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TOGETHER

# STEM



2025-2026

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

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**Orange Township Public Schools**  
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges  
**Eric Andrews, Principal**



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

August 25, 2025

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2025-2026 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 Friday, September 5, 2025. As a school, our vision is to create an early college model for STEM education that unites public and private sectors to provide better options for our students and that strengthens the continuum from high school to college to careers. We encourage your child to accept the academic and extra-curricular challenges with the enthusiastic, determined, and champion spirit of a true STEM Scholar. The community at the STEM Innovation Academy is made up of your teachers, guidance counselor, administration, parents, and peers who are here to support you to get the most out of your high school experience. It reflects that we, the STEM family, are here to help each other reach our fullest potential.

**VISION & MISSION STATEMENT**

The long-range vision for The STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges (STEM Academy) is to create a model for STEM education that unites the 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.

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. Special accommodations will be made for students needing to arrive prior to 7:30am. 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 seated in first period by 8:20am. Students will be marked tardy if they arrive to class after 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.
- 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. *All sweaters must have STEM logo present. Dr. Reid will provide all scholars with a STEM sweater with the logo present.*
- Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times. Specifically, no thong sandals, UGG slippers, flip-flops, crocs, 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 optional.

### **SCHEDULES KIOSK:**

All schedules are currently available in Genesis. Students have the option to pick up their schedules from the building on August 27 between 9:00am -3:00pm.



**Orange Township Public Schools**  
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges  
**Eric Andrew, Principal**



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

### **STUDENT ABSENCES**

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Mrs. Alexandra Laureore, 973-677-4000 Ext 32700. The district policy indicates that a student must be in attendance for 163 or more school days 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 12, 2025. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 25-26.

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:** After school programs and clubs will begin the week of September 15, 2025.

*-Running Club-Volleyball Club-Game Development Club-E-Sports Club -Basketball Club  
-Soccer club -Math Club- Drone Club - Photography Club-Student Council- Chemistry Club-Tennis Club*

### **CHROMEBOOKS**

Students are to bring their district issued Chromebook to school daily; fully charged. Students will be marked unprepared if they arrive to school without their assigned Chromebook.

### **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.
- Being able to communicate with our parents is extremely important. Please ensure that all your information is updated. You will receive calls from our secretary to check and update your information in Genesis.



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Superintendent of  
Schools

- 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,

**Instagram:** @STEM\_Innovation\_Academy,

***“ONE DISTRICT...ONE MISSION...OPTIMAL SUCCESS”***

Educationally yours,

***Eric Andrews***

Mr. Eric Andrews  
STEM Principal

## **General Information**

**STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges 445 Scotland Road  
South Orange, NJ 07079**

**Main Number  
973-677-4000 x32700**

**Principal – Mr. Eric Andrews  
@orange.k12.nj.us  
Tel#: 973-677-4000 x32800**

**Fax Number 973-761-7218  
<http://www.orange.k12.nj.us>**

The **Student/Family Handbook** is one of several publications' students are responsible for reading.

This handbook is not all-inclusive in that it cannot possibly address all the possible scenarios which may arise and still be a convenient and understandable guide for students and parents. The Board of Education does not intend to limit its ability nor the ability of its administrators or faculty to respond to situations which are not specifically addressed herein.

The District's website, the District's Code of Conduct handbook and academic program handbooks or handouts also include student policies and expectations. Parents and students are encouraged to become familiar with and use the district's website and Parent Portal for additional information.

## **THE ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT**

### **"One District... One Mission...Optimal Success."**

We are many schools, one community  
Bound by a shared purpose and driven by a collective vision.

Every student and staff member matters.  
Every voice counts.  
Everyday is an opportunity to grow, lead, and inspire.

With unity at our foundation and excellence as our goal,  
We rise together  
One District. One Vision. One future.

**Vision Statement:**

To become a united, empowering community where every student and staff member thrives guided by purpose, inspired to lead, and driven toward a future defined by excellence and opportunity for all.

**Mission Statement:**

We believe in the power of unity, purpose, and collective growth.

We value every student and staff member, honor every voice, and embrace every opportunity to grow, lead, and inspire.

Rooted in community and committed to excellence, we rise together driven by shared purpose and dedicated to achieving optimal success for all.

**STEM INNOVATION ACADEMY OF THE ORANGES VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT****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 the 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.

**School Narrative**

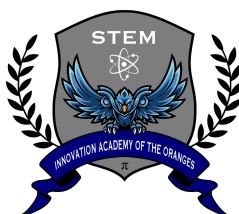
The STEM INNOVATION ACADEMY of the ORANGES encompasses the dualities of rigor and collaborative working relationships, results and respect.

Our common intellectual mission--to ready students for college success via exposure to DEEPER LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS (project based, highly personalized, blended learning experiences) that are strategically focused on the individual needs of ALL students.

This focus is supported by the belief in ALL students' abilities and is reflective of high expectations.

This allows us to strike a seamless balance between striving and supporting-- demanding performance with purpose; systematically engaging students as scientists, authors, creators, inventors, collaborators and problem solvers.

This is a complex shift in mindset in which the STEM INNOVATION ACADEMY community embraces, takes ownership of, and subscribes.



## District Calendar



### ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT – 2025-2026 CALENDAR

GERALD FITZHUGH II, ED.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
APPROVED: 2/12/25



#### SEPTEMBER 25'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

#### OCTOBER 25'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### NOVEMBER 25'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

#### DECEMBER 25'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

#### JANUARY 26'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### FEBRUARY 26'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

#### MARCH 26'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

#### APRIL 26'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

#### MAY 26'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

#### JUNE 26'

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MONTH	Students Days	Staff Days
September	18	21
October	22	23
November	16	16
December	17	17
January	18	19
February	15	15
March	22	22
April	16	16
May	20	20
June	19	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>188</b>

The calendar includes 188 contractual certificated staff days and 183 contractual contact student days. There are 3 snow days or emergency closing days built into this calendar. Should the District use more than 3 emergency closing days the days will be used at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

OEA Day 12:30 Dismiss Students	△	Parent Conf. Gr. 8-12 12:30pm Dismissal	◇	Parent Conf Prek-7 12:30pm Dismissal	■	Early Dismissal - 12:30 pm	●
District Closed for Staff and Students							
Professional Development Staff Only							
12:30 Dismissal Students Only							



### \*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT DATES\*\*\*\*\*

#### SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 1 - LABOR DAY - DISTRICT CLOSED  
SEPT. 2-4 - PROFESSIONAL DEV. FOR STAFF ONLY  
SEPT. 5 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

#### OCTOBER

OCT. 13 - PROFESSIONAL DEV. FOR STAFF ONLY

#### NOVEMBER

NOV. 4 - ELECTION DAY - SCHOOLS OPEN  
NOV. 6-7 - NJEA CONV. - DISTRICT CLOSED  
NOV. 17 - PARENT CONF. GR. PREK-7 1:15PM-4:00 PM  
NOV. 18 - PARENT CONF. GR. PREK-7 5:30PM-7:30PM  
NOV. 19 - PARENT CONF. GR. 8-12 1:15PM-4:00 PM  
NOV. 20 - PARENT CONF. GR. 8-12 5:30PM-7:00PM  
NOV. 26 - EARLY DISMISSAL - 12:30PM  
NOV. 27-28 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - DISTRICT CLOSED

#### DECEMBER

DEC. 23 - EARLY DISMISSAL - 12:30PM  
24 - 31 - HOLIDAY BREAK - DISTRICT CLOSED

#### JANUARY

JAN. 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY - DISTRICT CLOSED  
JAN. 2 - NEW YEAR'S DAY OBSERVANCE  
JAN. 19 - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (OBSERVANCE)  
JAN. 27 - PROFESSIONAL DEV. FOR STAFF ONLY

#### FEBRUARY

FEB. 16-20 - WINTER BREAK - DISTRICT CLOSED

#### MARCH

MAR. 19 - OEA DAY (12:30PM DISMISSAL - STUDENTS ONLY)  
MAR. 23 - PARENT CONF. GR. 8-12 1:15PM-4:00 PM  
MAR. 24 - PARENT CONF. GR. 8-12 5:30 PM 7:30PM  
MAR. 25 - PARENT CONF. GR. PREK-7 5:30PM - 7:30PM  
MAR. 26 - PARENT CONF. GR. PREK-7 1:15PM-4:00 PM

#### APRIL

APR. 3 - GOOD FRIDAY - DISTRICT CLOSED  
APR. 6 - 10 - SPRING BREAK - DISTRICT CLOSED

#### MAY

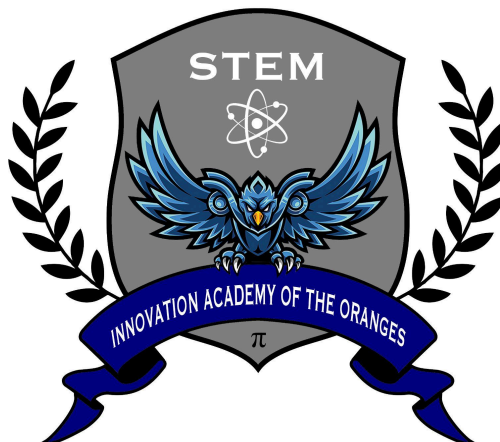
MAY. 25 - MEMORIAL DAY - DISTRICT CLOSED

#### JUNE

JUN. 19 - JUNETEENTH - DISTRICT CLOSED  
JUN. 24 - 26 - 12:30PM DISMISSAL - STUDENTS ONLY  
JUN. 26 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS  
JUN. 26 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 10 MONTH STAFF

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Day of the week	Class Start Time	Dismissal
Monday	8:20AM	2:20PM
Tuesday-Friday	8:20AM	3:30PM
Daily Office Hours <b>Tuesday- Friday</b> (No office hours Monday) 3:30PM– 4:00PM		
<b>Half Day Schedule*</b> 8:20 AM – 12:30 PM *There will be no lunch on half-days.		
<b>Delayed Opening Day Schedule</b>		
Monday	10:00AM	2:20PM
Tuesday-Friday	10:00AM	3:30PM



## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If there is a situation that makes school closing advisable, either before school begins or after it has begun details will be communicated via our school district's phone blast and within the parent group of the REMIND APP. In addition, all information will be posted on the District's homepage, <http://www.orange.k12.nj.us>. Please be sure that all telephone numbers are up to date.

