



Orange Township Public Schools

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



November 10, 2020

Greetings Orange Township Public School District Staff, Families, and Caregivers,

The continued health, safety, and well-being of our school community are the top priorities of the Board of Education, administration, faculty, and staff within the Orange Township Public School District. The district has policies in place to address the well-being of all students and staff. Policy 8451 addresses the Control of Communicable Disease. As a district, we continue to monitor the alerts from the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control both locally and nationally.

Beginning on September 8, 2020, we began the year in a virtual space for both staff and students. Synchronous; in the moment teaching and learning took place throughout the course of the day (8:30AM-12:30 PM). Office hours and small group instructional moments took place beginning at 1:00 PM and concluded after 3:00 PM district wide. The following were the aspects of Phase I:

- ✓ Schools are intensifying trainings to staff, parents, and students focused on approved digital platforms
- ✓ Teachers are revisiting the most critical prerequisite skills and knowledge for each subject area and grade level with students
- ✓ Teachers are evaluating students' unfinished learning such to provide acceleration support.
- ✓ Schools are integrating trauma informed/SEL programming into traditional instructional programs
- ✓ Schools are disseminating the essential instructional resources that teachers must have at home/school based upon grade level
- ✓ Schools are disseminating the "print" materials that students need for at home and on-site instruction
- ✓ Schools are disseminating individualized materials for student use (manipulatives, art supplies, science/STEM lab materials, goggles), ordering more supplies than normal.
- ✓ Schools are developing remote synchronous schedules, identifying classroom spaces.
- ✓ District is installing all safety materials

On Monday, October 5, 2020, the district moved into Phase 2 (Remote Synchronous). This phase is when our staff returned to our district and students remain remote. In Phase 2: Remote Synchronous teachers report onsite for 2 days per week providing virtual synchronous instruction within their designated classroom spaces; support staff (*guidance, CST, related service providers, social workers, attendance officers*), nurses, technology coordinators, and secretaries are onsite 4 days per week. Webcams are used during instruction for at home learners. Webcams will be trained only on teachers during use. Teachers are onsite for the length of the school day.* *If schedule and staffing allows; more time can be scheduled for at risk/Tier III students.* Staff will also follow schedules for common planning time (for professional development) and other planning times.

As of today, November 10, 2020, the Orange Township Public School District in collaboration with health officials, made a decision to extend Phase II, Remote Synchronous of the Return to School Plan. As you know, the health and safety of all students and staff were the primary drivers regarding this decision. The following is the schedule regarding the phases through the end of the school year. Should any changes occur, all families and staff will receive ample notice for planning purposes.

New Time line for Phases II through IV

- **Continuation of Phase II effective through January 15, 2021**
- **Phase III – January 19th – January 29, 2021 (MLK Jr's Birthday Observance is on Monday, January 18, 2021)**
- **Phase IV – February 1st – June 24, 2021 All staff and students return (Staggered Schedules)**

Though we are still immersed in our "new normal," staff continue to work closely with students. In addition, teachers continue to work alongside their colleagues to ensure that the instructional scenarios presented to students are differentiated as well as targeted and intentional. Through professional development opportunities as well as collaboration, our teachers are certainly prepared for the task of educating our students in this virtual space.

Throughout the course of our work this year, the reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us email will remain in tact in order to answer questions that you may have during this unique experience. As always, please allow 24 hours for a return email however many times the email will be returned within hours of sending. Keeping both staff and families abreast is very important but even more in these times.

We are certainly in this together. I am confident that we will continue to blaze a trail filled with success and accomplishment throughout this school year and beyond.

Educationally yours,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools