



Orange Township Public Schools
Rosa Parks Community School
Debra Joseph-Charles, Ed.D. Principal



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

Mr. Joshua Chuy, Assistant Principal
Mr. Terence Wesley, Assistant Principal

August 24, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

Greetings and well wishes from the administrative team at Rosa Parks Community School to you and the members of your family. I hope you are keeping safe and that you have had some time to enjoy the summer with your family. 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 your resilience, determination, and assistance in ensuring the well-being of all our constituents 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 Rosa Parks Community School administrative 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. My colleague and partner, Ms. Denise White, is now the proud principal of Central Elementary School. 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. Please join me giving her a warm welcome. 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 Orange Township City Hall meetings to address the district's plans for reopening, allowing all stakeholders to be a part of the discussions on how to reopen safely. On Tuesday, August 11, 2020, the Board of Education approved 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 (Phases 1 (100% Virtual Learning) and 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.**
- 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 with 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** (September 2nd, and 3rd, 2020) and our **Back to School Night** (September 24, 2020). 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 and 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 secretaries Ms. Price—PriceReg@orange.k12.nj.us or Ms. Carr—CarrDomi@orange.k12.nj.us. They can also be reached by phone at 973-677-4515 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: **Twitter @rpcs369; Instagram @rosaparks369**
- 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**.

GRAB-and-GO BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

The District continues to provide packaged 'Grab-and-Go' breakfast and lunch, during all virtual/remote phases at no cost to families, at multiple locations for pick up. The selected locations are

- OECC (includes students from Cleveland Street School), located 397 Park Avenue
- Scholars Academy, located at 268 Capuchin Way
- Forest Street School, located 651 Forest Street
- Heywood Avenue School, located at 421 Heywood Avenue
- Lincoln Avenue School, 216 Lincoln Avenue
- Oakwood Avenue School, located at 135 Oakwood Avenue
- Park Avenue School, located at 231 Park Avenue
- Rosa Parks Community School, located at 369 Main Street

Please be advised that all locations will host the breakfast/lunch grab and go program from 7:30 AM until 1:30 PM; Monday through Friday. Students may pick up their meal from any of the locations listed above.

Social distancing as well as the wearing of a mask is required when reporting to all locations. It is important to note, once students receive their breakfast/lunch grab and go bags it is the expectation to return to their respective homes.

Rosa Parks Community School stakeholders are committed to maintaining a high standard of integrity, responsibility, respect, pride, courtesy, and safety. We are proud to educate our students of today and encourage them to "Leave your mark" as leaders of tomorrow.

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 josephde@orange.k12.nj.us or 973-677-4515.

In partnership,



Debra Joseph-Charles, Ed.D.
Principal