## **ANTI-BULLYING SPECIALIST**

STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges and the Orange School district support the anti-bullying legislation in place in New Jersey. STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges provides a school Anti-Bullying Specialist to help students discuss, report and receive counseling services for potential incident(s) of Harassment, Intimidation and or Bullying (HIB). Students who have witnessed or experienced HIB are encouraged to visit the Guidance Office. Our Anti-Bullying Specialist is Mr. Jamaal Johnson.

## **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING**

Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture or written, verbal or physical act, or electronic communication that takes place on school property, at any school sponsored function or on a school bus that:

is reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or is prompted by any other distinguishing characteristics; and a reasonable person should know, under the circumstance , that the act(s) will have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's property, placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of student in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" also means repeated unprovoked aggressive behaviors of a physical or psychological nature, carried out against an individual or group of individuals that result in harm or injury to the individual or group. To be considered harassment, the behavior must be unwelcomed by the recipient and have the effect of creating a hostile environment.

"Hazing" means the performance of any act or the coercion of another to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of inflicting mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

## CYBER-BULLYING

“Electronic communication” means a communication that is transmitted by means of and electronic device, including but not limited to a telephone, cellular phone, computer or pager that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored event or on a school bus.

Cyber-bullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person; this offense will be seriously handled.

## STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges High School Credit Accrual and Graduation Requirements

	9	10	11	12	Required
<b>English</b>	American Experiences (5)	Political Studies (5)	HUM 101 English Composition: Writing, Thinking, Speaking I (5)	AP English Lit and Comp	4 years/ 20 credits
<b>History</b>	American Experiences (5)	Political Studies (5)	World History (5)	Research Design	3 years/ 15 credits <sup>1</sup>
<b>Math</b>	Integrated I (5)	Integrated II (5)	Integrated III (5) Pre-Calculus (2.5)	MATH 111 Calculus I (5)  MATH 112 Calculus II (5)	3 years/ 15 credits <sup>2</sup>
<b>Science</b>	Biomedical Science/biology (5)	Honors Physics(5)	PS Chemistry (5)	PHY 111/A Physics I & Lab (5) PHY 121/A Physics II & Lab (5)	3 years/ 15 credits <sup>3</sup>
<b>Engineering</b>	Introduction to Engineering/Design (10)	Biomed, Engineering or Computer Science I (10)	Biomed, Engineering or Computer Science I (10)	Senior Capstone (10)	
<b>Health/ Physical Education</b>	Health Phys Ed (5)	HealthPhys Ed (5)	Health Phys Ed (5)	Health Phys Ed (5)	4 years/3.75 credits 4 years/1.25 credits
<b>World Language</b>			WL 1 (5)	WL 2 (5)	1 year/ 5 credits
<b>Financial Literacy</b>	Financial Lit (2.5)				1 semester/2.5 credits
<b>Visual/ Performing Arts</b>	Art 1 (5)	Art 2 (5)			1 year/ 5 credits
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Life And Careers w/electives</b>	Career Readiness (2.5)	Career Readiness (2.5)	Career Readiness (2.5)		1 year/ 5 credits
					125 credits

<sup>1</sup> To include World History, US I, and US II

<sup>2</sup> To include Algebra I and Geometry and a third year that builds upon both

<sup>3</sup> To include Biology

## TESTING

All students will participate in a comprehensive standardized testing program in addition to being tested by instructors on specific subject matter. The **NJGPA** will be administered **October 6–9**, with two ELA units (90 minutes each) and two Math units (90 minutes each).

The **SAT** will be administered to grade 12 and the **NMSQT/PSAT** (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test/Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) on **Thursday, October 30**, (PSAT for Grades 9 and 10 will take the NMSQT/PSAT on **Wednesday, October 29** . There will be a 12:30 dismissal for all students on both testing dates, and no lunch will be served.

Spring 2026 testing will include the **ACT** for grade 11 on **February 25 and 26**, and the **SAT** for grade 11 on **April 21 and 22**

Advance Placement Exams are conducted each **May** according to the College Board's national schedule. All students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes are required to take the AP exams for the designated course.

## STUDENT RECORDS

By request, a student and his/her parents, together or separately, have the right to review the student's cumulative school records in conference with appropriate school personnel. An explanation and interpretation of the contents shall be provided at that time.

A student who has reached the age of 18, or a younger student who has the written permission of his/her parents or is accompanied by his/her parents, may examine his/her confidential records and health records, provided the appropriate school or health department official is present to explain and interpret these records, if requested.

A student and his/her parents have the right to challenge for cause any material in the student's educational records and to present evidence or argument that such material should be changed or removed. The appropriate school official may decide through an informal conference whether the challenged material is to be changed or removed. That decision is subject to a formal hearing.

A student who has reached the age of 18, or a younger student who has the consent of his/her parents, must give written permission to the school before that school may provide records to employers, colleges and other persons outside the school system.

In all cases, access to student records by school personnel shall only be available for purposes relating to a student's education.

## **HONOR ROLL**

STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges Honor Roll criteria are based on a student's minimum numerical grade in all graded courses. In order to qualify for Principal's Honor Roll, a student must not have a grade lower than 95% and a numeric average of 97 or higher. High Honor Roll a student must not have a grade lower than 90%. Placement on Honor Roll requires a student not having a grade lower than 80%. Students must receive a passing grade for any classes taken Pass/Fail for both High Honor Roll and Honor Roll.

## **GRADING FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Marking / Report Card Cycle Dates (Only available online via Parent Portal)

## **REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORT**

There are four marking periods in each academic year. At the end of each marking period, a report card is sent home. Students receive a course grade and may receive one or more teacher comments. In addition, a midterm progress report is mailed home halfway through each marking period to convey student progress in each subject. The frequency of reports is designed to keep students and parents apprised of progress or special concerns as the year proceeds. Final report cards are mailed home at the end of the year.

Orange Township Public School District  
2025-2026  
Interim & Marking Period Report Card  
Grade Posting Window Schedule  
as of June 17, 2025

Reporting Period	Marking Period Start Date	Marking Period End Date	Posting Window Opened	Posting Window Closed	Distribution
Interim Report Card 1	Friday, 9/5/25	Tuesday, 10/7/25	Tuesday 09/30/25	Friday 10/10/25 4:00pm	Tuesday 10/14/25 End of Day
MP1 Report Card	Friday, 9/5/25	Wednesday, 11/12/25	Tuesday 11/4/25	Friday 11/14/25 4:00pm	Conferences (Prek-7) 11/17/25 1:15-4:00 (Prek-7) 11/18/25 5:30-7:30 (8-12) 11/19/25 1:15-4:00 (8-12) 11/20/25 5:30-7:00
Interim Report Card 2	Thursday, 11/13/25	Wednesday 12/17/25	Monday 12/8/25	Thursday 12/18/25 4:00pm	Friday 12/19/25 End of Day
MP2 Report Card	Thursday, 11/13/25	Friday 1/30/26	Friday 1/23/26	Wednesday 2/4/26 4:00pm	Friday 2/6/26 End of Day
Interim Report Card 3	Monday 2/2/26	Thursday 3/12/26	Friday 2/27/26	Wednesday 3/18/26 4:00pm	Conferences (8-12) 3/23/26 1:15-4:00 (8-12) 3/24/26 5:30-7:30 (Prek-7) 3/25/26 5:30-7:30 (Prek-7) 3/26/26 1:15-4:00
MP3 Report Card	Monday, 2/2/26	Wednesday, 4/22/26	Wednesday 4/15/26	Monday 4/27/26 4:00pm	Friday, 5/1/26 End of Day
Interim Report Card 4	Thursday, 4/23/26	Tuesday, 5/26/26	Thursday 5/14/26	Monday 6/1/26 4:00pm	Friday 6/5/26 End of Day
MP4 Report Card	Thursday, 4/23/26	Friday, 6/26/26	Friday 6/12/26	Friday 6/19/26 3:00pm	Friday 6/26/26 12:30 PM

\*Dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools\*

## GUIDELINES FOR THE UTILIZATION OF OPTION II N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 ET SEQ.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognizes and acknowledges that all students will not achieve Common Core State Standards in the same manner and/or with the same level of success. To this end, the Orange School District is permitted to allow students with individualized learning opportunities outside of the traditional classroom that are stimulating and challenging and that enable students to meet or exceed the Common Core State Standards. This is commonly referred to as, "Option II." Option II allows for the design and implementation of programs to meet the needs of all students. Students are permitted to earn credit toward graduation through Option II learning experiences. These experiences include but are not limited to interdisciplinary or theme-based programs, independent study, early college credit, magnet programs, student exchange programs, distance learning, on-line learning, work-based programs, internships, co-curricular or extra-curricular programs, and/or other structured learning experiences.

In addition, Option II allows for group programs based upon specific instructional objects that meet or exceed Common Core State Standards. Participation in Option II is predicated on the application process through which students seek approval. The process for application, evaluation and assessment is detailed below. Attainment of credit toward graduation is based on the successful completion of assessments that verify student achievement in meeting or exceeding the Common Core State Standards at the high school level.

### **STEM HIGH SCHOOL Graduation Requirements**

Students, as indicated in Board of Education Policy 5460, will receive a high school diploma based on the following graduation requirements:

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Effective School Year 2017-2018</b>
English	20 credits
Mathematics	25 credits
Science	15 credits
Social Studies	15 credits
Physical Education	16 credits
Health and Safety Education	4 credits
Visual and Performing Arts	5 credits
World Languages	10 credits
Financial, Economics, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy	2.5 credits
21st Century Life & Careers or Career Technical Education	5 credits
Electives	15 credits

1. Fulfillment of the 125 credit program requirements (Option I);
2. Option II – in whole or in part with the 125-credit program listed above;
3. Proficiency in both ELA and Mathematics by meeting one of the aforementioned criteria
4. Attainment of Board of Education attendance requirements

All other requirements as established by the Orange Board of Education Policy 5460, Graduation Requirements.

## **Guidelines for the Utilization of Option II N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 et seq. (continued 2)**

### **Option II Credit Attainment**

Students planning to pursue course work for credit external to the traditional offerings of district curriculum are required to submit a completed application to the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee.

This committee will be comprised of the High School Principal, a designated Departmental Supervisor, Supervisor of School Counseling, and a designated School Counselor. Deadlines for submission are first week in September Fall Semester course work and first week of January for Spring Semester course work. The Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee will review each application to determine eligibility and grant approval/disapproval based on the criteria outlined. Each student's application will be reviewed on its own merit. The committee will ensure that each student is on track to fulfill graduation requirements.

Grades for approved Option II course work will be reflected on a student's transcript in compliance with district policy 2624. Upon approval, policies regarding the dropping of said course work will follow those procedures as outlined by the institution providing the course work and the procedures as outlined in the district's Program of Studies. Option II course work will not be included in the calculation of a student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA). Official transcripts generated by course work taken outside of the district may be attached to a student's transcript. Such requests must be made through the student's assigned school counselor and approved by the school principal. Once credit has been earned in an approved Option II course, students will not be permitted to enroll in an equivalent district course.

### **Advanced Credit; Additional Credit; Acceleration**

Students may opt to enroll in Option II courses to include on his/her transcript and/or to advance a course level. A common example of advanced coursework is the student who takes an additional mathematics course to advance to the next level of math or a world language that is not available for study at the high school. Advance credit, additional credit, or acceleration can be achieved through in-person or on-line coursework. The following guidelines must be followed:

## **Guidelines for the Utilization of Option II N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 et seq. (continued 3)**

Completed applications must be received by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee by the first week in September for enrollment in a Fall Semester course; and the first week of January for a Spring Semester course.

The course must be from an accredited institution and/or monitored by a certified staff member. Accreditation must be from a United States Department of Education recognized national or regional professional accrediting organization. Advanced/Additional/Acceleration Credit courses must meet the 120 hour enrollment requirement for complete course advancement.

The course must be approved by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee.

An official transcript from the institution must be submitted promptly following the completion of the course. Grades for completed Advanced/Additional/Acceleration Credit courses will be reflected on transcripts in compliance with district policy 2624.

Permission to advance a course level is dependent on a final assessment as determined by the school principal. The assessment will be utilized to determine proficiency and the ability to succeed in the next level. The assessment does not impact the awarding of credit based on course completion. If deemed not to meet proficiency standards, credit earned will be applied as elective credit, and the student will be required to enroll in the next high school level course.

Advanced credit can be awarded for successful completion of demonstrated proficiency in Algebra I, Algebra II and/or Geometry if taken at the middle school.

### **College Credit**

Students may opt to enroll in college level courses and apply credits earned toward high school graduation requirements. Students enrolling in college level courses must meet eligibility requirements as established by Board of Education Policy 5460 and those established by the college or university. College credit can be achieved through in-person or on-line coursework. The following guidelines must be followed:

1. Completed applications must be received by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee by the first week of September for enrollment in a Fall Semester course and the first week of January for a Spring Semester course.
2. The course must be taken from a regionally accredited two- or four-year college/university.
3. The course must be approved by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee.
4. An official transcript from the college/university must be submitted promptly

following the completion of the course. Grades for completed College Credit courses will be reflected on transcripts; however, the grade will be included in the calculation of a student's overall GPA.

## **Guidelines for the Utilization of Option II N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 et seq. (continued 4)**

### **Independent Study**

The Independent Study program is intended for individuals who seek intense study in an academic area not currently offered by the current curriculum. Independent studies may not replace a course listed in the district's Program of Studies. Independent Study credit can be achieved through in-person or on-line coursework. The following guidelines must be followed:

1. Completed applications, Option II and Independent Study, must be received by the Principal's Option II Credit

Review Committee by the first week of September for enrollment in a Fall Semester Independent Study and the first week of January for a Spring Semester Independent Study. Independent Study applications are in addition to the Option II application. The Independent Study application provides specific details of requirements. See application for more information.

2. The course must be approved by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee.
3. A certified faculty member must serve as an advisor and be secured prior to the submission of required paperwork. Advisors are voluntary participants working collaboratively with the student to develop independent study goals. The responsibilities of student and advisor are detailed in the Independent Study application.
4. The Independent Study advisor is responsible for the final evaluation of the study and must submit verification those instructional objectives have been achieved. Grades for Independent Study courses will be reflected on transcripts in compliance with district policy 2624.

### **Internship**

Students are encouraged to seek opportunities within the community to complement their education through volunteering. Under Option II, students may apply credit from Internship to high school graduation requirements if approved in advance by the Principal. The following guidelines must be followed:

## **A PRE-APPROVED INTERNSHIP MUST BE ESTABLISHED**

1. Completed applications, Option II and Internship, must be received by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee by the first week of September for enrollment in Fall Semester Internship and the first week of January for Spring Semester Internship. Internship applications are in addition to the Option II application. The Internship application provides specific details of requirements. See application for more information.
2. The Internship must be approved by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee.
3. The student must have an approved mentor for the project by the Principal.
4. The student must complete a self-reflection and learning outcome report at the conclusion of the internship experience and submit it to his/her mentor. The mentor will include a copy of the report with his/her evaluation.
5. The Internship mentor is responsible for the final evaluation and must submit verification that Internship objectives have been met. Grades for Internship will be reflected on transcripts in compliance with the district's grading policy. Internships will be included in the calculation of a student's overall GPA. Failure to submit a report by the mentor will result in the designation of "64" or lower on the student's transcript.
6. Internship credit cannot be earned for providing assistance to a staff member.

### **Instructions for the Application for Option II Credit N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 et seq.**

1. **Eligibility Orange Public School District Instructions for the Application for Option II Credit N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 et seq.**
  - a. Option II Credit is available to students in grades 9 – 12; however, advanced/accelerated credit may be earned by students who have demonstrated proficiency in courses taken prior to high school. For example, middle school students who have demonstrated proficiency in Algebra I and/or Geometry may apply awarded credit toward graduation provided an Option II application was submitted and approved.
  - b. Receipt of a completed Option II Credit Application by the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee.
  - c. Acknowledgement of student, parent, and advisor/mentor (if applicable) responsibilities, expectations and means through which the credits will be reported in the student's permanent record.

## **2. Complete Application**

- a. Obtain an application from assigned school counselor or download forms on-line at Option II.
- b. Complete Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Application for Option II Credit form. Submit application to appropriate Department Supervisor for completion of Section 4. Independent Study and Internship Credit require the completion of additional application forms.
- c. Secure an advisor/mentor, if applicable.
- d. Obtain all signatures required in Section 5 of the Application for Option II Credit.
- e. Optional - include additional information that will assist the Principal's Committee in evaluating the request.
- f. Submit completed application to the Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee the first week of September Fall Semester course work and the first week of January for Spring Semester course work.

## **3. Application Review/Approval**

- a. The Principal's Option II Credit Review Committee will review completed applications within 3-5 days following established deadlines and a determination will be made.
- b. Notification of the Principal's Committee's decision to approve or disapprove will be sent to the student and parent.

## **4. Certification of Option II Credit**

- a. If approved, the student shall participate in the Option II Credit experience and submit necessary documents to verify completion. These documents shall include any or all of the following and deemed necessary by the Principal's Committee: official transcript; evaluation report; attendance report; completed project; and any other elements agreed to in the Option II application agreement.
- b. Following the final review of the Option II Credit experience by the Principal's Committee, notice will be sent to student, parent, and school counselor regarding the decision to award credit. The student's transcript will be amended as necessary.
- c. Appeals – students and parents have the right to appeal the decision of the Principal's Committee. Such appeals must be submitted within 3 days of the Committee's decision.
- d. The appeal should address the specific reason(s) cited by the Committee in reaching its decision. Appeals can be made regarding eligibility and/or regarding the awarding of credit.

5. If seeking to advance a level, the student shall arrange a final assessment with the content area Teacher in which he/she is seeking advancement. The content supervisor will then forward

the results of the final assessment to the Principal's Committee. The student's transcript will be amended as necessary.

### **Classroom Expectations**

It is the goal of STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges to provide a classroom environment that is conducive to learning and offers opportunities for students to realize their academic potential. We offer students the opportunity to learn in a pleasant, orderly and disciplined environment, free from distractions or disturbances which might interfere with the educational process. To that end, teachers are expected to convey their expectations for positive learning to their students. Recognizing that each teacher and classroom settings may differ, some general rules for classroom conduct will include, but not be limited to, entering the classroom fully prepared, on time and ready to focus on the lesson; being attentive to the teacher and complying with the teacher's classroom rules and procedures; and remaining on task at all times until the teacher dismisses the class at the end of each period. All students are expected to adhere to these rules, as well as specific classroom rules that are created by the faculty.

### **Beverages and Food**

NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES are to be consumed in the classrooms. Lunch Detention and office hours snacks are the only exceptions. Water bottles in clear containers are permissible with individual classroom teacher's consent.

Water bottles may also be carried by students with medical reasons, documented by a physician, and recorded by the school nurse. Water bottles are encouraged for physical education classes and on days where the weather forecast will exceed 70 degrees.

Students are strictly prohibited from ordering or receiving food deliveries from services such as Uber Eats, Grubhub, DoorDash, or any similar vendors. Food delivery to the building is not allowed under any circumstances and is not permissible at any secondary school within the Orange School District.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Pupils are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. To ensure the integrity of STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges' educational program, a strict adherence to our district policy of academic dishonesty will be enforced. Students are expected to be honest in order to learn and grow as responsible and ethical citizens. Any breach of this standard endangers the learning process and impugns the integrity of the entire school community. The purpose of education is to prepare students to become lifelong learners, and dishonesty undermines and inhibits that process. No forms of personal and/or academic misrepresentation are permitted. A student, whether cheating alone or helping another person to cheat, will be subject to the disciplinary procedure.

Students will be expected to:

1. Complete his/her own academic work;
2. Refrain from sharing assignments unless authorized to do so;
3. Refrain from engaging in plagiarism when doing research; and
4. Adhere to classroom academic standards when testing.

The District subscribes to Turnitin.com, an electronic resource for helping to detect and prevent plagiarism. If required to do so by their teachers, students must submit their work to the website before presenting the work to their teacher.

### **Definitions:**

**Cheating** is defined as any misrepresentation of one's academic work.

**Personal Misrepresentation** includes attendance records; presenting falsified notes, passes or names; and any other deliberate misrepresentation to school authorities, other than academic work.

**Academic Misrepresentation** includes but is not limited to, stealing, copying or providing answers on any homework, quiz, test, exam, report, essay or other school assignments, and using sources without proper documentation (plagiarism) as well as changing grades.

### **Procedures:**

A teacher who believes that a pupil has been academically dishonest in his/her class should resolve the matter in the following manner:

- Any student found to have violated the standards for academic honesty will receive a grade of zero for the work. No make-up work will be permitted.
- The teacher will meet with student and notify parent of alleged academic dishonesty.
- The teacher shall file a discipline referral with an Administrator. The referral must describe in detail the dishonesty that is alleged to have taken place and must request that the matter be reviewed by the Administrator.
- The Administrator will prescribe a penalty depending upon the previous record of the student and the severity of the offense. See the discipline.
- Any student leader (captain, officer, editor, class representative, etc.) who violates the standards of honesty will be removed from that position and may not hold any position of leadership or trust for the equivalent of one calendar year from the date of the infraction.
- The Administrator will inform the advisor of said Student Activity group regarding any determination of dishonesty.

## Late Work Policy

Any work submitted late will be subject to the following grading scale:

1-5 calendar days late	5% deducted per day
6-7 calendar days late	5% deducted per day and must attend office hours*
8 or more days late	<b>Assignments will not be accepted unless you obtain permission to attend STEM's Saturday Make-up Session (maximum grade, 50)</b>

**To submit work more than 7 days late, students must request a special form from the main office to attend STEM's Saturday Make-up Session.**

*\*Art, P.E. office hours will be held in the cafeteria 7:30am- 8:00am*

## STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges ATTENDANCE POLICY

### Statement of Belief

It is our belief that consistent and prompt student attendance in class is essential to achieve the maximum benefit of the educational experience. Much of what is presented in class is sequential and vital to student learning. Learning requires continuity of attendance and effort. Repeated absences from school or class impede the student's participation in classroom activities, and thus attendance should be and will be a significant factor in the determination of a student's grade, according to school policy.

### Purpose of the Student Attendance Policy

The purpose of the STEM Academy of Orange's Attendance Policy is to have each student attend all classes, arriving on time and participating fully. Students and parents should familiarize themselves with the provision and procedures of the policy. It is expected that parents will support the intent of the policy and encourage their children to maintain good attendance. Official school attendance is taken during the attendance period daily. Classroom attendance is taken every period.

## **ROLE OF THE STUDENT**

Know attendance standards and expectations  
Accept responsibility for their attendance  
Be accountable for their daily attendance by checking the Genesis Parent Portal. Be aware of the importance of daily attendance  
Be responsible for completing activities to compensate for lost learning opportunities after absences  
Complete make-up work on a timely basis  
Choose to be in class

(Kube and Ratigan, 1992)

## **ROLE OF THE PARENT**

- Be responsible for the student's daily attendance
- Form an alliance with the teachers committed to reducing excessive absences
- Check daily attendance on Genesis Parent Portal.
- Work in collaboration with the school to attain the highest possible attendance rate for their child
- Stress the importance of daily attendance to their children
- Recognize that learning opportunities missed due to absences cannot be exactly duplicated at a later time
- Inform the Attendance Office when students are absent by phone on the day of absence and by note upon the student's return to school.
- Support the school in its effort to maximize student learning

(Kube and Ratigan, 1992)

## **Absence**

### **A. Maximum number of absences**

Students are expected to attend every class, study hall, independent study and homeroom period. Board Policy requires each student to be present for at least 90% of class meetings in order to be eligible to receive credit. The number of absences in each class may not exceed:

<b>18 Cumulative Absences</b>	<b>Full Year Course</b>
<b>9 Cumulative Absences</b>	<b>Semester Course</b>
<b>5 Cumulative Absences</b>	<b>Quarter Course (PE/Health)</b>

**“Cumulative absences”** are those that count toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) day limit. All class absences, whether excused or unexcused with the exception of those absences specified in Section C, will count toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) day cumulative absence limit.

Parents and students should check Genesis Portal each week to monitor student attendance. Any problems should be addressed promptly.

#### **B. Excused Cumulative absences**

If a student is absent for either all or part of a school day, a parent must call the School Counselor’s office and send a note explaining the reason for the absence. Notes must include:

the student’s name;  
the date(s) of absence;  
the specific reason for the absence, lateness, or early dismissal;  
the signature of the parent;  
and a daytime phone number where a parent can be reached to verify the note.

Notes must be presented to the Attendance’s office on the first day that the student returns from an absence or on the day of a late arrival or early dismissal. **NO ABSENCE OR TARDY NOTE WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE AT THE END OF EACH MARKING PERIOD.**

#### **2025-2026 Deadlines for Absence Excuses**

Marking Period 1 10/15/25  
Marking Period 2 2/6/26  
Marking Period 3 4/30/26  
Marking Period 4 6/22/26

A student who is absent due to illness or injury, college visits, funeral, medical or dental appointments, driving tests or other reasons that are deemed necessary by the administration may be considered excused when the appropriate note is filed in a timely manner. Although these absences are excused, they will count toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) day limit. A note from a doctor indicating that illness is the reason for the absence does not prevent the absences from counting toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) day limit. When a student misses part of the day, the parent must notify the Attendance Office as follows:

**For a tardy arrival with a note – the parent must call the Main Office and the student must present a parent note to the Attendance and sign in immediately upon arrival.**

**For an early dismissal – A parent/guardian must come to the Attendance’s office and**

**sign their child out. If the student returns to school, he/she must sign back in at the Attendance's office and obtain a pass to return to class.**

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their students follow the procedures for absences, early dismissals, and tardy arrivals. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures will result in the student being charged with an unexcused absence.

**Students are not permitted to leave campus at any time. Any student who leaves campus without written authorization will be subject to disciplinary action.**

Planned absences are discouraged because they entail the loss of learning opportunity. In the event of necessary planned absences, parents must submit written notification to the Attendance's office ten (10) days prior to the planned absence. Students are responsible for obtaining assignments from their teachers in advance of planned absences. Planned absences will count toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) day limit and may result in loss of credit.

Excessive student absences without acceptable reasons may be referred to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP).

**C. Exceptions (Excused absences that do not count toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) absence limit.)**

Parents are required to notify the Attendance's office by phone and written note in the following instances; however, the absences will not count toward the cumulative maximum.

**1. Religious holidays**

No student who shall be absent because of a religious holiday shall by reason of such absence be deprived of any award, or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for an award, or of the right to take an alternate test or examination, for any of which the student may have missed by reason of such an absence, if a written excuse signed by a parent is presented. (NJSA 18A:36-14)

**2. Death in the immediate family.**

**3. Mandatory court appearance as documented by judicial authority.**

**4. Long-term illness.**

When a student is expected to be out of school for more than ten (10) days for medical reasons, the student is eligible to receive home instruction for up to 5 hours per week. Parents should contact the school counsel for information on how to secure home instruction. Those days when the student is on home instruction do not count toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) day limit.

In addition, the following absences do not count toward the cumulative maximums:

**5. Suspensions**

**6. Administrative conferences or exclusions initiated by the administrator.**

**D. Unexcused Absences**

### 1. Truancy

A student who is absent from school without documented parental permission is considered to be truant. Students who are truant will be charged with a class cut for each class missed and will be assigned detentions for all cuts. Repeated instances of truancy by students under age 16 may be referred to municipal court.

### 2. Cutting class

A student who is absent from class without express permission from the teacher or an administrator will be charged with cutting class (CUT). Parents will be notified on the day of the cut and an after-school detention will be assigned by the Attendance or attending Administrator. A cut is an absence that will count toward the 18 (or 9 or 5) day limit. Repeated instances of cutting may result in more severe disciplinary sanctions.

First Offense:

A. Detention & zero for the day.

Second Offense:

A. Zero for the day.

B. Parent notification via phone and letter.

Third Offense:

A. Detention (2) & zero for the day.

B. Parent Notification and/or Conference.

Fourth Offense:

A. Detention (2) & zero for the day.

B. Loss of Credit

C. Parent Conference.

### 3. Tardiness to class

## **E. MAKE UP POLICY**

When a student's class absence is excused, the student is allowed two school days to complete missing work/tests for each day absent to receive full credit. For example, if a student has an excused absence of three days, the student will have six school days to complete his/her work. Students are not entitled to make up work or tests missed during an unauthorized absence or cut. If a parent knows in advance that the student will be absent from school, students should obtain assignments prior to the absence and complete them before returning to school. Suspended students are also expected to obtain their assignments and make an effort to complete their work while out of school.

## **F. ATTENDANCE APPEALS**

A student who has exceeded the maximum number of cumulative absences (18 or 9 or 5) may appeal for a waiver of the loss of credit. Appeal forms may be obtained from the office of the appropriate School Attendance Office at 973-677-4050 ext. 5038.

Appeals will be considered when based upon

1. serious illness which is documented by a physician note;
2. legal obligations beyond the student's control; or 3) patterns of attendance that demonstrate substantial improvement following earlier instances of absenteeism.

**NO APPEAL WILL BE GRANTED IF ANY OF THE ABSENCES ARE UNEXCUSED CUTS. PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING THEIR STUDENTS' EXCUSED ABSENCES TO THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE IN A TIMELY MANNER THAT IS BEFORE THE DEADLINE AT THE END OF EACH MARKING PERIOD.** Appeals must be filed at the end of each course; the grade-level Attendance Office will notify the parent of the decision.

## **Tardiness**

Tardy arrival to class disrupts the lesson in progress and deprives the tardy student of valuable learning opportunity. Students are required to be on time to their classes, homeroom, study halls, independent study periods, and cafeteria assignments. During instructional periods, they are expected to be in their seats and ready for work, at the sound of the bell.

**Classes begin at The STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges at 8:20 am.**

Please note that any student reporting on or after 8:21am is considered late. Consequences may be issued.

### **First/Second Offense:**

Warning  
Parent notification via phone.

### **Third Offense:**

Parent Conference  
Saturday Detention

**At the start of each month students will be provided a clean slate. Allowances will be made for scholars who are late due to bus issues beyond their control.**

**STUDENT SERVICES**  
**Mr. Jamaal Johnson | Guidance Counselor | (973) 677-4000 Ext:32810**  
**johnsoja@orange.k12.nj.us**

The role of guidance counselor has been reestablished this year and they will work closely with teachers, administrators and parents to provide support for students who may be experiencing personal, family, academic and/or peer difficulties. The guidance counselor will connect students and families with crisis intervention, counseling and referral services, with goals of supporting and empowering students to build upon their existing developmental assets. Concerns for which students may seek assistance include (but are not limited to): Depression, Anxiety, Bullying, Substance Abuse, Self-Harm, Self-Esteem, Social Skills, Family Changes, Anger, Abuse/Neglect, Eating Disorders and Crisis Management. All sessions are confidential. When students at the high school level seek help on their own, they are encouraged to share this with their families. We do not, however, automatically contact parents unless our assessment indicates a safety risk. This would include a student who is in danger of harming him or herself, harming someone else, or is being harmed by another individual. **School Social Workers are located at Orange High School and we have an agreement with Main Street Counseling of West Orange. The guidance counselor will connect students with services as needed. The guidance counselor will also handle scheduling and college planning needs.**

Each student is an important, valued, developing, capable, and unique individual who will learn from experience and grow personally and educationally throughout adolescence.

The presence of a Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) in a school has a profound impact on the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth and students. GLSEN's most recent National School Climate Study found that LGBTQ+ students with access to a GSA experienced lower level of victimization and felt a greater sense of belonging and acceptance in their school communities. All secondary schools within the Orange School District have identified a GSA Advisor. Should your child need support in this area, the **GSA Advisor for STEM Academy is Mr. Jamaal Johnson (he, him, his), Guidance Counselor.** As a school district, we remain committed to your child's development and growth. Use our valuable resources as we are here to support your scholar.

## **OTHER STUDENT SERVICES**

### **LOCKERS**

**Please note that all lockers are the property of STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges and, as such, the school reserves the right to open, inspect, or restrict the use of lockers.**

Hall Locker Assignment Information:

1. Students are assigned lockers by the main office.
2. Students must not share lockers.
3. Students must not give their combinations to other students.
4. Students will receive locker assignments and locks on the first day of school. Replacement locks will be issued at a cost of \$5.00. Students cannot use their own locks and must use school issued locks. Unauthorized locks will be cut off.
5. Lockers and other storage facilities (such as desks) are the property of the School District and may be searched at any time.

**The STEM Innovation Academy is not responsible for lost or stolen property.**

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Lost and Found Students should not bring valuable articles to school such as large sums of money or expensive electronic devices including cell phones, iPods, MP 3 players or video game players. Students are encouraged to insure valuable items since the school is not responsible if such items are lost or stolen. Students are expected to monitor their own belongings and to secure valuables in their lockers during the school day. In order to prevent loss, please mark all belongings with indelible ink or by sewing on nametags. Students who find or lose articles are urged to report to the security desk. Owners claiming lost articles must give satisfactory identification. Large amounts of clothing and other articles are accumulated in the lost and found department. After 30 days, unclaimed articles are donated to charitable organizations. Students must clearly write their names in all textbooks issued to them. Students are required to return textbooks at the end of each course or pay the replacement costs.

## **School and Law Enforcement Unit**

The STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges has a law Enforcement Unit which indicates that there are surveillance cameras throughout the school. Surveillance tapes may be utilized as evidence for incidences that may occur which may cause disruption or disorder to the school. The unit will be responsible for the storage of the tapes and ensuring confidentiality.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **SPIRIT WEEK/PEP RALLIES**

We will be holding seasonal spirit weeks, pep rallies, and other events throughout the year to ensure we find ways to engage students in social activities and to build upon our school culture. Student and staff participation is imperative to ensuring the success of the events in both the planning and implementation phases. An avenue for suggestions, volunteer sign-ups, and participation will be disseminated throughout the year and are always welcome. Please feel free to Principal Eric Andrews (Andrewer@orange.k12.nj.us) at any time with suggestions.

### **ATHLETICS Overview**

The OHS Interscholastic Athletic Program is administered by the Athletic Department under the rules of the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA). In accordance with the rules of the NJSIAA, any member of the interscholastic team must be physically fit (approved by the school physical), have parental permission, and satisfy the academic requirements of the district and the state.

Please visit the **OHS Athletic Department webpage** for forms and protocol.

The New Jersey Department of Education code (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2.h) requires all athletes to have one comprehensive physical examination per year and that the athlete submit a health history update 2 weeks prior to the first practice session for the sport. These forms are required by the New Jersey Department of Education and will be the only comprehensive physical form that will be accepted by the school district for participation in the sports program. The final requirement is that our school physician must approve the completed physical form prior to the athlete being allowed to participate in the sport, including practice sessions. The school physician for the Orange Public Schools performs sports physical exams at OHS. Appointments can be made by contacting Mr. Anthony Frantantoni at (973) 677-4000 ext. 41801.

Please note that students who submit paperwork for physicals after deadlines have passed are not guaranteed clearance for participation for their first day practice.

