Dear Orange County Residents:

The 2019-20 school year began like many before, with our students eagerly starting school and our educators committed to helping them grow academically and socially. Our work to provide educational opportunities to some of the most vulnerable children in our community never stops. While we have always been proud of the educational excellence of Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), we have been especially proud of our students and staff this year. The demands of the pandemic forced all of us to adapt, but we continued to have success despite the obstacles and challenges our students faced. Our students, teachers, and staff are resilient, and they are committed to the success of each and every one of our students.

In the fall, we asked the community to “Go Orange” with us on Dec. 11. Along with our monthly report, we unveiled plans for the 150th Anniversary of Orange County Public Schools. In August, together with Dr. Jenkins, we hosted the State of the Schools event, and we unveiled plans for the 150th Anniversary of Orange County Public Schools.

Then COVID-19 struck, moving rapidly across the globe, taking lives, changing the way we work and live. With distance learning, we have to be more creative than ever before. We serve nearly 25,000 employees — from bus drivers to custodians, teachers to paraprofessionals, aides, clerks, and support staff to administrators — all committed to the success of the students we serve. Such commitment was particularly evident when we had to pivot to meet the needs of our students. The OCPS team worked throughout the summer to prepare for the return of students in the fall, and they operated at a high level of excellence as they conducted distance learning.

More than 212,000 students were counted in our student population of more than 212,000, which included the entire spectrum of abilities and economic status. Our 25,000 employees — from bus drivers to custodians, teachers to paraprofessionals, aides, clerks, and support staff to administrators — are all committed to the success of the students we serve. The OCPS team worked throughout the summer to prepare for the return of students in the fall, and they operated at a high level of excellence as they conducted distance learning.

We have endured, showing unity, strength and resilience in moving forward as best we could under our new normal. Even though we canceled or postponed many events through this pandemic, you helped us continue to feed our children, and raise money for scholarships and needed programs. Our food service served more than 28 million meals through our schools and back to school food services, and we distributed more than 7 million meals through LaunchED 1:1.

We have more to be proud of and — with your support and with our core values of equity, inclusion, respect, collaboration, integrity and doing what is right — we will find ways to keep our students safe and healthy in the days, weeks and years to come. Much of what we do is not glamorous or exciting, and we take it for granted that we do it. But when we reflect on the past year, we see much to be proud of, much to learn and much to improve.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chair

Teresa Jacobs
Dear Orange County Residents:

The 2019-20 school year began like many before, with our students eagerly starting school in August. In September, together with Dr. Jenkins, we hosted the State of the Schools event, and we unveiled plans for the 100th Anniversary of Orange County Public Schools. In the fall, we asked the community to “Go Orange” with us on Dec. 11. Along with our students and employees, many of you celebrated our proud, historic 150-year milestone.

After months of review and input from various stakeholders, we entered the new year (and decade) with a newly adopted five-year strategic plan for our future – OCPS 2025 – and celebrated our stellar employees who make this district a leader among our peers nationwide.

Then COVID-19 struck, moving rapidly across the globe, taking lives, changing the way we live, work and learn, and causing massive unemployment. Unlike anything our world has witnessed in our lifetime, Americans had to cease much of life as we knew it. For everyone’s safety, we closed our school doors in the spring and turned to distance learning to safely educate our students.

Even though we canceled or postponed many events through this pandemic, you helped us continue to feed our children, and raise money for scholarships and needed programs for when we returned to in-school instruction. While this time has not been easy, together we have endured, showing unity, strength and resilience in moving forward as best we could under our new normal.

The pages that follow showcase a tiny fraction of what sets OCPS apart from districts across this state and nation. We have much to be proud of and — with your support and with our core values of equity, inclusion, respect, collaboration, integrity and innovation guiding the way — we will continue to create enriching and diverse pathways to lead our students to success for the next 150 years.

Sincerely,
Teresa Jacobs
School Board Chair

To the Orange County Community:

For 150 years, Orange County Public Schools has been entrusted to steer the educational pathways of our community’s children. This year we were fortunate to teach a diverse student population of more than 272,000, which included the entire spectrum of abilities and economic status.

Our 25,000 employees — from bus drivers to custodians, teachers to paraprofessionals, support staff to administrators — are all committed to the success of the students we serve. Such commitment was particularly evident when we had to pivot to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure learning continued when our schools closed, our teachers and schools engaged with technology to connect with students, and teach remotely for the last nine weeks of school. Our administrators created paper and online resources to aid parents and students with distance learning. To address student nutrition needs, our teams also packaged healthy meals and transformed our school parking loops into distribution centers through the summer.

I am extremely proud of the work our OCPS team has performed this year, and I am happy to share with you some of our accomplishments.

