



Orange Township Public Schools

Forest Street/Annex Community School
Yancisca Loften Cooke, Ed.D, Principal



Mrs. A. Hernandez
Assistant Principal

Mrs. S. Keogh
Assistant Principal

"One District... One Mission... Optimal Success."

August 21, 2025

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

We are **SUPER EXCITED** to "Kick-Off" our 2025-26 school Year! We are looking forward to another **AWESOME** year at Forest Street Community School! **WELCOME** to our new families we are thrilled to have you as part of our family, and we are wholeheartedly committed to helping your child(ren) grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Students are to report for the first day of school on **Friday, September 5, 2025, no later than 8:15am. WE NEED YOU to be FULLY IMMERSSED from DAY 1!** I am requesting that every child have a family member bring them to school for our "Opening Day" festivities! This school year will be filled with continued opportunities to cultivate your child's educational journey, and **WE INVITE YOU** to be actively involved! I am confident that together we will have a successful, productive, and enriching school year for all stakeholders involved in the Forest Street School community. **This is going to be a GREAT year because WE ARE ALL IN!!**

OPEN HOUSE

Please save the date! Our Open House will be held on **Monday, September 15, 2025**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is an **IMPORTANT** opportunity for you to meet our faculty, learn all about our curriculum, and hear first-hand what is expected of students and parents to ensure **SUCCESS**. We will host this event for the Annex and Main Campus at 651 Forest Street.

MORNING ROUTINE FOR STUDENTS

Both buildings, Annex and Main, will open at **7:30 a.m.**

Students are to be dropped off at the following locations:

- Kindergarten through second grade– Students are dropped off at Forest Annex on the side of the building "Church Street". Students will proceed to the cafeteria where staff will meet them. Please be reminded this is a "drop-off zone" and parents will not be allowed to park.
- Third through seventh grade- Students will enter through the main entrance at Forest Main Campus, where staff will meet them. They will proceed to the multi-purpose room for breakfast.
- Breakfast will continue to be served this year from **7:30 a.m. to 8:25 a.m.** Parents are encouraged to ensure their child(ren) are in school **no later than 8:00 a.m.** to participate. If your child does not wish to participate in the breakfast program, please ensure they have a well-balanced breakfast at home.
- All students must arrive at school by **8:25 a.m.** Attendance is vital to instruction. We ask that students arrive on time and are present every day.
- Students will not be admitted after 10:30 a.m.

DISMISSAL

- All students are dismissed at **3:00 p.m.** Please arrive promptly at that time to pick up your child.
- Kindergarten through second grade students (Annex) will be dismissed from the student playground on Church Street. Parents will not be permitted to park on Church Street for safety reasons; therefore, we are asking that you park on surrounding streets and meet your child in the playground at dismissal.

- In the event you are unable to pick up your child on a certain day, please provide prompt, written notification to the main office 1 hour prior to dismissal. Please include the name of the person who will serve in your capacity. That individual must have a valid photo ID and **MUST** be at least 18 years old.
- Third grade students are dismissed from the Forest Main Campus playground located in the of the school building on South Valley Road. During inclement weather days they will be dismissed from the Multi-purpose Room.
- Fourth and Fifth grade students will be dismissed from the main entrance on Forest Street.
- Sixth and seventh grade students will be dismissed from the greenhouse exit on Forest Street.
- Staff/Teachers are available until 3:10 p.m. should you need to meet with them.

STUDENT ATTIRE

Forest Street Community School is a **UNIFORM SCHOOL**. **Students are required to be in uniform daily**. Despite the debate, numerous studies have been conducted, shedding light on the surprising array of benefits linked to this seemingly simple dress code. Orkulas. M (2024, March 13) Impressive Benefits of School Uniforms: More Than a Dress Code.