A student must have earned at least 27.5 credits in the previous academic year to be eligible to participate in a fall or winter interscholastic athletic team. To be eligible for a spring team, the student must have successfully completed 13.75 credits in the preceding semester. All STEM students must have a GPA of 3.0.

### \*\*\*Additional Conditions

Any student/athlete who fails the first semester will be required to serve a consequence that could be, but not limited to a maximum of a 1 month suspension.

At the conclusion of the suspension, the student's academic performance will be reassessed for future eligibility. Further disciplinary action could be issued if student performance is not improved

REVISED 2015

### **ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GOALS**

- To develop in student athletes the desire to continually improve through practice and development of a strong work ethic
- To provide student athletes with the opportunity to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect for others as a means of learning positive citizenship
- To develop in student athletes' emotional control, dependability, and respect for rules, property and authority
- To provide student athletes the opportunity to work as a team in order to achieve a goal and, in the process, learn the importance of cooperation and teamwork
- To foster a sense of self-worth and self-confidence in student athletes
- To provide a safe and healthy environment, free from performance-enhancing and other body-altering substances
- To provide student athletes with experiences that require problem solving, decision making and critical thinking skills
- To provide student athletes the opportunity to participate in activities with others whose backgrounds and experiences may differ from their own
- To provide student athletes the opportunity to pursue lifelong physical fitness
- To develop in student athletes a sense of team loyalty, community, and overall school spirit
- To develop within our entire community a sense of pride, loyalty and mutual support
- To encourage student athletes to achieve academic success and keep athleticism in proper perspective

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

- To develop strength of character, integrity, social competence, and ethical and moral values consistent with the needs and demands of the community and society, and the mission of the Orange Township Public Schools
- To strengthen the virtues of good sportsmanship, self-sacrifice, fair play, and teamwork essential to success in athletics and in our society
- To encourage the development of a stronger and healthier young man/woman, with a sound mind, and a healthy work ethic

- To promote the practice of self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions in competitive and pressure situations
- To provide opportunity for students to strive for excellence in the practice and performance of athletics
- To develop a sense of balance between “work” and “play”
- To teach and encourage participation, which contributes to the success and well-being of the team
- To motivate students to improve individual athletic skills through practice and preparation
- To teach students strategies of a particular sport, the importance of adhering to the rules, and respect for both the officials administering the rules and their decisions
- To demonstrate to our athletes that participation in an interscholastic sports program has responsibilities which students must properly fulfill in order to compete
- To develop in students an understanding of the value of athletics in a balanced educational process

### **Orange High School Athletic Programs**

#### **Fall Sports (August – November)**

Football (F, JV, V)  
 Soccer Boys (V)  
 Soccer Girls (V)  
 Girls Volleyball (JV, V)  
 Cheerleading (V)

#### **Winter Sports (November-February)**

Basketball Boys (F, JV, V)  
 Basketball Girls (JV, V)  
 Indoor Track (V)  
 Wrestling (JV, V)  
 Cheerleading (V)

#### **Spring Sports (March- May)**

Baseball (JV, V)  
 Softball (V)  
 Outdoor Track (V, JV)

### **NJSIAA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

1. **To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) a pupil must have passed 25% of the credits (30) required by the State of New Jersey for graduation (120), during the immediately preceding academic year.**
2. **To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30), a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12 1/2% of the credits (15) required by New Jersey for graduation (120) at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31). Full-year courses shall**

**be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.**

**Note:** No student shall be eligible after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the ninth grade. An athlete cannot participate if he/she has reached the age of nineteen prior to September 1 of any year.

**Handicapped/Classified Students:**

All handicapped/classified students, as defined by the New Jersey State Department of Education, shall comply with the athletic eligibility rules and regulations of the NJSIAA; in addition, the student must have evidence of the following:

1. Consent from parents or guardians for such a competitive experience.
2. The Child Study Team must certify that the youth is functioning in the school commensurate with his/her ability and is emotionally stable enough to participate in interscholastic athletics. The Principal must give final approval for participation. The medical physician of the school district must certify that the youth has the physical ability to compete equally with other participants.

**Foreign Students/Transfers:**

In the case of foreign students and/or transfers entering the Orange Public Schools District, the Athletic Director and Principal, working directly with the NJSIAA Administrators shall determine eligibility. The student is NOT eligible to play or practice until eligibility is determined and confirmed. Any coaches having any candidates who may come under these classifications are to notify the Athletic Director immediately. The Athletic Director will then begin the process of determining eligibility.

**STUDENT ATHLETE ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

- All student athletes must maintain either:
- A current cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0; or
- Hold a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0 from the previous school year, in order to participate in athletic programs for the upcoming school year.

**Progress Report**

All student athletes will have their progress monitored by the Head coach, Tutors & Vice Principal of Athletics using Genesis.

**Character**

No student athlete who is:

absent from school the entire school day; or

dismissed from class due to a behavioral incident;

will be permitted to participate in any athletic program, practice and/or game play, that same day. If a student athlete is suspended from school, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the contests for the week but will be required to participate in practice to be able to play in the contests the following week.

## **Consequences**

Students who fail to meet the academic requirements will be put on probation for the current school year to improve their GPA to become eligible for the following school year.

## **STUDENT ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Players are expected to maintain a 2.0 GPA or better in their school courses.
2. Athletes must have a current school year physical and/or medical clearance form on file in the athletic office in order to participate in practice and games.
3. Participation is at the discretion of the coaching staff and administration.
4. Players may be denied participation in practice or contests for disciplinary reasons.
5. Players are expected to attend every practice or contest unless they are absent from school.
6. Players who quit the team are responsible for notifying the head coach immediately and returning all equipment and uniforms at that time.
7. Players must be on time for all practices.
8. Only the Principal, VP of Athletics or Head Coach can cancel practice.
9. All injuries or illnesses must be reported to the coaching staff immediately.
10. Players with injuries requiring physician or trainer attention cannot return to practice without written approval giving them clearance for practice and/or games.

Players are responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them. They will be charged the full replacement cost for any equipment or uniform lost, damaged, or stolen that is due to their negligence and will not be able to participate in prom and graduation until the cost is satisfied.

There is **ZERO TOLERANCE** for violence or the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Violations will result in suspension or expulsion from the team, as deemed by administration.

There is **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any criminal activity this includes gang involvement, and hazing. Violations will result in suspension or expulsion from the team, as deemed by administration.

Sportsmanship for all coaches, officials, spectators, and other players is expected at all times. No player can attend practice or participate in an athletic event if absent from school, unless approved by the Principal, or **Assistant Principal of Academics & Athletics** due to extenuating circumstances.

**Anthony Frantantoni, Assistant Principal of Academics & Athletics 973-677-4000 x 41801**

All STEM students participating in athletics or any other extra-curricular activity at OHS or OPA must submit documentation from the corresponding coach or club/program advisor stating the

following; the student(s) name(s), all practices (dates and times), and all games and performances (dates and times). Additionally, students will be required to submit a signed parental consent form allowing their child to participate in said activity (dates and times) and be dismissed from school on or around the last block (3pm). Students must maintain the district's minimum requirement for a passing grade of 72% in all classes in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. Academic eligibility will be determined based on progress report and marking cycle grades.

## **SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

### **Change of Address, Phone numbers, or Email address**

For all changes to your home address, it is imperative that you promptly notify the Registrar's Office at 451 Lincoln Avenue in Orange, NJ. The number is (973) 677-4050 x 6093. STEM Innovation Academy personnel do not have the authority to alter the address under which you registered as a resident.

**Parents should notify the school's office at 973-677-4000 ext 32700 to change contact information including home, work, and cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and emergency contact persons.**

### **Beverages and Food**

NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES are to be consumed in the classrooms. Lunch Detention and office hours snacks are the only exceptions. Water bottles in clear containers are permissible with individual classroom teacher's consent.

**Students are not to Uber Eats, Grubhub, or Door Dash et el food to the building. It is not permissible at any secondary school within the Orange School District.**

Water bottles may also be carried by students with medical reasons, documented by a physician, and recorded by the school nurse. Water bottles are encouraged for physical education classes and on days where the weather forecast will exceed 70 degrees.

### **Passes**

**Tardy-** If a student arrives at school after 8:25am, he or she must report to the main office to secure a pass. This pass is not an excuse, but merely a passage to class. The secretary in the main office will mark the student as Tardy.

**Hall-**Teachers are encouraged to permit no more than one student out of the classroom at one time WITH a pass. All pass holders MUST complete the hall log on each use.

**Lunch-**Students who wish to visit a teacher or receive support during their lunch period, must secure a designated lunch pass from the teacher they are requesting to have lunch with. Students may not acquire a lunch pass from teacher A in order to visit teacher Z because

teacher Z passes have been exhausted. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the loss of privileges.

### **Cellular Phone Use (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)**

**The use of cellular devices (phones, watches, tablets, etc.) will NOT be permitted in classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms. The ear must be exposed at all times and no headphones that cover the ear are permitted (ie. Beats studio headsets). Failure to comply may result in cell phone restrictions for up to 5 days as well as a blanket ban on cell phones in the classrooms.**

**ALL DEVICES MUST be stored silent in the student backpack; which will be stored in a designated area in EACH classroom. Cell phone use is permitted before school, after school, and during lunch. Students may not use the device(s) outside of those parameters.** Parents are asked to contact the main office if something needs to be communicated or an emergency arises. Non emergent communication may be sent via text.