Sincerely,
Barbara M. Jenkins, E.D.D.
Superintendent

2019-19 Graduation Rate
95.9% at traditional OCPS high schools
88.4% at all OCPS high schools

847 buses that transport 70,000 students per day, averaging 18.5 million miles per year

8th-largest public school district in the United States
4th-largest public school district in Florida

25,756 employees, among the largest employers in Central Florida.

212,401 students from 199 countries who speak 164 languages and dialects.

142,816 digital devices distributed through LaunchED 1:1 digital learning program.

125 Elementary Schools
38 Middle Schools
8 K-8 Schools
20 High Schools
8 Exceptional Schools

OCPS has opened 53 new schools since 2003. Another 124 schools have been renovated or replaced. An additional 21 are scheduled to be completed in the next three years.

Where Your Dollar Goes

78¢
Teaching, transporting, supervising and counseling students

7¢
Library materials, staff training and curriculum development

10¢
Acquiring, operating and maintaining school facilities

5¢
Central and fiscal services, general administration and district technology

7¢
Schools, facilities, transportation and technology.
High Expectations for Student Learning

Orange County Public Schools is committed to providing all students the education and skills necessary to be successful and prepared for college and career. The 2019-20 school year saw significant academic achievements, including:

Super Scholars
126 graduating seniors from our 20 traditional high schools were accepted into U.S. News and World Report’s top-20-ranked universities and liberal arts colleges, and U.S. service academies.

Dual Enrollment
205 graduating seniors earned their associate degree from Valencia College, along with their diploma. This is a 200% increase from the previous year.

Advanced Placement
146 students earned the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma and 37 students earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate during the 2019-20 school year. More than 10,200 students took at least one AP test and scored 3, 4 or 5.

Arts Enrollment
OCPS had the highest percentage of students participating in Visual and Performing Arts among the five largest school districts in the state of Florida.

OCPS: 66% Stat: 56.9%

OCPS partnered with WUCF TV to launch the OCPS Education Channel played on Channel 24.5.

National Recognitions
15 seniors from eight high schools were chosen as winners in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. Thirteen others were semi-finalists and also won scholarship awards.

Magnet Schools of America recognized 10 OCPS magnet programs for demonstrating a high commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, diversity efforts, specialized teaching staff, and parent and community involvement.

OCPS has once again been recognized as one of the nation’s Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. The award program highlights districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

Athletics
Both Ocoee and Dr. Phillips high schools’ competitive cheerleading teams won state championships in the 2019-20 school year.

Student Social and Emotional Well-Being

We are committed to promoting the educational success and mental health development of our students.

Social Workers
School-based mental-health social workers were placed at all 20 traditional high schools. They help create safe, supportive environments for all students, including those who are bullied and those with mental-health issues.

Clubs/Programs
- Find Your Voice: A new initiative at five schools that empowered over 100 young women to find their voice and become impactful everyday leaders
- Gay-Straight Alliance: 20 high and 38 middle schools
- Holocaust Center Upstanders: Eight middle schools
- Restorative Practice Circles: All middle and high schools
- SAFE: Five middle and four high schools

Dedicated and High-Quality Team

OCPS is proud of the many accomplishments of all our staff who, in various capacities, help lead our students to success each day.

Stellar Award Winners

Recognitions
- Barbara Walters-Phillips, a math and science coach at Rosemont Elementary, was awarded the Katherine Wright Trophy from the National Aeronautic Association.
- Edgewater High Principal, Mark Shanoff, Ed.D., was named the 2019 National Principal of the Year for Florida by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
- Visual Arts Resource Teacher Christy Garton was named the 2019 Supervisor/Administrator of the Year by the Florida Art Education Association.
- Social Worker Jennifer Frye was selected by the Florida Association of School Social Workers as the School Social Worker of the Year.
- Stephanie Brooks, reading coach at Riverside Elementary, was named 2019-2020 Florida Literacy Elementary Coach of the Year.
- The Florida School Nutrition Association awarded its Outstanding Leadership Award to Tony Jenkins, Food and Nutrition Services senior training manager.
- Keene’s Crossing Elementary was the first OCPS elementary school to receive the Florida Power Library Award from the Florida Association of Media Supervisors.
OCPS has an expectation that every dollar saved through operational efficiencies and cost reductions can be reinvested into the classroom and student achievement.

Savings
Through rigorous contract negotiations and competitive sourcing strategies, the Procurement Services team secured more than $32 million in savings for the district during the 2020 fiscal year.

Utility billing monitoring and audits have saved or returned $6.5 million to the district.

OCPS earned $3.1 million in 2020 in energy rebate programs from energy-saving elements incorporated into each school construction project.

