



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



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

August 19, 2021

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 2021-2022 academic year in the twilight 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 nearly 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).

For the last 15 months, we were immersed in a remote and/or hybrid model. Please 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.

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>

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 **occupation** preparation.*

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 20-21 School begins IN-PERSON on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. There are several things that will be unique about this school year. We will have a *targeted and intentional focus on the graduating class of 2022*. We are 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.

My office hours are from 12 noon to 8 pm. You may contact me at ANY time if there is an emergency (my contact information is located in the closing of this letter). I will respond as soon as humanly possible.

STUDENT/STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 251, use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises is **MANDATORY**. Therefore, staff are not permitted to remove facial masks when in-doors, despite vaccination status except as follows:

1. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
2. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
3. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
4. When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering;
5. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anerobic activity;

The following are additional precautions that are encouraged to keep us all safe and healthy.

- Cover your mouth and nose with an appropriate mask or face covering when around others.
- Maintain appropriate social distancing.
- Wash your hands often.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often.
- Monitor your health.
- If you are sick, stay home.

ENTRY ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS

1. Students access the building through the designated entrance. **ALL STUDENTS** must wear a mask and remain masked with the exception of the situations listed.
2. All students will be screened for temperature and exposure to the Coronavirus.
3. **Students will report no later than 3:20 pm daily** and **MUST** assemble in the dining area. Screening will end at 3:45 pm. Lunch will be available for those who wish to participate. Classes will begin promptly at 4:00 pm. The **FINAL** opportunity for screening will be at 4:50 pm. Students not screened prior to class will not be granted access to the building.
4. **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 8:00 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 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 shirts with collars or blouses, slacks, skirts, belted pants, and comfortable 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.**
- Hooded Sweatshirts, vulgar and offensive insignia, NO marijuana emblems, decals or accessories.
- thong sandals, UGG slippers, flip-flops 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.

CONTRABAND:

These items will not be permitted on the premises and may require 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

All Twilight Students are encouraged to text **drericas** to 81010 and should join the schoolwide Google classroom using the following code: **z 5 c t a t r**. Important announcements, information and virtual attendance take place in the virtual homeroom. Parents should text **drericast** to 81010 and may use **862-295-0005 to communicate via text**. My email is stewarer@orange.k12.nj.us (please indicate your child’s name when emailing so that I may prioritize the email). 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