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Orange Township Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

August 18, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2021-2022 school year at OECC! 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 7th. 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 SY 21-22, 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

- Families are prohibited from entering the classrooms at this time
- Only one family member may enter the building to sign in and drop off students
- Family members must sign students in using the sign in sheet located outside of each classroom
- The parent/guardian must sign his/her full name and must provide a working phone number in case of an emergency
- Teachers will receive the students after they have been signed in
- Students will place their belongings in their assigned cubby space and must wash their hands for breakfast
- Breakfast will take place in the classroom; family style
- All students must be present for the start of the instructional day, which begins promptly at 8:30 am (breakfast will be served at 8:15 a.m. daily for us to begin instruction promptly by 8:30 a.m.). 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 3:20 p.m.
- Please arrive promptly at that time to pick up your child.
- Only one family member may enter the building to sign students out
- The parent/guardian must print his/her full name and the time of pick up
- Teachers will prepare children for departure once they have been signed out
- Only authorized persons (those who are listed on the emergency form) may sign a student out
- In the event that you are unable to pick up your child on a certain day, please provide prompt, written notification to the main office. Please include the name of the person who will serve in your capacity; however, that person must be an authorized person on the emergency pick up list

STUDENT ATTIRE

Active indoor and outdoor play is a regular part of our school day. Please dress your child in clothing that is suitable for running, climbing, and other vigorous activity, and that is appropriate for the weather. Because the children work with paint, clay and other fun materials, they should wear clothes that can be laundered easily.

- For the safety of all of our students, we ask that children wear sneakers or other rubber soled shoes. Flip-flops, sandals and dress shoes are dangerous for running, jumping and climbing.
- A complete change of clothes is essential. Please label all clothing with your child's name. The extra set of clothing will be stored at school. We ask that each student have a small container (i.e. shoe box) filled with a complete change of clothing (shirt, pants/skirt, T-shirt, under ware, socks). It is not unusual for preschoolers to occasionally soil their clothing due to illness or accident. Please check your child's extra clothing box periodically to be sure that the content still fit and are season appropriate. All clothing must be labeled. If your child is not yet toilet trained, you must always provide at least three clean complete changes of clothing. You must also provide the diapers and wipes needed.
- One of the most important skills preschoolers learn is to manage their own clothing. Please try to dress your child in clothing he can manage on his own. Please label your child's jackets and coats with his or her first and last name. Sometimes items look very similar, and it is difficult for a child to distinguish his or her coat from that of a classmate.

The following items of clothing are 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 not to be worn due to the safety factor when using stairs. All sandals must be secured at the toes and ankle for safety.

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS/TEACHERS

Letters were mailed out with your child’s teachers and classroom numbers. If you did not receive, please email me at bischoem@orange.k12.nj.us and I will certainly forward your child’s schedule upon receipt.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

For information regarding classroom supplies, please visit our website www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/528 (this is our school’s website.)

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents/Guardians are responsible for reporting daily absences to the school at 973-677-4000 ext. 1920 or 1903. The district policy indicates that a student must be in attendance for 163 or more school days.

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 can have active communication with you throughout SY 21-22.

BEFORE AND AFTERCARE

Norjenes Day Care Center offers before and aftercare services for in-district preschoolers. Before and aftercare hours are 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and childcare vouchers are accepted.

Contact Information:

- Norma Adams, Executive Director
95 South Essex Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050
973-677-4299

COMMUNICATION

- All teachers and staff will be connected to our students and families using “Class Dojo.” Please ensure you have connected with your child’s classroom teacher on this platform and check the “school story” daily for any announcements.
- 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. 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:
 - **OECC Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/EarlyCenter>
 - **District Twitter:** @ops_district
 - **OECC Facebook:** <https://m.facebook.com/OrangeEarlyChildhoodCenter/>
 - **District Facebook:** Orange Public School District
 - **District Instagram:** opsdistrict

OECC SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Orange Early Childhood Center to develop a diverse, inclusive, and respectful school community, honoring our diverse backgrounds. Our goal is to maximize the development of the whole child using a comprehensive research-based curriculum aligned with the NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards. We are committed to social justice and developing children’s advocacy and activism skills to be leaders of a more just and equitable world.

Mission Statement

The Orange Early Childhood Center is committed to providing opportunities for growth and development by using a holistic approach that embraces and honors all cultural values and beliefs in a diverse learning environment. We pledge to prepare all students for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship by advocating through an anti-bias/anti-racist lens for our students, families, staff, and community.

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

Educationally yours,

Emily Bischoff

Emily Bischoff
Assistant Principal