### **Emergency Evacuations, Drills, and Lockdowns**

All actions that should be taken during an emergency situation cannot possibly be covered in this handbook; however, there are some actions that are inherent to every emergency situation. Those are covered below:

1. Follow the instructions of your teacher or the adult present in your classroom.
2. If in the hallways when an emergency occurs, follow the directives of school personnel.
3. Remain quiet so that you do not miss important instructions
4. Do not use your cell phone, music player, or ear buds/headphones.

Stay with your class until you are properly released by a school official. From time to time, we will practice emergency drills with the most common being the fire drill. You are to treat each practice drill as if it were an actual emergency. Those students who fail to return to class after practice drills or who fail to remain with their class during an actual emergency will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

### **Field Trips and Assemblies**

These activities are designed to enhance the curriculum and expose students to a wide variety of topics and issues and are often related to the curriculum. Attendance at and participation in these activities is a privilege, not a right. Students need to recognize that inappropriate behavior may result in revoking the privilege to attend such events.

It is the responsibility of the student to retrieve and submit any and all missing work, for ALL

classes, due to field trip attendance.

## **Posters**

All posters must be approved by your club advisor and an Administrator prior to posting. Posters must be removed by the sponsoring group following the event. Posters must relate to events sponsored by a STEM organization.

## **Genesis**

The Genesis Parent Portal is an online resource through which parents and students can check on attendance records, progress report comments, report card grades, and midterm and final exam grades. Information on this resource and access codes will be mailed to families in September. Questions about access codes or other concerns should be addressed to Dr. Harlem @ 973-677-4000 ext. 32700.

## **Student Identification**

STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges requires that all students to be issued a student identification card. Students must present their identification card to any school staff member when requested to do so. ID cards are required when entering the school building and also required for admission to some school events and to borrow materials from the library. Without an Identification Card, items cannot be borrowed from the library. In accordance with the school discipline policy, any student who refuses to provide identification, is unable to provide identification or provides false identification may be subject to disciplinary actions.

For students who have lost their Identification Cards: Replacement cards are available for a \$5.00 replacement fee. Identification cards can be ordered in the Attendance Office each school day between 8:15 am and 9:00 am. Replacement fees are charged beginning after the initial issuance and must be paid before the replacement card will be produced.

## **Campus Security/Safety - Video Surveillance/Photo and Video Policies**

STEM follows the Federal law regarding the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). STEM's premises are monitored and recorded 24/7 by video cameras inside and outside the school to protect the student body and monitor potentially dangerous situations. Students involved in regular classroom, co-curricular, or school-related social events may be photographed, videotaped, or recorded by STEM representatives or members of the community press (TV, radio, newspaper, and internet). According to law, images or recordings are called "directory information" and may be legally used in yearbooks, rosters, programs, displays, newsletters, promotions, videos, CDs, DVDs, or other media distributed by the school. Parents who do not want the school to disclose directory information from their student's education records without prior written consent must notify the high school in writing within 10 days after the first day of school.

A full copy of FVL's FERPA policy is available by contacting the School Office. Parents with legal reasons for suppressing information, which would identify their student(s) to the public, need to meet with the Principal or Assistant Principal for the protection of both the student(s) and those who work with the student(s) in the school setting.

## **Searches**

Student searches by school officials, based upon reasonable suspicion, that are reasonable in scope may be conducted to detect violations of law or school rules. In order for a search to be reasonable, there must be reasonable grounds at its inception for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. School officials may inspect student lockers or other storage facilities at any time.

## **Visitors**

The Orange Public Schools is committed to providing safe and orderly school environments for all students, staff and families in our school system.

ALL traffic at the school will be directed to the rear entrance of the school. This is the only entrance open to visitors. Video systems are installed at all schools so that Security staff can see all visitors as they approach the building.

Security at the front desk will use access control to determine entry into schools. School doors will be locked at a certain time during the day, and at that point, all guests must be buzzed -in to the front office by a security staff member. Visitors should plan ahead to build in time for the new sign-in process as they prepare to go to a school.

All visitors must present valid photo identification during every visit to The STEM Innovation Academy.

Only legal parents visiting The STEM Innovation Academy for official school business will be allowed into the facility.

All visitors must sign in and out, wear a valid visitor's pass, walk through our weapons detection system, and be escorted to their destination by a security monitor.

All visitors must be escorted back to the security desk to sign out, return the visitor's pass, and exit the school building.

Parents are asked to encourage their child(ren) to report any safety concerns. Students must understand the dangers of not reporting and the importance of reporting.

**Thank you in advance for your consideration, cooperation, and support.**

## MANDATORY STEM HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE REGULATIONS

### Girls' Everyday Uniform

White Short or Long Sleeve Polo Shirt  
Navy Short or Long Sleeve Polo Shirt Navy  
Pants  
Navy Skirt

### Boys Everyday Uniform

White Short or Long Sleeve  
Polo Shirt Navy Short or Long  
Sleeve Polo Shirt Navy Pants

### Girls' Dress Uniform (Special Events)

Grey Blazer  
White Short or Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt  
Navy Pants Navy Skirt  
Navy Skort Navy  
Cross Tie

### Boys' Dress Uniform (Special Events)

Grey Blazer  
White Short or Long Sleeve  
Oxford Shirt  
Navy Pants Navy Tie

### Girls' Gym Uniform

Navy T-Shirts w/logo or  
Navy Sweatshirt (Not Hoodie) w/logo

### Boys' Gym Uniform

Navy T-Shirts w/ logo or  
Navy Sweatshirt (Not Hoodie) w/logo

Navy Sweatpants w/ logo

Navy Sweatpants w/logo

**\*\*\* For safety reasons hoop earrings, dangling chains on neck, bracelets and rings are not permitted during Physical Education Class \*\*\***

### Footwear

- dress shoes\*
- athletic shoes
- sneakers
- low heels
- loafers
- closed toe sandals

### Footwear

- dress shoes\*
- athletic shoes
- sneakers
- loafers

\* required as a part of the Dress Uniform

**The district uniform policy will be enforced.** Dress is the responsibility of parents and students. However, the school affirms that acceptable standards for students are predicated on decency, neatness, cleanliness, and safety. Dress for school must not distract from nor disrupt the education process. Clothing must be modest and appropriate\* for the school setting. Unacceptable clothing includes (but is not limited) the following:

- Any clothes without the STEM logo.
- UGG slippers of any kind, crocs, bandanas and scarves of any kind, denim jeans, leggings of any color.
- Extremely low cut, tight fitting or transparent clothing, bare midriffs, and suggestive clothing
- Excessively high cut shorts, skirts, or dresses
- Clothing, patches, or decorations that contain profane, obscene, offensive, or inappropriate language; references to alcohol, sex, drugs, or demeaning references to specific gender, ethnic, racial, or religious group.
- Bare feet, unsafe footwear, cleats, and footwear intended for the beach, i.e. flip flop, thong sandals  
or bonnets may be worn by males or females in the building.
- The wearing of sunglasses is **NOT** permitted unless a medical exception is on file.

**\*Note: What is deemed modest and appropriate is at the discretion of school administration.**

#### **POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR DRESS CODE/UNIFORM VIOLATIONS (Parents contact will be made after each offense)**

##### **1<sup>ST</sup> Offense**

- Parent Contact
- Clothing Must be

##### **Changed 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**

- Parent Contact
- Clothing Must be Changed
- Deten

##### **tion 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense**

- Parent Contact
- Clothing Must be Changed
- Suspension

**Failure to comply may result in suspension from ALL extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the marking period.**

## **CAFETERIA**

The cafeteria is an area for socializing and eating. The following rules of conduct are expected of each student:

The cafeteria is available to students during their assigned lunch periods. STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO TAKE FOOD AND BEVERAGES OUT OF THE CAFETERIA. Violations of this rule will be handled by an Administrator.

Cafeteria expectations are very basic. We ask that students remain seated while eating and visiting. They walk into a clean eating area every day and are expected to leave a clean cafeteria for the students in subsequent lunch periods. It is expected that the students follow directions the first time they are given.

- In order to keep the cafeteria clean and attractive, the following rules must be observed by all students. Any violation of the rules may result in disciplinary consequences.
- Keep tables, chairs, and floors clean.
- Food and beverages may not be taken out of the cafeteria.
- Each student is responsible for cleaning his/her table before leaving the cafeteria. If directed by a teacher to clean up the table, students are expected to cooperate.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the cafeteria without a written pass from the teacher or counselor who expects to meet with them.
- Students may use the lavatories across the hallway from cafeteria.
- Vending machines can only be used during lunch periods and after school.
- Students are permitted to use cell phones. Students should speak at a reasonable volume.
- Food will not be sold in the cafeteria during the changing time between periods and for 5 minutes at the beginning and end of each period.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

[Please refer to the Orange Public Schools Code of Conduct](#)



# Orange Township Public Schools

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

## 2025-2026 District Goals

### Goal #1: 21st Century Integration

The Orange Public Schools will continue to invest in its great instructional staff. The district values and promotes a culture of excellence in teaching and learning through increased and improved opportunities for quality, sustained professional development that address district needs and individual school needs as outlined by data points. The emphasis has been and will continue to be on best practices in teaching and learning. A continued understanding of providing targeted and intentional delivery of instruction is paramount district-wide while keeping in mind how to integrate technology ;/to strengthen but not decline instructional practices.

