



Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

October 15, 2021

Dear West Orange Public School Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

I hope this message finds you well. By now the routine of receiving information nearly weekly from my office in this format can perhaps assuage any fears of missing out on valuable details concerning the school district. If you are aware of any parents/guardians/caregivers that are not receiving communications from the district or from their school, we ask you to please advise them to consult with their school main office. The administration works consistently to improve communications, and any assistance in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

You may not be aware of this, but October is also School Principal Appreciation Month. I, for one, am grateful to our school leaders for all they have done over the course of the last 18 months and continue to do to be a force of stability and positivity for our students and staff and their modeling of perseverance and resilience. Please join me in thanking our outstanding school leaders and don't be shy about letting them know how much you appreciate them as well.

You may have become aware from recent news stories in local media outlets with regard to an unimaginable, life altering event which impacted members of the West Orange community this week. Residents of an apartment building in town had to be evacuated late Monday night due to concerns with regard to the structural integrity of the building which had been damaged during Hurricane Ida. These fellow community members and their families are now displaced. We are aware of eight district students whose families were impacted by this catastrophe. Please join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to these families, additionally, residents interested in helping can contact the Mayor's Office at 973-325-4100 or, most importantly, can make a donation to the [Mayor's Sunshine Fund](#)

Kindergarten Registration Survey

In an effort to refine the registration process for incoming kindergarteners, a [survey](#) is open to parents/guardians of current kindergarten students for submission of your feedback. Your valuable input will enhance the experience for future registrants and, as always, the district appreciates your participation.

PCR Test: Amidst the many different public health guidelines which both our staff and families are currently navigating, I'd like to clarify one point which I understand has been a source of some inconvenience and frustration for our families. In the event that you are asked to have your child tested either because of COVID related symptoms, close contact/exposure, or relative to the travel quarantine guidelines, please be advised that this must be a PCR test, a rapid antigen test is not acceptable. There are locations which can administer rapid PCR tests, though they are not common. A regular PCR test can take between two and three days for results.

District Master Calendar: In order to assist our schools and various community organizations in the planning and scheduling of events, as well as for the informational purposes of our community, we have begun to populate the digital district master calendar with a large number of events from the schools. We will continue to refine this [calendar](#) on the website and ensure that we are populating it with as many events as possible. This will ensure the greatest degree of coordination and avoid scheduling conflicts, as well as allow our community to have the opportunity to attend events districtwide.

Reminder: Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences-Virtual October 19, 20, 21. By this time, you should have received information from your building principal relative to the procedures and protocol for scheduling either a video conference or telephone conference call. **Please mark your calendars as these dates are also scheduled “early dismissal days” for elementary students.**

Vaccine Clinic October 16 (Cancelled)

The West Orange Department of Health vaccination clinic scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday, October 16th at 1:00 PM at Washington Elementary School has been cancelled.

The clinic scheduled for November 6th is still on, a second date is being planned for December 4th from 9:30-12:30. **1st and 2nd Doses of Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine will be offered. Pre-Registration is now open** for those wishing to receive a first dose on October 16th. A follow up clinic is scheduled for November 6, same time and location. Individuals can **Pre-Register** by clicking on the link here:

<https://forms.gle/e8JpeScpkJgZ4WRdA>

Board Of Education Meeting October 18: Please note that the next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, 10/18 with the public session beginning at 7:30PM. The meeting is live and in-person and can also be viewed on the [district YouTube channel](#). The Board invites anyone unable to attend in person to submit questions on both agenda and non-agenda items utilizing the provided Google form which is activated Friday evening and closes at 4pm the day of the meeting. The following link will take you to a landing page at which you may obtain access to the form, as well as the instructions for viewing the live stream option. [BOE Meeting Information](#)

I thank you for your time and attention and wish you a restful weekend.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.
Superintendent