



# Orange Township Public Schools

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Office of the Superintendent



## For Immediate Release

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## **The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership at Seton Hall University and the Orange Public School District Announces a Memorandum of Understanding to Foster Servant Leadership**

**The Agreement Launches the Orange Ambassadors of Service Pilot Program at Orange High School**

(Orange, NJ – April 30, 2021) The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership at Seton Hall University (Center) and the Orange Public School District (OPS) are proud to announce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to pilot the first program under the Center's Next Generation Initiative, the *Orange Ambassadors of Service* (OAS) at Orange High School. The MOU term began on April 28, 2021, and continues through June 2, 2021. Under the agreement, the program will immerse select Grade 12 Orange High School students in the concept of Servant Leadership. It will support their graduation requirement of meeting the district's 60-hour mandate for service learning. Several juniors are also participating in the program.

The MOU fosters the Center's mission to promote the awareness, understanding, and practice of Servant Leadership and outlines the partnership with Orange Public Schools to pilot a "Next Generation Initiative" that introduces the principles and practices of Servant Leadership to high school and campus leaders across the country. The Orange Ambassadors of Service pilot program will engage Orange High School students in a short-term experiential learning opportunity that will enhance critical thinking, writing, and listening skills while introducing students to Servant-Leader Exemplars – local, national, and international role models who have led a life of service throughout their careers.

Participating student Amy Paiz has already embraced the program's mission and states, "Being a leader doesn't mean you are a boss; it means you are helping to guide others in the right direction."

The Greenleaf Center Executive Director, Mr. Reginald Lewis, has recruited facilitators and presenters to lead six virtual sessions on Wednesdays after school hours, per the MOU. The planned sessions incorporate common characteristics of Servant Leadership, including a commitment to the growth of people and building community. The scheduled speakers include Rev. Fred Sullivan, Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist Church; Phyllis Bindi, Chief, East Orange Police Department; Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Mayor, City of Orange Township; Lolita Cruz, Chief of Staff, Assemblyman Tom Giblin's office; James Ham, Country Director, Peace Corps South Africa; and Lyle Tard, Founder and CEO, IMPACT Servant Leadership. "We are thrilled to engage the young people of Orange in not only becoming familiar with this philosophy of leadership, but acquiring the lifelong skills and habits necessary to act as servant-leaders," said Mr. Lewis.

Orange High School Assistant Principal Kavita Cassimiro supervises the students as program liaison responsible for ensuring their participation. She selected the students who met the criteria for a 3.0 GPA and completed an application. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, who are gaining valuable knowledge and skill that will not only advance their careers but their civic responsibilities," said Ms. Cassimiro.

Superintendent of Schools, Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D. sees great value in the OAS, "This servant leadership program will allow students to hone in on their internal and external leadership capabilities. I am excited for our students to have the opportunity to hear from leaders within our community and beyond as well as reflect on their possible trajectory as they leave high school and embark to their new chapters. I am confident that our students will reinvest in the Orange community!"

Upon completing the pilot program, students will receive a certificate and a \$100 OAS book scholarship usable at the college and/or post-secondary institution of their choice. The district and students will incur no cost for participation.

**About the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership at Seton Hall University:** The Greenleaf Center, established in 1964 by its namesake, Robert K. Greenleaf, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance the awareness, understanding, and practice of servant leadership by individuals and organizations. Servant leadership is a philosophy and set of practices that enrich individuals' lives, build better organizations, and create a more just and caring world. Since 2019, after being headquartered in Atlanta, the Greenleaf Center relocated to Seton Hall University. The Center's programs include workshops, online learning, speakers, and an international conference that connects, educates, and inspires servant leaders from around the globe. Visit [www.greenleaf.org](http://www.greenleaf.org)

**About Orange Township Public School District:** The Orange school district serves approximately 5,600 Pre-K through Grade 12 students and 800 staff members. The student population is predominantly African American, with a growing percentage of Spanish-speaking (approx. 30%) and Haitian Creole-speaking families (approx. 7%). The public school system in Orange consists of 14 school buildings, including three preschool locations, eight elementary schools, a middle school academy for Grades 8-9, one high school serving Grades 10-12, a STEM academy for Grades 9-12, a Gifted and Talented Program, and an alternative high school Twilight Program. Visit [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us)

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