



**Orange Township Public Schools**  
Twilight Program at Orange High School  
**Dr. Erica Stewart, Principal**



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

August 15, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers of Twilight students,

It is with great pride and pleasure that the faculty and I welcome you into and guide you through the 2024-2025 academic year at Twilight U; an academic resilience program at Orange High School. It will prove to be a year of innovative and exciting learning experiences for your child(ren) and family. For those of you who may not be familiar with me or the work that I have done, I am an experienced principal of both elementary and secondary schools who has dedicated more than three decades to the academic achievement and social growth of the students of Orange. I bring with me the experience of a veteran educator, the passion of a lifelong learner, and the commitment of an alumnus of Orange High School (class of '87).

Our superintendent and his team have worked diligently to design a strategic plan that will guide our district "into greatness". The Orange Public School five-year strategic plan may be found here:

<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3344> and the district goals here:

<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/30018>

**Twilight U MISSION STATEMENT**

*Twilight Program stakeholders are committed to providing a challenging learning environment that is a model of innovation and excellence and maximizes individual potential and aptitude while ensuring that students are well-equipped to meet the challenges in the world around them. We are equally committed to providing pathways to **credit restoration**, academic **acceleration**, **matriculation** into post-secondary institutions and preparation for **vocation**.*

**Twilight U CORE Values**

*Respectful relationships, Innovative Instruction, supportive and knowledgeable staff*

As it may have been explained to you throughout your time with us, this program is highly supportive and designed to either relaunch, reengage, or remediate your child to ensure academic achievement and successful completion of New Jersey's High School graduation requirements and post-secondary pursuits.

The structure has been designed to foster engagement, provide social emotional supports and to monitor the academic needs and growth of all students. The school culture will focus on engagement with real world learning tasks, improved academic performance, post-secondary readiness and the involvement of all stakeholders. It is our expectation that your child(ren) will have a robust experience; one that builds grit and is galvanizing.

**The 24-25 Twilight experience at 3 p.m. on Friday, September 6, 2024.** We will have a *targeted and intentional focus on building student support networks and designing post-secondary plans*. We remain committed to bridging any gaps created during the pandemic era of instruction. This may mean a shift in placement for students as well as the presentation of additional opportunities for potential graduates to ameliorate deficits as they plan and prepare for their post-secondary pursuits.

District Calendar: As you plan your days and weeks, the following link <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/32723> will allow you to view the district calendar. The calendar can assist you by knowing all days in session and off session. Should you have any questions, you are encouraged to email [reopeningofschoools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschoools@orange.k12.nj.us) for accurate information.

Effective 8/19/24, you will also find the relevant resources on the Twilight U school website including but not limited to:

- Genesis Parent Portal application that affords parents access to student attendance and performance records.
- Classroom Supply recommendations
- Our Chromebook policy and acceptable use terms and conditions
- Student Uniform Dress Code Policy

### **ENTRY ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS**

1. Students access the building through the designated entrance.
2. **Students will report, in the district approved uniform, no later than 3:00 pm daily** and MUST assemble in the media center. Revealing and poorly fitting clothing are not acceptable in corporate and other work environments that we are seeking to emulate, therefore, they will not be permitted on the school work site. In kind, non-religious head coverings and shower slides are not acceptable as well.
3. Security screening will end at 3:25 pm. Please note that all prohibited items will be confiscated during this process and students may be subject to disciplinary action. Students not dressed appropriately for the school work site will be able to secure appropriate attire from the parent/guardian or change at home and return to school by 4:25 pm. Students will be held accountable for missed instructional time.
4. Lunch will be available for those who wish to participate. Classes will begin promptly at 3:30 pm. Students not screened prior to class will not be granted access to the building.
5. **THERE WILL BE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS TO REPORT ON TIME, MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE ATTENDANCE RATES, AND REMAIN IN THE BUILDING FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM.** The school success handbook will speak more to this.

### **DISMISSAL**

1. Full time students are dismissed no later than 7:30 pm nightly
2. All students are expected to leave the premises promptly and go directly home.
3. Parents are encouraged to provide transportation for students during seasons when sunset occurs prior to 7:30 pm.

### **CONDUCT AND INSTRUCTIONAL DISTRACTION**

It is critical to the effective delivery of instruction and support services that the need for administrative intervention for conduct, attendance, and cell phones be kept to a minimum. We serve the next generation of adults and have expectations that policy and protocol will be acknowledged and adhered to. **We anticipate NO distractions or disrespect in our instructional spaces. Respectful relationships is one of our CORE values.**

### **STUDENT ATTIRE FOR ONSITE INSTRUCTION**

The return to school in its normal state also brings with it a return to a uniform dress code. Twilight U seeks to simulate a corporate culture. Students are expected to wear **WHITE/BLACK/GREY shirts with collars or blouses and BLACK/KHAKI/GREY skirts, belted pants**, and comfortable **CLOSED footwear**. A frame of reference would be “interview attire or business casual” and the following attire is NOT permitted:

- Du-rags, hats or head coverings (i.e. bonnets, fitness head bands, scarves integrated into the hairstyles)
- Garments that reveal the belly, back or inner thigh or buttocks.
- Leggings, jeggings may NOT be worn as the primary bottom. **A dress, top or tunic must cover the full thigh. REVEALING AND POOR FITTING CLOTHING WILL BE DEEMED AS OUT OF COMPLIANCE.**

- Hooded Sweatshirts, vulgar and offensive insignia, NO marijuana emblems, decals or accessories.
- thong sandals, UGG slippers, flip-flops or “slides” are NOT to be worn due to the safety factor when using stairs. All sandals must be secured at the toes and ankle for safety.

### **CONTRABAND:**

These items will not be permitted on the premises and may require off site drug screening and a disciplinary referral if on the student’s person.

- Vape pens, lighters, tobacco products, weapons (anything that can cause bodily injury), and schedule 1 -4 drugs. Cough syrup is a schedule 5 drug that is also NOT permitted on site.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES**

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. Student absence directly impacts student performance. There will be a shift in how we address student attendance and missing classwork. Our level of expectation will increase as it relates to student accountability as we seek to adopt a corporate culture where work ethic matters.

### **COMMUNICATION**

My office hours are from 12:00-2:00 pm. You may contact me at ANY time if there is and I will respond as soon as humanly possible. The main number to Orange High School is 973-677-4050. Clerical support is provided by Ms. Holmes (ext 31700) and Ms. Montalvo (ext 41703). Should you choose to email, my address is: [stewarer@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:stewarer@orange.k12.nj.us) (please indicate your child’s name when emailing so that I may prioritize the email).

**All Twilight Students** are encouraged to join the school REMIND group using the code in the app OR texting **twilight4u** to 81010.

### **School Year Arrival and Departure Times for Staff and Students SY 2024-2025**

School Level	Arrival Time for Students	Arrival Time for Staff	End Time for Students	End Time for Staff
Orange High School	8:20 AM	8:05 AM	2:40 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

As always, our doors and emails are always open to you any day and any time. We look forward to partnering with you, faculty and district leadership to provide great opportunities for our students, help them to achieve great things, and prepare them for a great future.

Yours in Education,

Erica L. Stewart, Ed.D., Principal