



EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SHEILA Y. OLIVER ACADEMY

404 North Grove Street, East Orange, NJ 07017

Phone (973) 266-5860/ Fax (973) 266-2495

Website: <https://oliver.eastorange.k12.nj.us>

Email: y.joseph@eastorange.k12.nj.us/kelly.speed-hobbs@eastorange.k12.nj.us

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Dr. Yvy J. George

Assistant Principal

Dr. Kelly Speed Daniel

August 6, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year at Sheila Y. Oliver Academy! We hope you and your family had a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer. As we prepare for another exciting year of learning and growth, we remain committed to honoring the legacy of our school's namesake, the late Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, by empowering every student to achieve academic success and reach their fullest potential. We are also pleased to welcome Dr. Kelly Speed Daniel as our new Assistant Principal. With nearly 20 years of experience as an educator in the East Orange School District, she brings a strong commitment to excellence, high expectations, and student success. We are excited to have her join the Oliver Academy family.

Our school vision is “**To empower students to become lifelong learners equipped to be leaders in an ever-changing global society.**” Through the *Leader in Me* program, our students will continue building their leadership skills from elementary through middle school. They will explore *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids*, learn about their personal strengths, and practice applying leadership principles both in and out of school. You may see related assignments come home or hear your child talk about leadership concepts—please use these as opportunities to engage with and support their development. To learn more, visit www.theleaderinme.org.

This school year, technology will continue to play an important role in supporting teaching and learning at Sheila Y. Oliver Academy. Students in **Kindergarten through Grade 2** will have access to Chromebooks during the school day, with classroom sets available for instruction. Students in **Grades 3–8** will continue to participate in our 1:1 Chromebook program and will be assigned an individual Chromebook for instructional use. Chromebooks may be taken home on Mondays and Tuesdays only and must be returned to school fully charged on Wednesdays. All Chromebooks remain the property of the East Orange School District, and students are expected to use them responsibly. Any misuse, damage, or loss of a device may result in disciplinary action and/or the temporary or permanent loss of take-home privileges.

The first day of school is **Thursday, September 3**. To help ensure a smooth start to the school year, Thursday, September 3, and Friday, September 4, will be **early dismissal days**. Students should arrive at school before **8:30 a.m.** and will be dismissed promptly at **12:45 p.m.** Please make arrangements to ensure your child is picked up on time. Schools will be **closed** on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. Regular school hours will resume on **Tuesday, September 8**, with students dismissed at **2:55 p.m.**

Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2

Students in Prekindergarten through Grade 2 should be dropped off and picked up at the **Cafeteria/Playground entrance**, accessible from the **North Grove Street** side of the building. Breakfast will be available in the cafeteria beginning at **7:45 a.m.** for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 2. Dismissal begins at **2:55 p.m.** on full school days and **12:45 p.m.** on early dismissal days.

Please note that the school parking lot is reserved for **staff only**. Parents and guardians should **not** enter the parking lot for student drop-off or pick-up. Instead, please use the designated walkway from the North Grove Street side of the building to escort your child to the Cafeteria/Playground entrance.

“Overcome Odds & Achieve Success”

Grades 3–8

Students in Grades 3–8 should enter and exit the building through the **North Grove Street entrance**. Students must arrive **before 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast will be served in classrooms. Dismissal begins at **2:55 p.m.** on full school days and **12:45 p.m.** on early dismissal days from the North Grove Street entrance.

Important Reminder

Sheila Y. Oliver Academy does **not** provide before- or after-school care. Parents and guardians are expected to ensure students arrive on time and are picked up promptly at dismissal. Transportation is provided only for students whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) include transportation services. **Brain Boosters**, an outside vendor, operates an aftercare program on-site at Oliver Academy. You may contact Brain Boosters directly at 973-399-0004 for information regarding registration, hours, and fees.

The East Orange School District is a uniform district:

- **Elementary (PreK–5):** Dark blue pants/skirts/jumpers with **yellow** shirts/blouses
- **Middle School (Grades 6–8):** Dark blue pants/skirts/jumpers with **dark blue** shirts/blouses
- **Gym days:** Navy blue and yellow gym attire OR school uniform with sneakers
- **Outerwear:** Hoodies/sweatshirts must match uniform colors
- **No slides, sandals, or Crocs are permitted.**

Uniforms may be purchased at the following locations:

- Today's Kids, 258 Main Street, Orange, NJ (973) 678-0910
- The Children's Place
- Forman Mills, 585 Martin Luther King Blvd, East Orange, NJ (862) 335-5890

To maintain communication between home and Oliver Academy, you must inform our office immediately of any changes to your address or phone number. If you have not already done so, please sign up for the FOCUS parent portal via the district website. There, parents/guardians will have access to their children's grades, report cards, etc. To download the FOCUS app, simply search for the "EOSD Community Portal" on iTunes or Google Play. During the last week of August, student classroom assignments will also be available in the FOCUS portal.

We also communicate through:

- **School Messenger**
- **School Website:** oliver.eastorange.k12.nj.us
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/S.OliverAcademy
- **Instagram:** [@s.oliveracademy](https://www.instagram.com/s.oliveracademy)
- **Class Dojo:** [Join Here](#)

We will host our annual Back-to-School Night/Open House event on **Wednesday, September 23**, at 5:30 p.m. to share more with you about our wonderful school and the exciting year ahead for our students, full of leading, learning, and growing. The district calendar is accessible via this link for your convenience: [26 - 27 EOSD Calendar](#).

We value our partnership with our Oliver Academy families and welcome your participation, feedback, and suggestions throughout the school year. Please take time to review the **2026–2027 Family Handbook** for important school policies, procedures, and expectations. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either of us at y.joseph@eastorange.k12.nj.us or kelly.speed-hobbs@eastorange.k12.nj.us. We look forward to partnering with you to make the 2026–2027 school year a successful and rewarding experience for every student.

As always, we thank you for your cooperation and support. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Yvy Joseph George

Dr. Yvy Joseph George, Principal

Kelly Speed Daniel

Dr. Kelly Speed Daniel, Assistant Principal