

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a large group of graduates wearing black caps and gowns with red stoles. The graduates are seated in rows, and the focus is soft, creating a sense of a large-scale event like a graduation ceremony. The entire slide is framed by a thin white border on a tan background.

# Forest Street Community School “New Beginnings”

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Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

&

Yancisca Loften-Cooke, Ed.D. Principal

# Core Values of the Forest Street Community School

**Vision:** Quality Learning and Superior Performance for All

**Mission:** We prepare and inspire all learners to lead and succeed.

## **Beliefs:**

**T**rust among all stakeholders is vital.

**E**xpectations influence accomplishments because everyone has the capacity to learn.

**A** school-community partnership is essential.

**C**hange creates opportunity.

**H**igh-performing leadership makes visions reality.



# Meeting Norms

Consistency, if you are absent send someone in your absence and be sure they are fully briefed when attending

Script your questions so you are present during the presentation

Assume good intentions

Monitor your airtime! Be succinct, concrete, and explicit when speaking

Listen to understand, and ask if you don't understand

Wait until the person speaking is finished before talking

Do not attack individuals, address ideas

# Forest Street Community School Strategy Map

Learning  
and Growth

Increase student  
achievement.

Build staff capacity.

Foster social and  
emotional growth.

Increase purposeful  
school, home and  
community  
partnerships.

Develop and apply  
effective cultural  
strategies.

Acquire, develop and  
retrain excellent staff  
for all positions.