#### **1) Increase in the number of job-embedded professional learning opportunities that incorporate the expertise of building principals planning alongside district administration by 75% from SY 24-25**

- Administrative Meetings will continue to be instructionally-focused learning sessions for principals and district administrators. Ultimately, all training sessions will be germane to data points resulting from walk-through trend analyses.
- Administrative meetings will continue to have instructionally focused agendas with accompanying sign in sheets. Meetings will take place for horizontal and vertical articulation supports to build content knowledge and pedagogy if applicable and integration of technology to enhance the current curricula through structured Teacher Enrichment Success Periods district-wide.

#### **2) By May 2026, 60% of students in each preparedness group will meet or exceed their assigned end of year growth target in mathematics.**

- The assessments that will be used to measure progress towards the assigned growth targets include the iReady Diagnostic, NWEA MAP, District Benchmark Assessments, and select Performance Tasks in the area of Mathematics.
- The district will continue to report out all data in the area of mathematics in Curriculum Committee as per the assessment calendar as well as the Board of Education Meeting.

#### **3) By May 2026, 60% of students in each preparedness group will meet or exceed their assigned end of year growth target in ELA.**

- The assessments that will be used to measure progress towards the assigned growth targets include Reading Diagnostics, District Benchmarks, and Performance Tasks in the area of English Language Arts.
- The district will continue to report out all data in the area of English Language Arts in Curriculum Committee as per the assessment calendar as well as the Board of Education Meeting.

**4) By May 2026, 60% of students in each preparedness group will meet or exceed their assigned end of year growth target in Science.**

- The assessments that will be used to measure progress towards the assigned growth targets include benchmark assessments in the area of Science.
- The district will continue to report out all data in the area of Science in Curriculum Committee as per the assessment calendar as well as the Board of Education Meeting.

**5) By June 2026, 5% increases across all areas on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (Mathematics, Science, and English Language Arts)**

- The district will provide assessments to prepare students and staff for the high stakes assessment.
- Review of data from the assessments in public as well as during several points throughout the year.

**6) By June 2026, 100% of students will continue to have access to meaningful experiences of powerful learning opportunities and will demonstrate competencies and skills for the digital age. o**

- All students will continue to receive dedicated devices (Chromebooks) and accessories for year-round access in and out of school
- The district will continue to strengthen its device management plan to address repairs of accidental damage and provide extended warranties.
- The district will ensure processes and protocols at the school level are followed to replace lost, damaged, or stolen devices. This will include device management and inventory systems.
- The district will continue support of full-time, school-based Technology Coordinators and VILS Coaches to help build educator capacity districtwide in the integration of technology across all subjects
- Schools will continue to cultivate student tech teams to involve students directly in the planning, execution, and day-to-day management of implementation
- The district will continue to incorporate a 3-tiered system of assessing the degree of technology integration across the schools to include Technology Integration Matrix Lesson Observation Tool (TIM-O) walk throughs, Fall/Winter/Spring teacher/student surveys, and Usage Inventories (Time and Data).

## **Goal #2: Community Engagement**

**The Orange Public Schools will continue a system of consistent communication system for disseminating and receiving information between school administration, teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community.**

- Increase the timeliness, access, and effectiveness of all communication with all stakeholders via multiple measures by 60% from the previous school year
- Social Media Platforms & Website (Instagram, Facebook, and X formally know as Twitter)-Utilize the platforms for immediate news-worthy information as well as the district website via the latest news and announcements section.
- RoboCalls via School Wires at the district and school levels; we are incorporating more text to speech and emails for as well as translated versions of all messages both district and at the school level.
- Superintendent's Report (online access to staff and community stakeholders) the day immediately following the board meeting by noon.

- Routine face-to-face opportunities to engage with community and stakeholders via PTO, Back to School Nights, Report Card Conference Nights, Community Events within Orange Township as well as partnership meetings based on those established and forthcoming within the school district. We will continue the parent and student councils at the Superintendent's Level.
- Provide Bilingual Supports for all families to ensure their engagement within the school district via translations, translator supports, and district as well as social level meetings.

**2) Increase the use of emerging and available communications outlets to transmit information by 50% (Last Year the Percentage was at 45%)**

- Partner with universities (local and throughout the state) in order to get information to prospective candidates for job fairs and other industry level announcements. We will conduct virtual and in person job fairs as well to widen the search for potential candidates outside of the University realm.
- Continue to utilize the Orange Public School App for more timeless information.
- Continue to utilize the Emergency Pop Up on the website for transmitting important, time sensitive information weekly.
- Provide Translations on all documents that are disseminated from schools and district offices.
- Create an updated website that is easier to navigate with fidelity (Parent Square Implementation and Completion)
- Utilize class intercom as a vehicle to get messaging out to families and staff via the social media lens.

**3) Continue Parent and Student Councils at the Superintendent's Level**

- Have monthly meetings with parents and students about academics as well as self-care supports; student council meetings will take place separately from the parent council.
- Continue the Bilingual Parent Advisory and ensure that the meetings are quarterly.
- Continue the Special Education Advisory Council Meetings and ensure that the meetings take place quarterly.
- Continue the Early Childhood Advisory Council Meetings and ensure that the meetings take place quarterly.
- Continue the Nutrition Advisory Council alongside school level student councils. Ensure that the meetings take place quarterly.

**Goal #3: Facilities, Finance, and Staff Support**

**The Orange Public Schools will continue to place an importance on the fiscal management, operations, and human resources of the organization to ensure a system of accountability, transparency, and efficiency for the optimal delivery of services for partnerships to flourish and staff to be retained across the district.**

**1) Create a district budget under constraints that accommodates and supports the needs of central office departments, all schools and students while sustaining systems that have yielded results through a strategic assessment of data**

- Analyze and clarify how all budgeted funds are allocated and expended at the department and school levels.
- Examine and evaluate contracted services provided to the district and continuously improve effectiveness.
- Identify and execute capital projects (short term/long term, prioritized, and categorized on the basis of need.)
- Transfers from account lines on the district level will decrease by 30% from the previous school year (25% was the percentage given for SY 24-25)

**2) Implement innovations that empower teaching and learning as well as efficiently allocate funding within their locations**

- Continue to monitor the budgeting module My Budget File to ensure adherence to staff and federal mandates.
- Align the long-term and short-term facilities development plan to outfit buildings district wide in the effort of expanding programming throughout the school district. These plans will be presented at the Facilities and Finance Committee Meetings as well as via the Regular Board of Education Meeting as we have several aging buildings in the district.
- Ensure equitable staffing distribution across all schools to address student needs and maintain compliance with class size and scheduling guidelines. 3) Maximize employee expertise and create a positive and supportive environment
- Conduct structured feedback sessions with staff to assess workplace satisfaction and identify areas for improvement.
- Continue to offer the Employee Assistance Program to allow for continued support of our staff holistically.
- District level personnel attend meetings at the school level in order to bridge the gap between the schools and district office.
- Visitations by the Superintendent's Executive Team to check in with all employees quarterly as a part of taking a pulse on the climate and culture of the Orange School District.
- Expand professional development opportunities for all staff, including leadership pathways and mentorship programs to improve retention and growth.
- Enhance recruitment strategies to attract and retain high-quality educators and support staff, ensuring alignment with district needs and goals.

#### **Goal #4: Social and Emotional Supports**

**The Orange Public Schools will continue to ensure that all students will receive social and emotional support to become adaptable, confident citizens who embody self-awareness and strong interpersonal skills, and who are capable of responsible decision-making and managing their emotions and behaviors.**

##### **1) Provide research-based curriculum to strengthen students' social/emotional relationships**

- Continue to utilize Restorative Practices as a means of providing effective support to students in the effort of problem solving. This includes at both the elementary and secondary levels.
- Continue the monitoring of mental health to provide students with another avenue to combat social-emotional concerns and thus remediate areas of deficiency related to mental health.
- Ensure that staff and students continue to have resources readily available by the district to ensure their social-emotional needs are met with fidelity.
- Ensure that we provide resources through the Superintendent's Trauma informed team in the effort of providing supports for students across the district.
- Provide additional supports and instruction in wellness and make sure that students have access in the development of oneself.

##### **2) Enhance community-based partnerships in order to assist students and families**

- Continue to utilize the district's community engagement officer as well as community school liaisons to assist school-based staff with establishing partnerships to support families and students and thus have a vehicle to support families Pre-K through Twelve.
- Provide self-care support for students and families based on surveys (conducted twice per year) as well as discussion with support staff members including the Superintendent's Trauma Informed Team.

## STUDENT/FAMILY HANDBOOK ACCESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Please access and read the Student/Family Handbook that is located on the district website. Once complete, please have the student and parent/guardian sign this form and return to the main office of the Stem Innovation Academy of the Oranges.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have used the following link to access and read the Student/Family Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year at the STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges.

<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3265>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date