



Orange Township Public Schools
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges
Devonii Reid, Ed.D., Principal



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

August 16, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2021-2022 school year at STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges! 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



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Please see the information below regarding school procedures:

MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS

- All students will enter through the Cafeteria entrance (door #6).
- Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria beginning at 7:30am- 8:10am. All students must remain in the cafeteria until released.
- Students must arrive to school by 8:00 a.m. Attendance is vital to instructional supports for our students. We need our students on time and present each day.
- Students will be released from the cafeteria at 8:15am and must be in first period by 8:20am.

DISMISSAL

- All students are dismissed at 2:20 pm on Monday, and 3:30 pm on Tuesday-Friday or 4:00 pm if assigned mandatory office hours.
- Please arrive promptly at that time to pick up your child if they are not taking public transportation. You may not stop to pick up students on Scotland Road or enter the building. Additionally, parking in the fire lane in front of the building is prohibited and will be strictly enforced by the South Orange Police Department.
- If your student will take public transportation, please discuss appropriate etiquette while waiting on, boarding, and riding the bus. It is extremely important that students understand the importance of wearing their mask while riding in public transportation as well.
- Students are welcome to use the office telephones to communicate departure with parents and guardians.

STUDENT ATTIRE

Students should dress appropriately for a school setting. Sneakers must always be worn for physical education classes. Uniforms should be worn daily. It is the expectation of the following in terms of dress:

- NO durags or head coverings (i.e. bonnets, fitness head bands, scarves integrated into the hairstyles)
- Physical Education (approved physical education apparel with STEM logo)
- Regular Uniform (approved apparel inclusive of white/blue polo shirts, blue slacks/skirts, and approved jackets or sweaters)
- Navy hooded garments with the STEM logo are permissible.
- Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times. Specifically, no thong sandals, UGG slippers, flip-flops or “slides” are to be worn due to the safety factor when using stairs and equipment. All sandals must be secured at the toes and ankle for safety.
- Masks are required at all times.

SCHEDULES KIOSK:

All schedules are currently available in Genesis. Students have the option to pick up their schedules from the building on August 23, 2021 between 9:00am-3:00pm.



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STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Ms. Alexandra Laurore, 973-677-4000 Ext 1502. 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.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: After school programs and clubs will begin the week of October 4, 2021.

- Running Club
- Volleyball
- Game Development
- E-Sports
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Math Club
- Young Gents
(Brotherhood)
- Drone Club
- Photography Club
- Student Council

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. You will receive daily updates through text message.
- 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 up-to-date information for your household.



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- 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: @STEM405, @DrReid1908

Instagram: @STEM_Innovation_Academy, @principalreid

VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

The long-range vision for The STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges (the Academy) is to create a model for STEM education that unites public and private sector to provide better options for our students and that strengthens the continuum from high school to college to careers. The Academy will provide a fully integrated STEM education model using engineering design, mathematical analysis, and scientific investigation to leverage the natural connections between STEM subjects while offering multiple pathways to post-secondary study.

Its mission is to provide students, underrepresented in STEM college majors and careers, with a personalized pathway towards mastery of the skills and knowledge that they will need to make the transition from education to college and industry. The STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges considers college admission, and completion, the goal for all students.

*“Good to Great”
We Rise Together.*

Educationally yours,

Devonii L. Reid, Ed.D.

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Principal