Culture  
and Climate

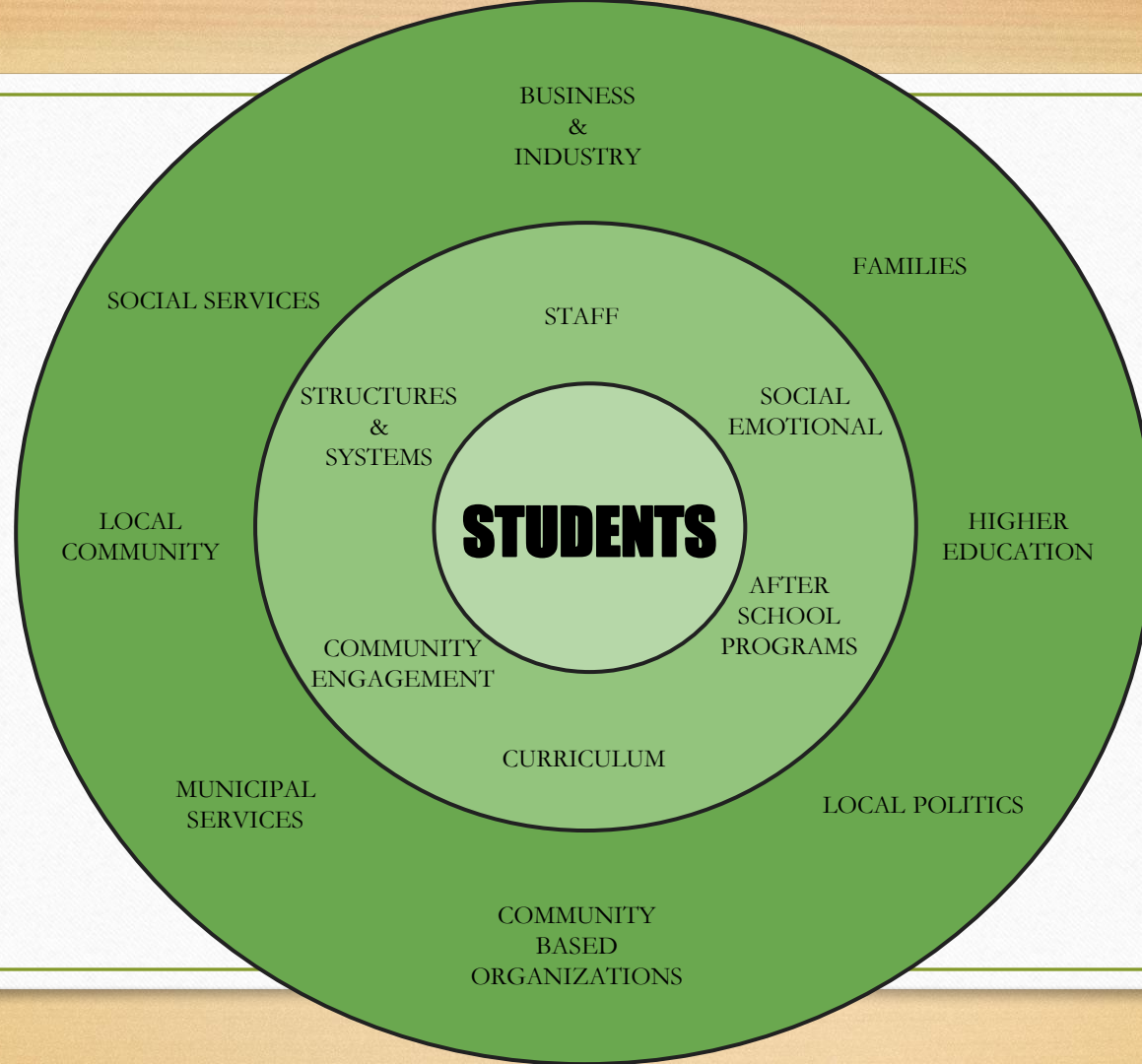
Operational  
Excellence

Plan and adapt for  
growth.

Manage financial  
resources.

Plan and allocate  
resources.





# Forest Street Community School

## Mission and Vision

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### **VISION**

To ensure that Forest Street School produces lifelong learners and leaders.

We must provide a safe environment to educate the mind, motivate the body, cultivate the spirit, and teach with the heart.

### **MISSION**

Through the full collaboration of school personnel, parents, and the community, Forest Street School is committed to nurturing a generation of formidable global competitors and leaders. Our students are inspired to achieve and walk with integrity, confidence, and compassion. We provide opportunities and life experiences which motivate each student to exceed their own expectations as every child is an achiever.

### **OUR SHARED BELIEFS:**

- All children can and will learn through collaboration, enthusiasm, and motivation.
- Learning never ends.
- Teachers must be creative, flexible, motivated and capable to meet all student's level of learning abilities.
- Each child has special abilities. As educators it is our responsibility to ascertain and intensify each individual student's talents.

# Announcing the Opening of Forest Street Community School Annex

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- The new Forest Street Annex will open in September 2025
- Location: the former Cleveland Street Swing Space located at 518 Valley Street in Orange, NJ 07050.
- The principal will remain as Dr. Cooke, she will oversee both campuses. There will be an assistant principal who will be stationed at the school daily with Dr. Cooke reporting daily to the site to provide the same oversight as she normally provides.
- The building will house Grades K-2. Scholars will have specials such as world language, music, physical education, library, and art.

# Announcing the Opening of Forest Street Community School Annex

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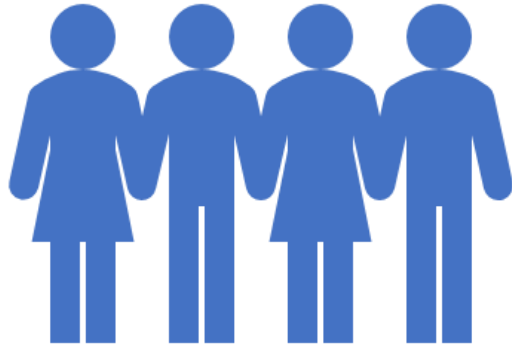
- For SY 25-26, the pre-kindergarten classes will be moved to Lincoln Avenue School. The district provided an update on this move to families via Zoom on Monday, January 27, 2025; at 5:30 PM.
- Staff were provided an update from Dr. Fitzhugh and Dr. Cooke on Monday, January 27, 2025; at 3:15 PM at the monthly faculty meeting.
- Curriculum and expectations will remain the same as the Annex is part of the Forest Street Community School. The buildings will function as one and not a separate entity.

# The New Forest Street Community School Annex Conversations

Category
Forest Annex Opening and the Positive Impact on Learning
Academic Programming
Changing the Mindset to Inquiry and Innovation (Moving to a Growth Mindset as engineered by Carol Dwerk)

- Discussion of how the uniform policy, instructional practices, climate-culture impact of this change. As shared, we are not changing any of the aforementioned at Forest Annex, in fact we will enhance what has already been created for the school.
- Probing Questions:
  - What does it mean to Move into Greatness? What are your expectations as a parent, student, community member, staff member, board of education member?
  - How will the Annex opening allow for greater opportunities for students and staff?
  - What changes are needed in the six areas to make our school GREAT?

# Closing Activity



- One word describing your Hope and Dreams for Forest Street Community School Annex

# Thank you for Attending

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- Closure: Final Questions for Clarification (Parents ONLY)
- Additional Updates will be shared from now until the opening of Forest Annex
- Burning Questions after the session to be emailed to [reopeningofschoools@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:reopeningofschoools@orange.k12.nj.us). Dr. Fitzhugh and Dr. Cooke will respond within 24 hours of receipt...sometimes sooner.