



**Orange Township Public Schools**  
Orange Preparatory Academy  
Carrie Halstead, Principal



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

Oliverto Agosto, Assistant Principal  
Tarell Harp, Interim Assistant Principal  
Samantha Sica-Fossella, Assistant Principal  
Roberta Washington, Assistant Principal

August 19, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2021-2022 school year at Orange Preparatory Academy! We are partners, jointly dedicated to helping your child grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Please be reminded that students report for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. 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. For the last 15 months, we were immersed in a remote and/or hybrid model, be advised that we are returning to all buildings on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Governor Murphy shared in Executive Order #175 that remote learning would be ending as of June 30, 2021. As shared by Superintendent Dr. Fitzhugh, the end of the remote option provided the district the opportunity to plan accordingly for the safe return for all students and staff. What did the district do? We maintained our mask mandate throughout the summer, continued our temperature checks, and social distancing.

Throughout school year 2021-2022, as we did during the spring and summer, COVID testing will continue at every school building throughout the school year. We will continue the daily COVID-19 questionnaire that you completed each day last school year in Genesis. The district's mask mandate will help to ensure the continued health and safety of all staff and students.

All face coverings (whether disposable or reusable) must:

- ✓ Be made with at least 2 layers of breathable materials
- ✓ Fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin
- ✓ Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- ✓ Be secured with ties or ear loops and allow the user to remain hands-free

In our reopening plan, the following are symptoms of COVID-19 where your child/children should be tested.

- ✓ A fever of 100 degrees or greater
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ✓ Chills
- ✓ Repeated shaking with chills
- ✓ Muscle pain
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Congestion or runny nose
- ✓ Nausea or vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea

Please see the information below regarding school procedures:

### **MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS:**

- All 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will enter through the doors on the far left side of the building (near the gymnasium). All 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will enter through the doors on the far right side of the building (near the auditorium).
- Breakfast will take place in both the gym (for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students) and in the auditorium (for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students).
- Breakfast will begin each day at 7:35 am. (No student will be allowed in the building prior to 7:35 am each day).
- Students must arrive to school by no later than 8:15 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 8:20 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 3:15 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:

- White, Orange, or Black Polo shirt **or** Oxford shirt. All shirts must have a collar
- Khaki Pants and/or knee-length Khaki Skirts, Slacks, Skorts
- Sweater Vest or Cardigan (Must be solid black) may be worn
- Any OPA/OHS school apparel shirts (sweatpants will not be allowed)

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

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

- **Blouses or sweaters that show a bare midriff, halter tops, bandanas, tank tops, 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.). All flannel-type pants and sleepwear are not permitted.**
- **Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times. Specifically, no flip-flops or “sliders” are to be worn due to the safety factor when using stairs. All sandals must be secured at the toes and ankle for safety.**

### **SCHEDULES KIOSK:**

We are passing out schedules on Monday, August 30, 2021, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm and Tuesday, August 31, 2021, from 10:30 am until 3:30 pm.

### **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:**

For information regarding classroom supplies, please visit [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://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 extension 5605. 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 13, 2021. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 21-22.

## **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMING OPPORTUNITIES:**

The following is a list of opportunities for students to engage in academic as well as club activities either before and/or after school.

- Academic Enrichment Program – Tuesday – Thursday, October 19, 2021 through May 19, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Saturday Next Level Program (Academic) – Saturday, October 23, 2021 – May 21, 2022 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Cyber Café – September 8, 2021 – June 17, 2022 – Monday – Friday – 7:35 am – 8:05 am
- Female SEL Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Male SEL Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Student Council - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Dance Ensemble - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Band - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Chorus - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Drama Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Visual Art Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Mock Trial Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Girls that Code Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Diversity Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Business Investment Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Jr. Debate Club - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm
- Open Library - Tuesday – Thursday, October 4, 2021 through May 13, 2022 – 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm

## **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

#### **ORANGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT:**

The stakeholders of Orange Preparatory Academy will provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. We are committed to developing academic success through effective instruction, targeted interventions, and differentiated professional development for all staff. The school recognizes and celebrates our uniqueness as a learning academy of middle and high school students. To this end, the Orange Preparatory Academy will cultivate a community where students take ownership of their learning as they move towards achieving excellence.

Looking forward to a happy, healthy, and productive school year!

Educationally yours,



Carrie J. Halstead,  
Principal