



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Office of the Superintendent



June 26, 2024

Good Day Orange Township Public School District Community,

SY 2023-2024 is ending for many of us today. As I sit here trying to find the perfect words to culminate this year, my thoughts are full of excitement and reflection. The adjectives that come to my mind are as follows: accomplished, exhausted, triumphant, and proud. WE did it. All of us together. I am so proud that we came together as a community to ensure that our students were the focus. We worked in tandem to provide optimal experiences for the children that we service.

Now that we have reached the end of another successful year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a truly wonderful summer. This is a time to relax, rejuvenate, and create lasting memories with your loved ones. As shared, self-care is extremely important. I am hopeful that you continue to use this time to rest.

Great news, Cleveland Street School will reopen as previously shared at their original site in September 2024. So, this means that our staff and students will return to 355 Cleveland Street and the first day of school will take place at the renovated original location. Further, students and staff will no longer be in the swing space (Our Lady of the Valley). This summer, staff's materials will be shipped over to the new school to prepare for the first day of school on September 6th. This is such great news for our school community.

To our exceptional students, I want to applaud your hard work, determination, and resilience throughout the year. You have shown remarkable progress and have consistently risen to new challenges. Your thirst for knowledge and passion for learning have been truly inspiring. As you embark on this well-deserved break, I encourage you to explore new horizons, pursue your passions, and embrace opportunities for personal growth. Congratulations to the Senior Classes of Orange High School and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges. We are so proud of your accomplishments. Always know, you have a home here within our school district. We will check in with you. Should you need anything, please see us. Once a Tornado; always a Tornado. In addition, congratulations to all our pre-k, elementary, and middle school scholars for moving up to the next grade level. Continue to soar to great heights.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated educators, administrators, and support staff who have worked tirelessly to provide an enriching and safe learning environment. Your unwavering dedication to our students and commitment to excellence have made the Orange Public School District a shining beacon of educational success. Your well-deserved break is a chance to recharge, reflect, and prepare for the exciting challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to seeing each of you when we are back together on August 12th at our administrative retreat.

To the families who have been unwavering pillars of support, thank you for your continuous involvement in your child's education. Your commitment to their success and well-being has played an invaluable role in our shared achievements. As the summer unfolds, I hope you have the opportunity to bond, create cherished memories, and relish the joys of family time. The district looks forward to seeing you throughout the summer as well as throughout SY 24-25.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to our wonderful community for its continuous support and collaboration. Your partnership has been instrumental in fostering an environment where our students can thrive, and your involvement has strengthened the bonds between our schools and the community. Together, we have created a nurturing educational ecosystem that sets the foundation for lifelong success.

As we bid farewell to this academic year, let us embrace the summer with open hearts and open minds. May the sunshine and warmth fill our days with joy, laughter, and endless possibilities. Take this opportunity to explore new interests, embark on exciting adventures, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Remember, education is not confined to the walls of a classroom. Learning happens everywhere, and the world is your classroom. Whether you're traveling, volunteering, reading, or engaging in creative endeavors, seize the opportunity to grow, learn, and make a positive impact.

To our retirees, on behalf of the Board of Education and my administration, I would be remiss, if I did not thank you for your many years of service to the Orange Township Public School District. The dedication and love that you gave to the students as well as one another is breathtaking. Community, join me in congratulating our retirees! In addition, I would like to salute the staff members who

celebrate their 25th Year of Service to the school district. Words cannot express our appreciation to each of you. Thank you for your continued support.

Administrative Changes for School Year 2024-2024 Shared on Friday, June 14, 2024

As we begin to wrap up school year 2023-2024, I want to provide you with an update regarding administrative changes approved at the June 12th Board of Education Meeting.

Orange Early Childhood Center: Principal: Mr. Robert Pettit (from Cleveland Street School)

Rosa Parks Community School: Assistant Principal: Mr. Gerald Murphy (from Heywood Avenue School)

Park Avenue: Assistant Principal: Ms. Aimie McKenzie-Smith (from Lincoln Avenue School)

Heywood Avenue School: Assistant Principal: Ms. Emily Shaltuper (from Orange Early Childhood Center)

Cleveland Street Assistant Principal: Mr. Kashiff Foster (Will be at the Cleveland site for the full week for SY 2024-2025)

Lincoln Avenue School: Assistant Principal: Ms. April Stokes (from Park Avenue School)

As the summer progresses, additional information about the district will come directly to all families to keep everyone abreast from my office. It is always important to advise our families accordingly.

During the summer, I will begin interviews for the Principalships of Cleveland Street and Heywood Avenue Schools. As always, you will be kept abreast of all appointments made by my office and approved by the Board of Education. =

District Goals and the Strategic Plan Reminders

The district goals and strategic plan are the guiding force in the development of the Orange Public School District. You are encouraged to review each plan and ask questions related to development of the whole child as well as the district's partnership with families.

The following link is for the District Goals: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/30018>.

The following link is for the Strategic Plan: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3344>.

I remain humbled and honored to serve this wonderful community as your Superintendent. I am so proud to lead this great district. Our stakeholders have a seat at the table. From our student and parent councils to our PTO/PTA meetings, listening to your commendations as well as questions for improvement are well received and appreciated. Your continued trust in the work is refreshing.

In closing, I wish you and your family a safe, fun, and healthy summer. Please remember to check our website www.orange.k12.nj.us, under latest news and information, the Orange App, and our social media handles (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), as they will continue to be updated throughout the summer months.

School Year 2024-2025

As we close the door on the 2023-2024 school year and open the doors to summer, we are diligently working on the 2023-2024 school year. Next year, the following times by school level will take place. Staff will return to the Orange School District on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. September 3rd as always will be the Superintendent's Convocation held at the Orange Preparatory of Inquiry and Innovation Auditorium. Students will return for the first day of school on Friday, September 6, 2024.

School Level	Arrival Time for Students	Arrival Time for Staff	End Time for Students	End Time for Staff
Elementary Level (Including Pre-Kindergarten)	8:30 AM	8:20 AM	3:00 PM	3:10 PM
Orange High School	8:20 AM	8:05 AM	2:40 PM	2:55 PM

Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation	8:25 AM	8:20 AM	2:50 PM	2:55 PM
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges	8:20 AM	8:15 AM	Mondays 2:20 PM for Teacher Professional Development Tues – Fri 3:30 PM	4PM* *includes stipend
Twilight Program	3:30 PM* *3:00 PM - lunch	3:00 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM

In Partnership,

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