

ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL 2013-2014
OUR CHILDREN, OUR HOPE, OUR FUTURE

SEPTEMBER 2013



INSIDE . . .

- **What is an A-F rotation?**
- **What is a Focus Period?**
- **Preparing for September 9th!**

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

As a new year knocks on our door, change is in the air at OPS! We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Larry Hughes to the OPS family as our new Interim Superintendent. Along with this transition at the helm comes several other administrative changes. Kevin Stokes and I are excited to take on the roles of Assistant Principal and Principal respectively. Additionally, we welcome Mrs. Toni Violetti as our new Instructional Supervisor. Toni joins us with a background in social work and 12 years of teaching experience in Jersey City and Wyckoff. Tom Santagato continues to serve our students as the Director of Special Services.

In addition to welcoming new members to our school leadership team, we are also welcoming many new teachers to OPS this year. Although not new, we are overjoyed to have Debbie

Domingues with us full-time on our Kindergarten team. Additionally, Hellen Kapp, in first grade, and Steven Pi, in sixth grade, bring many years of experience to OPS. Stephanie Kruczek and Blair Hughes join our special education staff, working primarily in 3rd and 5th grades. We also have three leave replacements with Lisa Santangelo filling in for a brief period for Jamie Caruana in first grade, Liz McCarthy filling in for Donna Smith in second grade, and Keri-Lynn Maher filling in for Kim Sheridan in Kindergarten. Last, but not least, we also welcome Maureen Cuschieri to OPS as our new library media specialist.

Along with the addition of new staff members, Oradell Public School will also be launching several new initiatives this year, including the move to an **A-F Schedule**, the incorporation of a **Focus Period**

into our daily routine, and the piloting of several new inquiry based science and social studies units in our fifth and sixth grade classrooms. We also continue to work to incorporate a workshop model into our literacy instruction and are refining our math curriculum to ensure complete alignment with the Common Core State Standards.

In other words . . . there are many new and wonderful changes happening in our school community. Yet, some things remain the same. We continue to be a community steeped in tradition. We continue to be a community that believes that every child, every adult, every person has a strength to share. We continue to be a community that will achieve greatness as we embrace unity.

It is going to be an exciting year!

--- Megan Bozios

Preparing for September 9th . . .

Please complete the school information forms listed below in preparation for a new school year. Forms should be handed in to your child's teacher on Monday, September 9th! Forms can be found on **our NEW** school website at www.oradellschool.org.

*Student Emergency Card

*Technology Acceptable Use Student Contract

*Oradell Parent/Student Handbook Agreement Form

*Afterschool Dismissal Form

*Publicity Release Waiver

*Milk Order Form

You will also find the school calendar, information about Back-To-School Night, a reminder about school traffic safety, and the PTA president's letter on our Notices page.

What is an A-F rotation?

The traditional schedule that we utilized in the past was a five-day (A-E) schedule. Every Monday was an “A” day. Every Tuesday was a “B” day, etc. One of the downfalls of the traditional A-E schedule is that if you have a specific class scheduled for a Friday, you will likely miss that class more since we have many Fridays off.

An A-F schedule works on a 6-day rotation. September 9th will be an “A” day. September 10th will be a “B” day and so forth until Monday, September 16th, which is an F day. On Tuesday, September 17th, the cycle begins again. While it seems complicated, in actuality it isn’t. The only classes that are impacted by the schedule are Physical Education, Music, Art, Library and World Language and Technology. The front page of our website will always identify what letter day it is, and once a month a calendar will be included in the Notices section of the website that you can print out and keep in a helpful spot at home to help remind your child when they need to bring their library books, wear their sneakers for Physical Education class, etc.

What is a Focus Period?

A focus period is one period during the day that supplements the instruction that occurs during the other academic periods. For example, our entire fourth grade has a focus period during 5th period. During this block of time, our basic skills teachers will be helping students who have been identified as needing additional support. Additionally, students who participate in our Talented and Gifted program will receive enrichment during this period.

Students who do not leave the classroom during the Focus Period are

provided opportunities for ongoing support and differentiation. In other words, a teacher may use this time to work with a small group of students who struggled with a specific math homework assignment. Other students will work independently or in partnerships on reinforcing and extending specific academic skills.

The purpose of the focus period is three-fold. First of all, it minimizes disruptions during the day, as many students who receive interventions or related services, such as speech, can be pulled from this period instead of a time during a day when new teaching is occurring. Additionally, research states that it is critical for students to get an “extra dose” of intervention instead of just substituting the basic skills support for what is occurring in the general classroom. Finally, the focus period allows for us to provide students more personalized instruction in the form of more individualized attention in the classroom.

More information on the Focus Period will be provided during the year.



“If everyone helps to hold up the sky, then one person does not become tired.”
— Askhari Johnson



Exciting OPS News

- By the time school opens, our WIFI will be up and running. To utilize this new infrastructural improvement, we will be piloting several different wireless devices in our classrooms.
- Thanks to a generous donation from our PTA, our document cameras are on the way!
- Our Kindergarten teachers are using a new screening tool, the Dial-4, for the first time! They are also continuing to incorporate play-based centers into the curriculum to focus on the development of important social, emotional and cognitive learning skills.



REMINDERS

- Don’t forget to have your child keep reading and to bring their reading log back to school on September 9th!
- Milk distribution WILL NOT begin until the week of September 23rd.
- Please continue to check the Oradell Public School website to find important notices about the year ahead!