



Orange Township Public Schools
Orange Preparatory Academy
of Inquiry & Innovation
Carrie Halstead, Principal



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

Michael Dixon, Assistant Principal
Samantha Fossella, Assistant Principal

August 22, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2022-2023 school year at the new Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation! We are partners, jointly dedicated to helping your child grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. To that end, I want to thank our community stakeholders who added your support during the Redesigned Roundtable Conversations this past spring. Your work has helped to mold our new school and the work we do each day. Additionally, I would like to introduce our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Michael Dixon. He comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of Mathematics and supporting students and staff. Keeping with the district's initiative of meeting the needs of the whole child, we are incorporating restorative practices into the climate and culture of our school this year. Serving as our Restorative Justice Coordinator is Mr. Tarell Harp. Mr. Harp is not new to Orange or Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation. He served as our interim Assistant Principal last school year and has been a teacher at Orange High School for over 10 years.

Please be reminded that students report for the first day of school on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. This school year will be filled with continued opportunities to stretch your child's practice. It is going to be a great school year for not only the school level staff but for each of you as well. Please be reminded that the mask mandate for the district states that masks are optional.

MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS:

- All 8th Grade Students will enter through the doors on the right side of the building (near the gymnasium).
- All students are required to wear the district approved uniform as outlined below under the "Student Attire" section of this letter.
- Breakfast will begin each day at 7:30 am. (No student will be allowed in the building prior to 7:30 am each day).
- Students must arrive to school by no later than 8:20 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 8:25 am each day. Attendance is vital to instructional supports for our students. We need our students on time and present each day.

DISMISSAL:

- All students are dismissed at 2:50 p.m.
- Students will be asked to leave the premises and the surrounding area of the school immediate to make their way home. At no time will students be permitted to hang out on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Central Avenue.

STUDENT ATTIRE:

Students should dress appropriately for a school setting. Sneakers must always be worn for physical education classes. Uniforms should be worn daily. Orange Preparatory Academy Uniform Policy is as follows:

- Gray or Burgundy Polo shirt **or** White Oxford shirt. All shirts must have a collar.
- Black Pants and/or knee-length Skirts, Slacks, Skorts. No jean or legging material will be allowed.
- Gray or Burgundy Sweater Vest or Cardigan may be worn.

- Students must change into their gym uniforms each day for gym. Gym uniforms are not permitted to be worn to school. Gym uniforms are Gray or Burgundy tee-shirt and shorts or sweatpants.
- Sneakers or closed in shoes. Crocs are permitted.

ORIENTATION AND SCHEDULES:

We will hold an orientation on Monday, August 29, 2022, at 2:00 - 4:00 pm. All students and parents are encouraged to join us. Students will receive their schedule and engage in a tour of our renovated building. Information regarding student identification cards schedules will be given as well.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:

For information regarding classroom supplies, please visit www.orange.k12.nj.us and select Our District and then your child's school for a comprehensive review.

STUDENT ABSENCES:

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Ms. Cabrera, Administrative Assistant, at 973-677-4135. The district policy indicates that a student must be in attendance for 163 or more school days in order to be considered to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade/course to which he/she is assigned.

FORMS:

Students will receive the emergency contact form on the first day of school. Please review and complete the emergency form and other corresponding forms by September 15, 2022. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 22-23.

CHROMEBOOKS:

Students are to bring their district issued Chromebook to school on a daily basis; fully charged.

COMMUNICATION:

- All teachers and staff will be connected to our students and families using "Remind" and "Google Classroom". Please ensure you have connected with your child's classroom teacher on this platform and check the daily messages from all of your child's teachers.
- E-mail & phone blasts will also be used to communicate with families. Please ensure you have updated your contact information in genesis. It is imperative that all school personnel have the most update information for your household.
- 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.
- 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.
- If you have not signed up for the Orange App, you can download on your Android or Apple iPhone.
- The School District's social media platforms are a great source for posting updates & important information as well as celebrating and sharing photos of our fun activities. You can also follow our school on the following social media platform below:
 - **Twitter:** Orange Public School District and OrangePrep
 - **Instagram:** Orange Public School District and OrangePrepAcademy
 - **Facebook:** Orange Public School District and Orange Preparatory Academy

We are looking forward to a happy, healthy, and productive school year!

Educationally yours,

Carrie J. Halstead

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Principal