



August 18, 2020

Dear Orenda Public Charter School Families,

School starts tomorrow! Even though this is not how we wanted to start our school year, we are ready for a year of learning. Below are several important updates and reminders.

School Supplies: On-campus students need to bring school supplies when they start on-campus instruction. Teachers will be eliminating shared classroom supplies, when possible. Remote students need to have the supplies on the school supply lists for use at home. Students do not need to purchase community supplies while they are participating in only remote learning.

Parent Notification to School: If the student has COVID-19 symptoms, is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the parent needs to email the campus administrator. When emailing the campus administrator, please include the date symptoms first appeared, date of lab-confirmed test, and/or last date of close contact with a lab-confirmed case.

Attendance: Students still must attend at least 90% of their daily classes to get credit for and/or be promoted to the next grade. On-campus attendance looks similar to prior years. Remote instruction, however, will look different.

K-8 remote students need to actively engage each day to be counted present for that day.

Grades 9-12 remote students need to actively engage in each scheduled class period to be counted present for the class that day.

Students participated in one of the following approved engagement methods from **12 am to 11:59 pm on that day:**

- The student completed at least one quiz/test/assignment in Edgenuity (100% asynchronous model ONLY) that day from 12 am – 11:59 pm.
- The student participated in a live Zoom session with the teacher that day with documented participation
- The student submitted work through Blackboard/email or completed work in another program such as IXL from 12 am – 11:59 pm on that day.

Note, the approved engagement criteria above is the *minimum* for attendance purposes for a student to be counted present, similar to the minimum for on-



campus attendance to be considered present is to be physically present in class. The expectation for grades and progress is higher than these minimum attendance requirements.

Students who are not physically present on-campus and do not engage remotely from 12 am - 11:59 pm on that day will be counted "absent" for that day. The excused absence policy in the Parent-Student Handbook applies to both on-campus and remote learning. Students who do not meet one of the excused absence reasons will be marked "unexcused". Only students with excused absences are allowed to make up work.

Students who are not engaged from 12 am – 11:59 pm on that day are marked absent and cannot be counted present based on the student completing an assignment or participating in other asynchronous engagement at a later date. For example, students can't submit all their work for the week on Monday and be counted present for Tuesday – Friday. In this case, the student would be marked remote present for Monday and "unexcused" for Tuesday – Friday.

Any students who were marked "unexcused" the first three days of school (not present on-campus and no remote engagement) will be a "no show" and lose their spot.

Education Rights and Responsibilities During COVID-19: The Texas Education Agency recently published a notice to families with their right and responsibilities during this school year. Please click [here](#) to read this document.

Blackboard Access: [Here](#) are the instructions and videos for students and parents to access Blackboard. If you need to request a password reset, please email blackboard@orendaeducation.org.

Reminder – School Start Plan Updates: There have been several updates to our 2020-21 School Start Plan found [here](#). All updates are marked with a revision date.

Reminder - Screenings and Temperature Checks: Parents/guardians are expected to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms including taking their temperatures each day prior to arriving at school. Upon arrival to campus, school staff will screen all students and visitors using the following questions.

1. Have you (staff and visitors) or your child (students) had any COVID-19 symptoms within the last 10 days?
2. Have you (staff and visitors) or your child (students) been lab-confirmed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
3. Have you (staff and visitors) or your child (students) had close contact with any individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?



Reminder - Annual Registration: Our annual registration for all students (new and returning) is now entirely online this year. No paper forms! You will update your information online and complete several online forms through the **Registration** tab in the **Frontline SIS (formally TEAMS) Parent Portal**. To do this, please go to <https://orenda.tx01.teams360.net/selfserve/EntryPointHomeAction.do?parent=true>. You can also access this link directly on the campus website by going to the **Parents** tab and clicking on **Parent Portal Logins**. You need to use Google Chrome as the internet browser to be able to successfully update your information and complete all the forms. Returning users will use their existing TEAMS username and password that they created when they first registered. If you need assistance, please contact the campus front office. All annual registration needs to be completed no later than August 21st.

Reminder - Instruction Commitment September 9 – End of the Grading Period: Instruction Commitment Forms for September 9th through the end of the grading period are available below for each campus. A separate form needs to be completed for each student. Those will be due no later than **5 pm on Wednesday, August 19th**.

- [Kingsland School 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)
- [Nolan Creek School 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)
- [Gateway Tech 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)
- [Gateway Prep 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)

Questions: Your first point of contact going forward is your child's teacher and then your campus administrator. Please reach out. We are here to help.

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few months as we planned for the 2020-21 school start. Stay safe and welcome back!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla Silber'.

Carla Silber
Superintendent/COO
Orenda Public Charter School District