1. Fostering a sense of belonging and unity.
2. Safer school environment.
3. Behavioral improvements.
4. Academic performance
5. Simplification for parents and student
6. Preparations for the professional world
7. Creating a positive learning culture
8. Environmental and societal benefits

Students should dress according to the uniform policy. Sneakers must always be worn for physical education classes. Uniforms must be worn daily. The following are the expectations for the dress code:

K-4

-Boys: White or green polo oxford shirt, khaki pants or shorts, forest green sweater/vest/tie

- Girls: White or green polo oxford shirt, khaki skirt, shorts, skorts, dress jumper, or pants. White or forest green tights or socks, forest green sweater/tie

-Black, blue or brown shoes

Grades 5-7

-White or green polo oxford shirt, khaki pants, skirts, jumpers, skorts and shorts, forest green sweater/tie

-Black, blue or brown shoes

Physical/Dance Education:

-Boys/ Girls- White or green polo shirts with forest green or ash gray shorts/sweatpants

-Ash gray or forest green sweat suit with sneakers.

The following items of clothing are not permitted as part of the school dress code:

- Blouses or sweaters that show a bare midriff, crop tops, halter tops, bandanas, tank tops, tops with spaghetti or thin straps, short shorts, short mini-skirts, clinging or form fitting spandex leggings (leggings are permitted only under an appropriate length skorts, shorts, skirt, or dress), pants/jeans worn below the waist, and pants/jeans that are ripped.). All flannel-type pants

and sleepwear are not permitted. No shirts or sweatshirts with inappropriate or offensive language. All hats are not permitted.

- Please be sure that appropriate and safe footwear is worn at all times. **Specifically, no flip-flops, clogs, crocs or “slides” are to be worn due to the safety factor when using stairs. All sandals must be secured at the toes and ankle for safety purposes.**

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES: For information regarding classroom supplies, please click [here](#).

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are responsible for reporting daily absences to Forest Street School Main Office, at 973-677-4120.

FORMS

Students will receive the emergency contact form, walking trip permission slips and teacher inquiry forms on the first day of school. Please review and complete the ALL forms by September 12, 2025. It is important that these forms are returned to ensure ongoing communication and consent is on file for the SY 25-26.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

- **Project Achieve:** Our afterschool enrichment program (offered only in Mathematics and English Language Arts for selected students) will be held Monday through Thursday at Forest Annex and Main, beginning on Tuesday, September 16th 2025, through April 30th 2026, from 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. for students in grades K – 7. There will be a Sibling Class available. Please be advised every fourth Monday of each month there will be no Project Achieve, Sibling Class, or Clubs as this day is reserved for faculty meetings.
- **Afterschool clubs** will be held Mon-Thurs, beginning September 29th through April 30th from 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM for students in grades 2 – 7. The following are tentative clubs for the upcoming school year:

Robotics Team	Art Club	Girls’ Talk & Boys to Men	Basketball (winter)
Geography Team	Spelling Bee	Girl Scouts	Cheerleading (Winter)

CHROMEBOOKS

Students are **required** to bring their district issued Chromebook to school each day. The Chromebook should be fully charged. If student chromebooks are not being consistently utilized at home daily for the completion of assigned assignments, students will not be permitted to take their device home as it will be housed in the building.

COMMUNICATION

- All teachers and staff will be connected to our students and families using “Parent Square”. Please ensure you have connected with your child’s classroom teacher on this platform and check the “school story” daily for any announcements.
- E-mail & phone blasts will also be used to communicate with families. Please ensure you have updated your contact information in Genesis. It is imperative that all school personnel have the most updated information for your household.
- Being able to communicate with our parents is extremely important. Please ensure that all your information is updated.
- All important student information can be accessed via our Genesis Parent Portal. This includes; progress reports, grades, missing and assignments. If you have not done so, please ensure that you sign up for Parent Portal.
- Please listen to all phone blasts sent by the school and/or district as they include important information and guidance.
- The School District & Forest Street Community School’s social media platforms are a great source for receiving updates and important information as well as celebrating and sharing photos of our fun activities.

You can also follow our school on the following social media platforms:

Twitter (X):

- Orange Public School District
- Forest Street Community School (@ForestStreet651)

Instagram:

- Orange Public School District
- forest_street_community

Facebook:

- Orange Public School District
- Forest Street Community School

Looking forward to a happy, healthy, and productive school year!

Educationally yours,

Yancisca Loften Cooke, Ed.D

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Principal