



Panther Press

December 23, 2025

District Website: www.oess.org

[Click here to view the 2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[2026-2027 School Calendar](#)
[2026-2027 Holidays](#)

(Not all Holidays are a day off)



Click [HERE](#) for a List of Events

12-24 - 1-02-26 ~ NO SCHOOL
Holiday Break

**Click the link above for more dates

Contact Email Addresses:

Tricia Lasto- Principal
tlasto@orange-ed.org

Amy Ruggiero - Administrative Assistant

aruggiero@orange-ed.org

Amy Kinton - Nurse

akinton@orange-ed.org



Wishing PEACE, HEALTH, and HAPPINESS to you and your family during our break and lasting throughout the New Year.
Happy 2026!

Students and Staff return on January 5, 2026

School Information...



Merry Christmas

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25th as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world.



Happy Three Kings Day

Three Kings' Day, also known as Epiphany, is a Christian holiday celebrated on January 6th that commemorates the biblical visit of the Magi (Three Kings: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar) to the infant Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Happy Orthodox Christmas

Orthodox Christmas celebrates the Nativity of Jesus on January 7th.



This Week's Daily Positive Thoughts & Affirmations

- Today I am going to shine
- I am going to get through this



Panther Pass Winners

(In order by grade level):

(Will continue after the Holiday Break)



BOWA Inclement Weather Letter

Please click [HERE](#) to view the letter regarding inclement weather.



Winter FYI's

Please have your children dress appropriately as the weather gets colder. We will have outdoor recess (which is usually 20-30 minutes) when the temperature is 25 degrees and above, please send your children with coats, hats and gloves and warm clothing.

Skin gets dry and lips get chapped - Please send your children with a small tube of lotion and Chap stick they can keep in their desk or backpack and use when needed

Winter often brings an increase in head lice cases. To help prevent the spread:

- Remind your child not to share hats, hairbrushes, or other personal items.
- Regularly check your child's scalp and hair for lice or eggs (nits).
- If you notice signs of lice, please notify the school nurse and treat with an over-the-counter lice shampoo. Daily nit checks/comb throughs are essential to prevent re-infestation

Continue to keep your child home for temp 100.4 and greater, vomiting or any major cold symptoms that will really impact their ability to learn and participate. Reach out if you have any questions and stay healthy!!



Orange Public Schools Preschool Lottery

Limited Openings for 2026-2027 Community Peer/Tuition-Based Program. The application deadline to enter the Lottery is January 29th, 2026. For more information click on this link [Preschool Lottery for 2026-2027](#).



21st Century

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah, and a Happy, Healthy, New Year! This is just a reminder to everyone that 21st Century will be closing at 5:00 on Tuesday, December 23rd. See you next year.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026-2027

All students who are 5 years old by September 1, 2026 are eligible to attend kindergarten. Parents may begin the [initial contact form for registration](#).

Students who will be 5 years old between September 2, 2026-January 1, 2027.

- A written request must be provided to Mary L. Tracy School's principal, [Mrs. Elaine Watson](#), in order for your child to be considered to enter kindergarten.
- Once a request is received you will be sent confirmation of your request.
- An appointment will then be scheduled for your child to be screened for early entry.
- After the assessment has been conducted you will be notified if your child is able to attend kindergarten.



Lunch Menu, Changes, and Free Lunches

- If there is a change to the menu, it will be **typed in red** for you to quickly note. Please check in the morning to ensure the most up-to-date options. The link to the webpage is below: Peck Place - [Lunch Menu](#)
 - The kitchen will be serving extra entrees to the students again this year. There will be an additional \$1.00 charge.
- Any student who would like to purchase an extra entree or a snack (when that begins) must have a balance on their account to pay for those additional purchases.



Upcoming Concert Dates

Winter Band & Orchestra Concert

January 21, 2026 (Jan. 27 snow date)

9:30 a.m. - **For students only. This is not for parents.**

6:30 p.m. - For parents of band and orchestra members.

See PTO and Virtual Backpack Information Below

Messages from the PTO



We would like to wish all of our Peck Place families a restful, healthy, and safe winter break, as well as all the best in 2026!

***See What's New* in the Virtual Backpack Below**

Virtual Backpack

JANUARY LUNCH MENU

Orange Infinite Possibilities - Lab & Science Experiments (Virtual Backpack under Parks, Recreation and Community News)

[https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Orange_Infinite_Possibilities_FLYER_\(final\).png](https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Orange_Infinite_Possibilities_FLYER_(final).png)

2026 Amity Chamber of Commerce Annual Health Fitness Expo (Virtual Backpack under Parks, Recreation and Community News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/2026_Amity_Health_Fitness_Expo.pdf

Bridgeport Islanders Welcome Peck Place School (PTO under PTO Virtual Backpack)

[https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/PPS_Islanders_Flyer_\(1.24.26\).pdf](https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/PPS_Islanders_Flyer_(1.24.26).pdf)

Orange Community Women Presents Amazing Animal Ambassadors (Virtual Back under Parks, Recreation and Community News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/OCW_Amazing_Ambassadors_full_page_ticket_order.docx.pdf

The Volunteer Code of Conduct (Virtual Backpack under School News)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N6h1M3Vgey8UREj1Jai03Rrxh05kfqAi93kcnsZqvKY/edit?usp=sharing>

Orange Food Assistance Program (Virtual Backpack under Parks, Recreation and Community News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Food_Resource_Guide_Page_1.png

Ways You Can Help Your Community - Food Resource Guide (Virtual Backpack under Parks, Recreation and Community News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Food_Resource_Guide_Page_2.png

BOWA Winter Weather Advisory Letter 2025-2026 (Virtual Backpack under School News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/BOWA_Weather_Advisory_Letter_25-26.pdf