



WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thomas A. Edison Middle School

75 William Street
West Orange, NJ 07052
Tel. (973) 669-5360

Xavier M. Fitzgerald, **Principal**
Steve Melendez, **Assistant Principal**
Web: <https://www.woboe.org/Domain/15>

November 2020

Dear Edison Parent/Guardian,

I hope all is well with you and your family. This correspondence is being sent to provide some context for the change in our Edison Middle School schedule and the Winter Virtual model that has been presented this week. The motivation toward this change is the need for increased teacher support and meetings from the core academic classes to the related arts classes. Our prior schedule limited course contact time and did not provide the content continuity we wished to see. Marking period one grade reports indicate a segment of student assignments are not submitted or completed resulting in grades not reflective of a student's true ability, rather we see a grade penalty for incomplete work. We are hopeful that increased contact with teachers will assist students.

Below are some of the features and expected outcomes for the upcoming winter virtual schedule:

- Students will attend core and related arts classes 1 more time a week.
- This will not result or should not result in students seeing additional and expanded assignments, rather classwork and homework can be regularly assigned, gauged for proper pacing, and checked in a timely manner.
- Class time will be 60 minutes in length Monday - Thursday.
- Breaks between classes will be 10 minutes.
- Attendance will be taken in each class each day.
- Office Hours will occur each afternoon from 1:40 p.m. to 2:53 p.m. Monday-Friday and teachers will adjust their present Zoom Office Hours to this new timeframe.
- Monday through Thursday teachers will be available 2:53 p.m. - 3:23 p.m. for student tutorials by appointment, depending on the administrative meeting schedule.
- Friday will be used as a wrap up for the week or direct instruction time synchronously.
- Friday will consist of seven periods which will be 30 minutes in length each period.
- Friday periods 4,5,6 are lunch /advisory that will be off-screen time for students.
- Friday periods 4,5,6 will also be student voluntary wellness check-ins with School Counselors.

Asynchronous learning will continue on 1/2 days, including next Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving break and on December 23rd before the winter recess.
Assignments for core classes only will be posted in Google Classroom as in the past.

[Edison Middle School November Virtual Calendar and Winter Virtual Schedule](#)

[Edison Middle School December Virtual Calendar and Winter Virtual Schedule](#)

GOOD BETTER BEST NEVER LET IT REST UNTIL YOUR GOOD IS BETTER AND YOUR BETTER IS BEST!



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Parents - How can you help?

As your child is the key ingredient in the teaching & learning environment I wish to share my thoughts on how you can help and support your child, including the following:

- Have a home workplace that has needed school supplies & an effective setting that lends itself to focused learning including proper lighting, seating that is not so relaxed that our students are shrouded with blankets or unable to interact when called upon.
- Students should be visible on the camera as per our Road Back Guidebook. This enables our teachers to gauge participation readiness so when asked to answer/respond to teacher questions we can expect a response.
- Check your child's PowerSchool parent portal regularly to view & support any missing or incomplete assignments as they are posted by the teachers.
- For students who are struggling, ask if they are attending teacher Office Hours that occur daily between the hours of 1:45 to 2:53. These individual teacher sessions serve as "afterschool" help similar to what we would provide when physically in the building.
- Finally, parents please check your email regularly and respond to teacher emails to confirm receipt of information regarding performance and any relevant feedback. This is the primary communication tool for our teachers to support your child. Phone calls & parent conferences are also available, conferences can be established through our School Counselors: Mrs. Pamela Halstead Stewart (Students with last names that begin with A-K) or Mr. Jeff Lafoon (Students with last names that begin with L-Z).
Phalstead@westorangeschools.org or JLafoon@westorangeschools.org

Sincerely,

Xavier M. Fitzgerald

Xavier M. Fitzgerald
Principal