The total e-payables rebate earned in fiscal year 2020 was $2.3 million, an increase of nearly 6% from the prior year due to an increase in the percentage of vendor payments made by electronic payment methods.

Portable Operations recycled 13.2 tons of copper, aluminum and steel component materials with a value of more than $21,000.

Recognitions
OCPS received the Key Performance in Financial Management Achievement Award from the Council of the Great City Schools. The award identified 50 OCPS key performance indicators that ranked in the top quartile of the Council’s member districts.

OCPS received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association and the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials.

The Human Resources department received the 2019 Governor’s Sterling Sustained Excellence Award from the Florida Sterling Council for retaining its role-model status since its 2015 recognition.

Procurement Services earned the 2019 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute.

Building Update
During this school year, the capital renewal program began construction on 18 projects with a value of $63 million, and completed 23 projects at a cost of $68 million. The value of all capital renewal projects under construction is $91 million, with additional projects in development valued at $120 million. The program has completed 186 projects through April 2020 at a cost of approximately $166 million. Below are the new, replaced and renovated schools that opened in 2019 or 2020.

2019:
- Castleview Elementary School (new)
- Corner Lake Middle School (renovation)
- Deerwood Elementary School (replacement)
- Horizon West Middle School (new)
- Lake Gem Elementary School (renovation)
- Lake George Elementary School (renovation)
- Pennington School (replacement)
- Sunrise Elementary School (renovation)
- Water Spring Elementary School (new)

2020:
- Acceleration West (renovation)
- Boone High School Auditorium/ Gym/ Cafeteria (replacement/ renovation)
- Magnolia School (replacement)
- Pinar Elementary School (replacement)
- Rolling Hills Elementary School (replacement)
- Southwest Middle School (renovation)
- Summerlakes Elementary School (new)
- Sunshine Elementary School (new)
- Vista Pointe Elementary School (new)
- Winegard Elementary School (replacement)

Efficient Operations

Positive Climate and Safe Environment
The district is constantly evaluating and finding ways to improve school safety. OCPS is focused on providing a safe learning and working environment for its students, employees and visitors.

Safety and Emergency Management
Safety and Emergency Management’s Office of Safety developed and launched a new online training course for school administrators – Safety First, Safety Always – to provide school leaders guidance on reducing safety risks within their facilities.

World Heart Day 2019
More than 36,500 OCPS students received hands-only CPR and AED training at all 20 traditional high schools and Orange Technical College, thanks to partnerships with the Orlando Fire Department, Orange County Fire Rescue and the American Heart Association.

Public Safety
OCPS hosted a two-day multiagency public-safety drill – Resilient Orange – to foster staff training, teamwork, and information sharing in a plausible active-assailant response scenario.

Engaged and Invested Community
Our community members provide invaluable skills and resources that support our students and teachers. Below are just a few highlights from the 2019-20 school year.

Foundation for OCPS
The Foundation for Orange County Public Schools invests in our children today to strengthen our community tomorrow. In 2019-20, The Foundation raised or managed $3.99 million to build educational equity. In addition, invested funds held by the Foundation to benefit OCPS students, teachers and programs grew to more than $3.6 million.

Award
Meadow Woods Elementary School received the Florida Department of Education’s 2019-2020 Family and Community Involvement Award (Region III, Elementary) for its Parent and Family Resource Center. This annual award highlights exemplary school programs and practices which meaningfully engage families and the community to enhance student success.

150th Anniversary Celebration
The community helped OCPS recognize its 150th Anniversary on Dec. 11, 2019 by lighting up orange.

Parent Academy
During the 2019-2020 school year, at three Parent Academy seminars, 34 sessions were offered for approximately 777 parents/caregivers. The Youth Academy served 726 students between the ages of 6-18. In five Virtual Parent Academy seminars, family engagement opportunities were provided in four languages (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese) to 1,626 participants.

56,772 ADDitions volunteers
$63,300 volunteer hours logged (valued at $13.5 million)
2,603 Partners in Education
148 Golden Schools
27 Silver Schools

Leadership Orange
In 2019-20, 30 community members completed Class X of Leadership Orange, which provides a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to run a large urban school district. More than 320 people have graduated from the program.

The Wheel at Icon Park
Our School Board

Teresa Jacobs  
Chair

Angie Gallo  
District 1

Johanna López  
District 2

Linda Kobert  
District 3

Pam Gould  
Vice Chair | District 4

Kathleen “Kat” Gordon  
District 5

Karen Castor Dentel  
District 6

Melissa Byrd  
District 7

Barbara M. Jenkins  
Superintendent

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445 West Amelia Street, Orlando, Florida 32801  
www.ocps.net