



Orange Township Public Schools
Forest Street Community School
Dr. Yancisca Loften Cooke, Principal



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

Mrs. Shannon Keogh, Assistant Principal

August 19, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

It is TIME Forest Street Families! Time to “Kick-Off” our 2024-25 school Year! We are so looking forward to another AWESOME start at Forest Street Community School! WELCOME to our new families and please know we are excited to have you as part of our family and we are wholeheartedly committed to helping your child(ren) grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Students are to report for the first day of school on **Friday, September 6, 2024, no later than 8:15am. WE NEED YOU to be ACTIVE from DAY 1!** I am requesting that every child have a family member bring them to school for our “Opening Day” festivities! This school year will be filled with continued opportunities to cultivate your child’s educational journey. I am confident we will have a successful, productive, and enriching school year for all our stakeholders involved in the Forest Street School community. **This is going to be a GREAT year because WE ARE ALL IN!!**

OPEN HOUSE

Please save the date! Our Open House will be held on **Monday, September 9, 2024**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is an **IMPORTANT** opportunity for you to meet our faculty, learn all about our curriculum, and hear first-hand what is expected of students and parents to ensure SUCCESS.

MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS

The building will open at **7:30 a.m.**

Students are to be dropped off at the following locations:

- PreK and Kindergarten– Students are dropped off on the side of the building on South Valley Road and proceed through the cafeteria entrance where staff will meet them. Please do not block the parking lot entrances or the neighbors’ driveways.
- 1st through 7th- Students will enter through the main doors where staff will meet them.
- Breakfast will continue to be served this year from 7:30 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. Parents are encouraged to ensure their children are in school no later than 8:00 a.m. to participate. If your child does not wish to participate in the breakfast program, please ensure they have a well-balanced breakfast at home.
- Students must arrive to school by **8:25 a.m.** Attendance is vital to instruction. We need our students on time and present each day.
- Students will not be admitted after 10:30 a.m.

DISMISSAL

- All students are dismissed at **3:00 p.m.**
- Please arrive promptly at that time to pick up your child.

- In the event you are unable to pick up your child on a certain day, please provide prompt, written notification to the main office 1 hour prior to dismissal. Please include the name of the person who will serve in your capacity. That individual must have a valid photo ID and MUST be at least 18 years old.
- PreK will be dismissed from their classrooms.
- Kindergarten will be dismissed from the cafeteria door on South Valley Road.
- 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade students are dismissed from the playground lot at the back of the school located on South Valley Road. During inclement weather days they will be dismissed from the Multi-purpose Room.
- 4th grade will be dismissed from the main entrance on Forest Street.
- 5th through 7th grade students will be dismissed from the greenhouse entrance on Forest Street.
- Staff/Teachers are available until 3:10 p.m. should you need to meet with them.

STUDENT ATTIRE

Forest Street Community School is a UNIFORM SCHOOL. Students are required to be in uniform daily. Despite the debate, numerous studies have been conducted, shedding light on the surprising array of benefits linked to this seemingly simple dress code. Orkulas. M (2024, March 13) Impressive Benefits of School Uniforms: More Than a Dress Code.

1. Fostering a sense of belonging and unity.
2. Safer school environment.
3. Behavioral improvements.
4. Academic performance
5. Simplification for parents and student
6. Preparations for the professional world
7. Creating a positive learning culture
8. Environmental and societal benefits

Students should dress according to the uniform policy. Sneakers must always be worn for physical education classes. Uniforms must be worn daily. The following are the expectations for the dress code:

PreK-4

-Boys: White polo oxford shirt, khaki pants or shorts, forest green sweater/vest/tie

- Girls: White polo oxford shirt, khaki skirt, shorts, skorts, dress jumper, or pants. White or forest green tights or socks, forest green sweater/tie

-Black, blue or brown shoes

Grades 5-7

-White polo oxford shirt, khaki pants, skirts, jumpers, skorts and shorts, forest green sweater/tie

-Black, blue or brown shoes

Physical/Dance Education:

-Boys/ Girls- White polo shirts with forest green shorts/sweatpants

-Ash gray or forest green sweat suit with sneakers.

The following items of clothing are not permitted as part of the school dress code:

- Blouses or sweaters that show a bare midriff, crop tops, halter tops, bandanas, tank tops, tops with spaghetti or thin straps, short shorts, short mini-skirts, clinging or form fitting spandex leggings (leggings are permitted only under an appropriate length skorts, shorts, skirt, or dress), pants/jeans worn below the waist, and pants/jeans that are ripped.). All flannel-type pants and sleepwear are not permitted. No shirts or sweatshirts with inappropriate or offensive language. All hats are not permitted.

- Please be sure that appropriate and safe footwear is worn at all times. Specifically, no flip-flops, clogs, crocs or “slides” are to be worn due to the safety factor when using stairs. All sandals must be secured at the toes and ankle for safety.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES: For information regarding classroom supplies, please click [here](#).

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Forest Street School Main Office, at 973-677-4120.

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 14, 2023. It is important that these forms are returned to have active communication with you throughout SY 23-24.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

- **Project Achieve:** Our afterschool enrichment program (offered only in Mathematics and English Language Arts for selected students) will be held Monday through Thursday, beginning on Monday, September 16th 2023, through May 15th 2025, from 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. for students in grades K – 7. There will be a Sibling Class available. Please be advised every last Monday of each month there will be no Project Achieve, Sibling Class, or Clubs as this day is reserved for faculty meetings.

- **Afterschool clubs** will be held Mon-Thurs, beginning September 23rd through May 15th from 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM for students in grades 2 – 7. The following are tentative clubs for the upcoming school year:

Robotics Team	Literature & Art Club	Girls’ Talk	Basketball (winter)
Debate Team	Soccer Team	Wellness/Yoga Club	Cheerleading (Winter)

CHROMEBOOKS

Students are **required** to bring their district issued Chromebook to school each day. The Chromebook should be fully charged.

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. Please join using the link below:

<https://home.classdojo.com/#/classInvite/?s=558085186f0c41f11aa7df5e>

- 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 updated information for your household.

- Being able to communicate with our parents is extremely important. Please ensure that all your information is updated.

- All your student’s important information will be accessed through the Parent Portal in Genesis. This will include his/her progress reports, grades, missing assignments, and other concerns that may impact your child’s performance or well-being. If you have not done so, please ensure that you sign up for Parent Portal.

- Please listen to the phone blasts sent by the school and/or district. They include important information and guidance.

- If you have not signed up for the Orange App, you can download it on your Android or Apple iPhone.
- The School District & Forest Street Community School's social media platforms are a great source for receiving updates and important information as well as celebrating and sharing photos of our fun activities. You can also follow our school on the following social media platforms:

Twitter (X):

- Orange Public School District
- Forest Street Community School (@ForestStreet651)

Instagram:

- Orange Public School District
- forest_street_community

Facebook:

- Orange Public School District
- Forest Street Community School

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

Educationally yours,

Yancisca Lofton Cooke, Ed.D

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Principal