate with our parents is extremely important. Please ensure that all your information is updated. You will receive calls from our secretaries to check and update your information in Genesis.
- Parent Portal will be the means of accessing all your student's important information, his/her progress/grades, missing assignments 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. We plan on providing training to assist you with this.
- Please listen to phone blasts sent by the school and/or District. They include important information and guidance. This is even more important in these uncertain times.
- Please continue to follow us on social media. The District and School use these platforms to give updated information, share celebratory milestones and just check in with our families. The handles are as follow:
- Forms- Forms will be distributed either remotely or during the kiosks which will be set up for devices and materials. As always, these forms are extremely important and must be completed. These forms must be completed and returned/submitted no later than **September 18, 2020.**

As always, I welcome your input. Please feel free to share any concerns, suggestions, or ideas to help ensure that we have a happy, healthy, and productive school year. I can be reached at [whiteden@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:whiteden@orange.k12.nj.us) or 973-677-4110.

Educationally yours,

*Denise White*  
Principal