

Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry & Innovation



“The Academy is a welcoming environment where our students are protected and feel safe to contribute, produce, think, and innovate.”

This week, alongside our commitment to our strong instructional focus and social emotional supports to our students, we need to also focus on the following items:

1. **Staff Meeting** – Monday, March 20, 2023 at 3 pm in the Cafeteria.
2. **CPT** – Target Small Group Instruction emphasis on the students who have been identified as our “push” students.
3. **Observations and Walk-Throughs** – Please be reminded that walk throughs and observations will continue this week. Please be prepared for post conferences by coming to the meeting with reflections of your work.
4. Having loads of fun, **on purpose**, as we support one another this week and do all we can to reach and teach our students!!!

From the Office of the Superintendent:

Superintendent's Instructional Corner: The Importance of Questioning and Discussion Techniques in Instruction: Questions can do more than measure what students know. Appropriately challenging, engaging, and effective questions stimulate peer discussion and encourage students to explore and refine their understanding of key concepts.

Why ask questions?

- Questions can diagnose student understanding of material.
- Questions are a way of engaging with students to keep their attention and to reinforce their participation.
- Questions can review, restate, emphasize, and/or summarize what is important.
- Questions stimulate discussion and creative and critical thinking, as well as determine how students are thinking.
- Questions help students retain material by putting into words otherwise unarticulated thoughts.

Considerations for developing & using effective questions:

What are effective questions?

- Effective questions are meaningful and understandable to students.
- Effective questions challenge students, but are not too difficult.
- Closed-ended questions, such as those requiring a yes/no response, or multiple choice can quickly check comprehension.
- Open-ended questions probe and elicit expanded thinking and processing of information. By discussing the questions in groups, students have the opportunity to learn from a variety of perspectives.

Some examples of ineffective questions:

- Too vague. Students are unsure of what is being asked and may refrain from attempting to answer.
- Too loaded. Students may guess at what you want them to say rather than tell you what they think.
- "Does everyone understand?" or "Any other questions?" Most students will not reply and even if they do, their answer is only a report of their own assessment of their comprehension.

Getting started with designing effective questions:

- Determine your learning objectives and align the questions with the objectives
- Consider which level of learning you are targeting (See Bloom's Taxonomy Questioning Cues)
- Develop different question strategies. Examples include:
 - Ask students to explain the cause of an event or why a given situation or condition has arisen (these usually begin with "Why" (open-ended questions)
 - Ask students to explain their reasoning for a multiple choice answer and explain why the other answers are incorrect
 - Ask students to compare and contrast situations, cases, ideas, people, or objects
 - Ask students to explain how to do something
 - Ask students to use their reasoning to predict something
- Put the question through the following filters:

- Does this question draw out and work with pre-existing understandings that students bring with them?
- Does this question raise the visibility of the key concepts the students are learning?
- Will this question stimulate peer discussion?
- Is it clear what the question is about?

Incorporating effective questions into your course:

Although the most common way to ask a question is to pose it to the entire class, this may result in nobody volunteering to answer the question or only a few students attempting to answer it. Questions can be incorporated in a course in a variety of other ways:

- Think-pair-share/Write-pair-share
- Small group discussions
- Minute papers or short, low-risk writing activities
- Classroom Polling Systems with which students can answer questions using clickers or mobile devices. Answers are tallied instantly, and results can be displayed as they come in
- Allow students to create their own questions, such as:
 - Ask them to write questions they have about a topic or reading. Consider asking students to post them to an online forum before class
 - Quiz their neighbor on the lecture content or readings
 - Write down one or two remaining questions a few minutes before class ends and turn them in
 - Design questions to guide a small group discussion
 - Suggest and submit exam questions

Encourage students to answer questions by creating positive classroom norms and expectations:

- Provide enough time for students to respond to questions. Let students handle awkward silences
- Encourage student responses even if they are wrong. If a student is wrong, inaccurate, or unclear, respond with probing questions such as, "That's interesting. What makes you say that?" or "Could you rephrase that?"
- Ask for students to respond to each other
- State the relevance of a student's response to the topic or use a student's answer to your question as a link to some part of the topic framework in order to increase interaction and participation

Tech @ the Prep:

Please refer to [*What's Happening with Tech @ the Prep*](#) for regular Technology Updates or procedures that are in place to support teachers and students. This google doc will be updated regularly and can be found on Ms. Phipps' webpage.

Calendar of Events: - Small Group Instruction Focus Continues with Emphasis on our "Push" students!!

Monday, March 20, 2023

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students
- ✓ Math CPT at 1A
- ✓ English CPT at 2A
- ✓ Health/PE; VPA; WL; & CTE CPT at 3A
- ✓ Science & Social Studies CPT at 4A
- ✓ Clubs and Extended Day Programs in session 3 pm to 4 pm

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students
- ✓ Clubs and Extended Day Programs in session 3 pm to 4 pm

Thursday, March 23, 2023

- ✓ Professional Development Day - Full Day – Staff – No School for Students
- ✓ Please see the course selection booklet emailed to all staff on Friday, March 17, 2023 for guidance as to the professional development you have been assigned today.

Friday, March 24, 2023

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students

Up-Coming Events:

Upcoming Board of Education Committee/Board Meetings

- Public Relations Committee Virtual Meeting - Monday, April 12, 2023, at 3:30pm
- Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting - Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 7:30p.m., held at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation, 400 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050. Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm

Parent University is Back:

The Orange Public Schools is pleased to announce the launch of the **2022-2023** Parent University.

The District seeks to educate and empower families as advocates and lifelong learners committed to improving the overall health and well-being of children and our community. Our free and reduced-price workshops offer parents a range of experiences across various topics, with the first course beginning on January 28th. This year, we are kicking off the return of the Parent University by offering the Health and Wellness Academy, designed

to improve our overall well-being, and the Workforce Development Academy, designed to promote job-market success.

We are also happy to announce the addition of our Udemy (pronounced U-demy) Academy; Udemy is an online learning platform with over 200,000 full-length self-paced courses in programming, marketing, web design, photography and more!

Courses will be accessible to parents via this online registration system, so please register now! We invite parents, families, and the Orange Community interested in attending the workshops to apply. All applications will be reviewed upon submission with quick feedback on acceptance status. Visit:

<https://sites.google.com/orange.k12.nj.us/parent-university/home>