



Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

October 1, 2021

Dear West Orange Public School Families,

I hope this message finds you well and easing into the month of October. In the effort to keep you apprised of district and local informational items, I offer you the following details.

Change in Process for Requesting Student Loaner Chromebooks at the Elementary and Middle Schools

Please note that the process for requesting student loaner chromebooks has changed. Parents requesting a loaner chromebook for a student in grades K-8 should submit a formal request via the building principal in their child's school. The process works as follows:

1. The parent submits a request for loaner chromebook for one of the following reasons:
 - a. COVID (close contact/positive test)
 - b. COVID (travel)
 - c. Student does not have a computer at home
2. The building principal or designee will submit a request to the Technology Department
3. The Technology Department will prepare a loaner chromebook for the student and then notify the parent/guardian via email when the chromebook is ready for pick up.

Please note: students who are provided with a loaner chromebook due to quarantine as a result of close contact, positive test, or travel, must turn in the chromebook to their school upon returning from quarantine.

Parents/Students who receive a loaner chromebook and need technical assistance should complete the [Parent/Student Technology Request Form](#).

Reminder: The West Orange Public Schools is asking parents/guardians of students in grades PK-12 to complete an important survey: [Emergency Connectivity Funding Survey](#)

Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences-Virtual October 19, 20, 21

The district has made the decision to conduct these conferences virtually. In reviewing our health and safety protocols, the district would be unable to adequately sanitize the classroom spaces between the departure of students and the commencing of parents/guardians traversing the halls and school classrooms. Additionally we have received positive feedback that the virtual conference provides a degree of convenience as it allows consideration of work schedules. Telephonic conferences can be requested by parents that do not have the ability to video conference from home. Please mark your calendars as these dates are also scheduled "early dismissal days" for elementary students.

Please be aware: There is a monthly TikTok challenge circulating that has the potential to impact schools and neighborhoods. This can only be categorized as an insidious and disgraceful attempt to influence and corrupt our children, disrupt and damage our communities; it represents all that is wrong with social media. I wanted to share with you the list of challenges for your awareness and to help us all remain vigilant in the pursuit to encourage good choices for our children and to enlist them in the protection and preservation of the peace and order of our community. It should also be noted that these acts, should they be committed, could result in serious disciplinary and even legal consequences.

- September: Vandalize school bathrooms
- October: Smack a staff member
- November: Kiss your friend's girlfriend at school
- December: Deck the halls and show your...
- January: Jab a breast
- February: Mess up school signs
- March: Make a mess in the courtyard or cafeteria
- April: "Grab some eggz" (another stealing challenge)
- May: Ditch day
- June: Flip off in the front office
- July: Spray a neighbor's fence

Hispanic Heritage Month: The West Orange Hispanic Foundation will be hosting a flag-raising to celebrate, honor and recognize Latinx Heritage Month on Friday, October 1 at 5 pm at Town Hall. The event will include performances, food trucks and more. Hope to see you there!

Vaccine Clinic October 16

The West Orange Department of Health, with assistance from Montclair University School of Nursing, will administer the follow-up **2nd Dose Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine** on Saturday, October 16th at 1:00 PM at Washington Elementary School (Cafeteria), 289 Main Street, West Orange, NJ.

Simultaneously, **1st 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>

ICYMI: Please find the September 29th communication regarding [Free Opt-In COVID-19 Testing](#). Join our professional staff and ensure that all individuals entering our facilities daily are either vaccinated or undergoing weekly testing. Together we can keep our schools open and safe.

Revised [District Assessment](#) Calendar: Please note that the 2021 NJ Start Strong Assessments will commence on October 5 through 19. ELA-Grades 4-10, Math-Grades 4-8, Algebra I, II, Geometry and Science- grades 6, 9, 12.

Board Of Education Meeting October 4: Please note that the next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, 10/4 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](#). Please be advised that the district's Food Services Provider will be making a presentation to address questions, concerns, as well as some misinformation which has been circulated regarding food offerings and quality.

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](#)

Sincerely,



J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.
Superintendent