



Orange Township Public Schools
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges
Devonii Reid, Ed.D., Principal



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

August 19, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are excited for the start of the 2024-2025 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 6, 2024. 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 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.



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- 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.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Mrs. Alexandra Laurore, 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 11, 2024. It is important that these forms are returned so we are able to have active communication with you throughout SY 24-25.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: After school programs and clubs will begin the week of September 16, 2024.

-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



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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.
- 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, @DrReid1908

Instagram: @STEM_Innovation_Academy, @principalreid

*“Good to Great”
We Rise Together.*

Educationally yours,

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