

# Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry & Innovation



"The Academy is a welcoming environment where our students are protected and feel safe to contribute, produce, think, and innovate."

*This week, alongside our commitment to our strong instructional focus and social emotional supports to our students, we need to also focus on the following items:*

1. **Staff Meeting** – Staff Meeting will take place Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm.
2. **SLT** – The SLT will meet on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm in the Library to review the Completed School Based Budget prior to submission on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.
3. **SGO Mid-Year** – As we finalize scoring of the mid-year assessments for most departments this week, please make sure you are also reviewing your SGO's. We will be meet this week to review progress of all SGO's and you will need to speak to and show evidence of where your students are in terms of growth targets for this school year. Our conversations will center around what you made need to adjust in the SGO; however, we will now have individual conversations with each staff member as to how you are specifically planning for and addressing deficiencies in students' mastery of the content standards. All Mid-Year Reviews of SGO's must be completed with Department Admins by no later than 3 pm on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.
4. **CPT** – please note the CPTs schedule is back to normal for this week.
5. Having loads of fun, **on purpose**, as we support one another this week and do all we can to reach and teach our students!!!

## Instructional Focus from the Superintendent:

**Choral Reading:** This strategy is used across contents as well as grade levels. Team, this is NOT just an elementary thing.

### What is Choral Reading?

Choral reading is a literacy technique that helps students build their fluency, self-confidence, and motivation in reading. During choral reading a student, or a group of students reads a passage together, with or without a teacher. Choral reading can be done individually, in small groups, or as a whole class. According to Reading Rockets (n.d.), there are three main reasons why choral reading is beneficial, and they include:

- It provides a model of fluency
- It improves sight word recognition
- It allows practice and support

Reading Rockets also mentions that teachers need to make sure the passage that they choose for choral reading is at the student's reading level. Therefore, the students fully comprehend what they are reading. Typically, when teachers choose choral reading passages the passages include some type of rhyme or rhythm. There are many different ways to do choral reading in a classroom, and here are some examples:

- Groups of students take turns reading different pages
- Everyone in the class reads the whole passage together
- Boys read lines 1-3, and girls read lines 4-6
- Teacher models how to read a sentence, then the students read that sentence together

According to Jennings, Caldwell, and Lerner (2014), "because students find choral reading enjoyable, they willingly practice the word recognition that helps them to give a polished performance" (p.213). If students enjoy choral reading they might have more motivation when they are reading, and this is very important for struggling readers and really any reader. Also, Jennings et al. mentions that "low achieving readers enjoy this activity [choral reading] because it gives them the satisfaction of delivering a well-rehearsed, expressive rendition" (p. 213). Students who have difficulties with fluency can really benefit from choral reading, because it provides them with a model and practice.

### Content Area Examples

Social Studies- To use coral reading in a social studies classroom, the content of the passage students are reading could be something that was written many years ago, for example. Students would chorally read similar to what they would do for a fictional text, but it would give the read more meaning because it could be about something that really happened.

Science- One possible way to do choral reading in a science class is for students to be divided up into groups of 3 or 4. Each group is given a different poem about birds and then they need to choral read that poem together. The group or partners need to then research about the bird poem they received. Students could then chorally read their poem once again to the class and share the research that they found.

Language Arts- As mentioned before, for a language arts classroom, students read a passage or a poem together, or chorally. Students can read the entire passage together, or in parts. For younger elementary students the teacher could use the example of The Itsy Bitsy Spider, and students could switch off ever other line. Since most students are familiar with this rhyme and song, it will help students become even more fluent.

## **Tech @ the Prep:**

Please refer to [\*\*What's Happening with Tech @ the Prep\*\*](#) for regular Technology Updates or procedures that are in place to support teachers and students. This google doc will be updated regularly and can be found on Ms. Phipp's webpage.

## **Calendar of Events: - Small Group Instruction Focus Continues!!**

### **Monday, January 23, 2023**

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students
- ✓ Staff Meeting Today at 3 pm in the Cafeteria

### **Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students
- ✓ Math CPT at 1A
- ✓ English CPT at 2A
- ✓ Health/PE; VPA; WL; & CTE CPT at 3A
- ✓ Science & Social Studies CPT at 4A
- ✓ Clubs and Extended Day Programs in session 3 pm to 4 pm

### **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students
- ✓ Clubs and Extended Day Programs in session 3 pm to 4 pm

### **Thursday, January 26, 2023**

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students
- ✓ Lesson Plans due by 3 pm for next week's instruction
- ✓ Update Gradebook
- ✓ All updates made from Administrators Lesson Plan Review by 3 pm for next week's instruction.
- ✓ Clubs and Extended Day Programs in session 3 pm to 4 pm
- ✓ SLT Meeting – 3 pm – Library

### **Friday, January 27, 2023**

- ✓ Full Day – Staff and Students

## Up-Coming Events:

### Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

(All Public Meetings are live streamed on the district's Facebook page as well as Channel 36 in the township of Orange)

- Public Relations Committee Virtual Meeting - Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 3:00pm
- Finance Committee Virtual Meeting - Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:30pm
- Facilities Committee Virtual Meeting - Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 3:30pm Curriculum Committee Virtual Meeting - Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at 3:30pm
- Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting - Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 7:30p.m., held at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation, in the Auditorium, 400 Central Avenue Orange, NJ, 07050. Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm