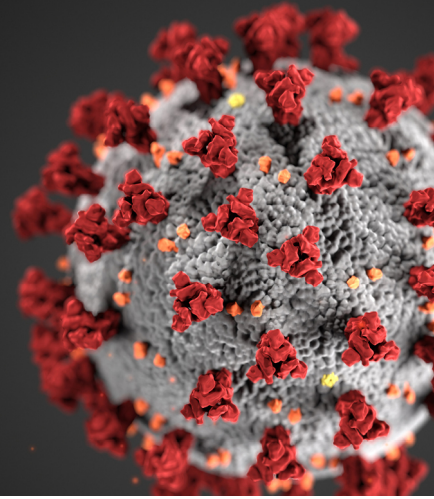




# CORONAVIRUS COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

News to keep our school community up to date during the Coronavirus crisis



## Message from Superintendent Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong



What a spring it has been! I know you join me in celebrating our amazing Class of 2020, who will indeed be always known as “the chosen class” for their strength and resiliency in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am certain that our graduating seniors will move forward into the future with confidence and a unique outlook on what they can accomplish, as they have already achieved so much!

I invite you to view the five virtual graduation ceremonies on our [NPS YouTube channel](#), especially the valedictorian and salutatorian addresses, reflecting wisdom and lessons learned from which we can all benefit.

Our work continues within NPS to prepare for the upcoming school year. I know that families and students have many questions regarding what teaching and learning will look like. We are steadfastly focused on developing strict and safe measures for the return of students and staff. We pledge to keep you updated as these important decisions are made. Enjoy the summer break!

## PLANNING UNDER WAY FOR REOPENING OF SCHOOLS IN FALL

Governor Ralph Northam and the Virginia Department of Education recently issued guidelines to help school divisions design a safe return for students and staff. Norfolk Public Schools’ first day of the 2020-2021 school year will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and the NPS Reopening Schools Innovation Taskforce’s planning efforts will continue relative to reopening options.

“First and foremost, we want to ensure that students and staff have a strong sense of safety and security as they return to their schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong. “This will be a new normal for Norfolk Public Schools, and we are exploring many options for the redesign of teaching and learning. This is a very complex process that requires multiple perspectives and a high level of focus on details.”

Parents/Guardians will be invited to provide input regarding their preferences for a variety of options through a survey that will be administered during the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>. Communication will

continue throughout the summer so that families and staff will be updated regarding reopening decisions.

All options being considered limit the number of students who will be physically attending school on any one day to ensure strict social distancing. As such, the taskforce is exploring the option of having students attend school on an alternating and/or staggered schedule, meaning that students would not physically report to school on a daily basis but would be assigned designated days and/or timeframes to report to school. On the days that students would not physically report to school, remote learning options would need to be in place. Schedules may look different for students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels due to the complex logistics of scheduling for secondary students in learning environments that will not only require social distancing but limited “mixing” of students as well.

*Con't on page 2*

## Plans for School Reopening

*Con't from page 1*

In addition to scheduling decisions, the NPS Reopening Schools Innovation Task-force will need to plan for major adjustments for safely transporting students to school that align with Governor Northam's guidance for six feet of social distancing measures on school buses.

Other decisions will be made regarding athletics and extracurricular activities depending on the activity and whether it will allow for strict social distancing.

All students and staff will be screened daily for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Cloth face coverings will be worn by staff when at least six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained. Schools will encourage the use of face coverings for students as developmentally appropriate in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

We are looking forward to receiving feedback from parents/guardians which will assist the NPS administration with making critical decisions regarding the reopening of schools. Watch for continuing updates throughout the summer in this newsletter and on the NPS website.

### Virtual Graduations a Success!

Graduates of the five Norfolk high schools cheered and celebrated at home with their families during their virtual graduation ceremonies that were livestreamed on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and are now available to watch on demand on the [NPS YouTube channel](#).

Viewers can also enjoy five Student Spotlights, each of which feature a senior who overcame challenges to achieve at extraordinary levels. In addition, the valedictorian and salutatorian addresses from each high school will be posted soon on the NPS YouTube channel.

Plans will be announced later this summer regarding a ceremony for students who will meet their graduation requirements over the summer, as well as for a possible in-person graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 graduates who would like to participate.

## NPS Launches Virtual Summer Programs

All Norfolk Public Schools' summer programs this year will be virtual offerings. These programs are outlined on the [2020 Virtual Summer Programs webpage](#). Registration deadlines are fast approaching and parents/guardians may want to take note:

- High school students who want to take a class for credit recovery or initial credit must register by attending a sign-up session on June 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> at Granby High School from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- The deadline for registration for Junior University (JU) classes is June 18<sup>th</sup>. The classes being offered are: Investigative Science, Math Boot Camp, College and Career Exploration, and Intro to Theater.

## Summer Programs for Students with Disabilities

Special education teachers and related service providers will support the individualized needs of students in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Extended School Year (ESY) services for students having met the qualifying criteria. Special education teachers will also be engaged with NPS' virtual summer programs (elementary and middle school summer basic skills and high school summer school).

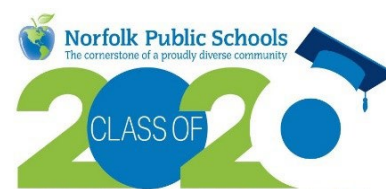
The Special Education Parent Resource Center will continue to hold parent workshops during the summer. Please visit [the center's website](#) for more information. The next workshop, *Deployments and the Effects of Moving for Military Families*, will be held on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.

## Virginia Community Colleges Available to All Graduates

All graduating high school seniors have earned guaranteed acceptance to a Virginia community college this fall, even if they have not previously applied. The unprecedented public health crisis is leading Virginia families to take a hard look at higher education options.

At Virginia's Community Colleges, students will find flexible pathways and personal guidance from dedicated professors to stay on track, as well as the lowest tuition rates in Virginia. In addition, they offer guaranteed college transfer to 36 public and private universities in Virginia, and beyond. Students can remain close to home, take college courses, or even earn an associate degree on their way to achieving that bachelor's degree at their dream school.

To learn more, please visit the [CollegeAnywhereVa website](#), or your local community college's website.



## NPS Meal Distribution to Continue Over the Summer

Norfolk Public Schools will continue to distribute meals over the summer on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the 17 current food distribution sites: Azalea Gardens Middle School, Booker T. Washington High School, Camp Allen Elementary, Coleman Place Elementary, Crossroads School, James Monroe Elementary, Lake Taylor School, Little Creek Elementary, Norview Elementary, Ocean View Elementary, Oceanair Elementary, P.B. Young Elementary, Southside STEM Academy, St. Helena Elementary, Suburban Park Elementary, Tanners Creek Elementary, and Tidewater Park Elementary.

Delivery of meals via NPS school buses will also continue over the summer at the same sites and hours: Titustown Recreation Center (11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.); Huntersville Community Center (12 noon – 12:30 p.m.); and Grandy Village Recreation Center (1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.).

Note to families: If students were receiving free meals prior to the school closure and families have not received a supplement on their existing EBT card, or a new P-EBT card (if they didn't already have one) by next week, they should call the Virginia Department of Social Services at (804) 726-7000. For more information, please visit <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/pebt.cgi>.

## New Students Should Register Now for All Grades and Pre-K

Families with new students should enroll them before August 15<sup>th</sup> by visiting the school their child is zoned to attend between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To see school zones, visit [Find My School webpage](#).

Parents/Guardians must schedule an appointment through e-mail with the building principal before reporting to the school.

Parents/Guardians must complete a registration packet and submit it to the school. All required documentation must be provided at the time of enrollment: birth certificate, school entrance physical and immunization certificate, and expulsion statement, if applicable. Once these documents are submitted, staff will complete registration by

the following week. Parents/Guardians should schedule an appointment soon with their child's doctor or clinic for physicals and immunizations.

Registration details may be found on the [NPS school registration webpage](#).

NPS provides a full-day, high-quality preschool program to help prepare students for success in kindergarten and beyond. If your child lives in the City of Norfolk and will be 3 or 4 years old by September 30<sup>th</sup>, please visit the [NPS preschool webpage](#) to download an application. Parents/Guardians can e-mail a completed application and supporting documents, seek information, and/or request a paper copy of the preschool enrollment application at [preschool@npsk12.com](mailto:preschool@npsk12.com).

## Mobile Device Return Begins

Norfolk Public Schools has distributed nearly 10,000 devices to students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In preparation for the beginning of next school year, students noted below in the following current grades will need to return their mobile devices (Chromebook, iPad, Windows laptop, and/or MiFi card) to their home school before they transition into the new school year.

Students who are required to return mobile devices this summer include some pre-kindergartners (those who will not remain at their current elementary school during the 2020-2021 school year), 5<sup>th</sup> graders (not including those in K-8/3-8 schools), 8<sup>th</sup> graders, high school seniors/graduates, and students who will transfer to another school within NPS or a school outside of NPS (in-state or out-of-state).

Schools will be reaching out to parents/guardians with instructions on how and when to return their children's mobile devices. In general, the return will be organized by the following groups:

**Group 1:** Parents/Guardians and students should return the mobile devices now through August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Group 2:** Students attending required summer school should return mobile devices at the end of Summer School (July 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Group 3:** Students who received an incomplete for their current grade and who need to complete work should return mobile devices by August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Upon their return, the mobile devices will be thoroughly sanitized and stored in a designated quarantine area for a minimum of three days before staff begins the process of maintenance and repair.

## Ideas and Resources for an Active, Healthy, and Safe Summer

Given the realities of the ongoing pandemic, parents/guardians are making the best of what may feel like difficult circumstances. We can help our children to stay healthy, busy, and engaged as we end the school year and start the summer break.

Over the summer, children will still be spending a significant amount of time in their homes as they practice social distancing and safer-at-home strategies. Of course, kids being kids, they will still want to have some fun during their break. Parents/Guardians have an opportunity to create fun-filled days that are worthy of remembering. There are many ideas and resources on this page that will help you get started on your summer fun!



### Ideas for Staying Active

- **Dance parties.** Turn on your favorite music or your child's music.
- **Hide and Seek.** Encourage your kids to run around the house.
- **Foot race.** Inside or out, see who can get from point A to point B the fastest.
- **Bike ride.** Head out as a family and enjoy the warm weather.
- **Obstacle course.** Use furniture, tape on the floor, blankets, pillows, etc. to create an indoor obstacle course.
- **Build a fort.** Gather all your blankets and sheets and build a giant fort.
- **Blow bubbles.** See who can catch or pop the most bubbles.
- **Charades.** Create your own game of charades by writing different animals, actions, etc. on index cards. Draw them out of a hat and act them out.
- **Sidewalk chalk.** Draw fun pictures or write sayings. You will have a colorful space when finished.
- **Hula hoop.** This can be done inside or out. See who can keep the hula hoop going the longest.
- **Balloon volleyball.** Blow up a balloon and play a game of volleyball without the risk of breaking something.
- **Yoga.** Kids love yoga. Search YouTube and you will find many great videos, some of which are created specifically for kids.
- **GoNoodle.** A fun website for kids to dance along to some silly songs and move their body with different games.
- **Backyard soccer.** Set up goals with sticks.
- **Basketball.** Don't have a hoop? That's okay. Practice dribbling and passing.
- [Jr. NBA at Home](#)
- [BOKS: Free at-home physical activity resources](#)

### Tap Into Resources for Literacy

- [5 Ways to Keep Kids Engaged and Learning at Home](#)
- [Learning Heroes: Making Learning Fun](#)
- [Great Schools Home Learning Guide](#)
- [Author Lauren Tarshis Reads I Survived The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912](#)
- [Virtual BookFest](#)
- [Dav Pilkey at Home](#)
- [Scholastic Grab and Go Take-Home Book Packs](#)
- [Scholastic Learn at Home: Free Resources for School Closures](#)
- [Springboard Collaborative Family Resources](#)
- [5 Ways to Keep Kids Engaged and Learning at Home](#)
- [Free Online Educational Resources](#)
- [TIME for Kids](#) – Authentic journalism to motivate curious minds (K-6th grade)
- [Random House: Read Together be Together](#)

### Resources for Arts and Music

- [Music Resources for School Closures](#)
- [Arts & Learning Kids TV show](#)
- [Arts & Learning Snacks!](#)

### Resources for STEM

- [Khan Academy: Weekly learning plans in math for grade 3 through Algebra 2](#)
- [National Geographic Learn at Home Courses](#) (K-12th grade)
- [Guidance for Supporting Science Learning During COVID-19](#)
- [Teachers In the Parks Live! Live, 15 minute Reading and Math lessons](#)
- [MLB baseball-themed online learning course for at-home students](#)
- [The Quantile® Summer Math Challenge](#)