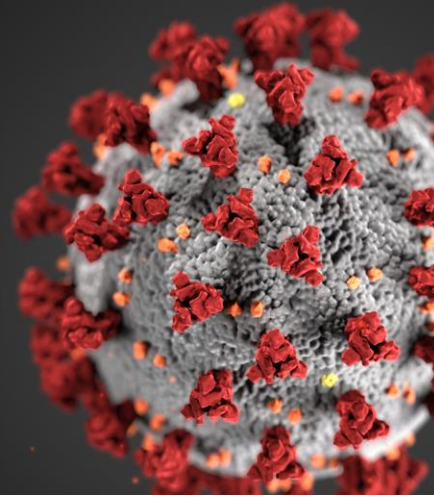




CORONAVIRUS COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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



**Message from
Superintendent
Dr. Sharon I.
Byrdsong**



As we enter another month of extended school closure, I am reminded of how resilient we can be in the face of such unprecedented challenges.

Our parents/guardians show us every day how they are keeping their students engaged and learning. I see how our school leaders are working diligently to make decisions while always keeping the well-being of our students and families foremost in mind. For example, our Quarter 4 procedures were developed with the mindset of fairness, equity, and compassion for what our students and families are facing (see next story).

And I have endless gratitude for our teachers who truly are rising to the challenge in adjusting to this new normal by finding creative ways to teach our students. I invite you to read more on page 4 to see how you can show your gratitude, too. Teachers are truly the backbone of Norfolk Public Schools, and we salute their unwavering commitment to our students and families. We are truly in this together!

QUARTER 4 PROCEDURES ANNOUNCED

Norfolk Public Schools has made a number of decisions regarding how students will be assessed during Quarter 4 (Q4), which will conclude on June 12.

No formal letter/numerical grades will be given to students for Q4; however, a “Pass” (P) or “Incomplete” (I) will be issued to students. Students’ overall final grade will be calculated based on the previous three quarters and the P or I assessment for the fourth quarter. Students must have an overall passing average for the first three quarters *and* receive a “Pass” for Q4 to be promoted to the next grade level or to pass the course for the academic year.

A “Pass” is based on at least one of the following instructional engagements: completion and submission of Learning in Place plan activities; weekly online communication through Zoom meetings, Class Dojo, or Google classroom; e-mail communication with classroom teachers; **or** through telephone conferences with classroom teachers to determine students’ level of understanding of essential skills.

If teachers determine that students did not sufficiently demonstrate competency of essential skills through the aforementioned instructional engagements, they can issue an “Incomplete” for Q4.

If students receive an “Incomplete” for Q4, they will be provided opportunities to earn a “Pass” for Q4 by demonstrating an understanding of essential skills by doing one of the following by no later than August 28, 2020, to be promoted to the next grade level or to pass the course for the academic year:

- Complete a portfolio;
- Complete a teacher-directed project;
- Complete a Learning in Place content packet(s) that was not submitted during the school closure; **or**
- Attend a summer school program (if provided by Norfolk Public Schools).

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Quarter 4 Procedures, *con't*

“Students will be provided with every possible opportunity to demonstrate understanding of essential skills and engagement with the NPS Learning in Place plans during Quarter 4,” said Superintendent Dr. Sharon I. Byrdson. “Students will not be penalized for not being able to fully engage in the learning process during the school closure. The individual circumstances of students and families will be reviewed on an individual basis and will be taken into consideration by classroom teachers when assessing students’ level of engagement during Quarter 4.”

In addition, students may submit missing work for all previous quarters until the end of the academic year. Teachers will review all make-up work for Q1, Q2, and Q3 and enter it into students’ grades, only if it positively impacts students’ overall average.

Questions and/or concerns regarding individual student’s grades or progress during Q4 should be directed to your child’s classroom teacher or principal.

Reminder: Office Hours for Schools and Teachers

Principals will continue to have office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. to assist parents/guardians with enrolling new students, and picking up learning packets, medication or valuables. Parents/Guardians will need to make an appointment with their child’s principal via e-mail before reporting to the school. Principals’ e-mail addresses are located on each school’s website.

Teachers will continue to have virtual/remote office hours from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, for communicating with parents/guardians and students regarding learning activities. We strongly encourage parents/guardians and students to stay connected with their teachers.

Mobile Device Distribution Continues

Norfolk Public Schools will continue to distribute mobile devices (Chromebooks, laptops, or iPads) to students who have a need for such technology. The distribution process began the week of April 20 at the five high schools and will continue to be rolled out according to grade level. Middle and elementary schools will begin their distribution process on Monday, April 27. By Friday, May 8, all devices should be distributed to students who need them.

Wireless hotspots (MiFis) have been ordered for students who need them. The delivery of the hotspots is expected by no later than the end of May. Once these devices arrive, building principals will advise parents/guardians. The distribution of the wireless hotspots will be similar to the mobile device distribution.

The school division will continue to implement established protocols/procedures for safety throughout the distribution process for mobile devices and wireless hotspots. Parents/Guardians should contact their child’s(ren’s) building principal if they have questions and/or concerns regarding this process.

Check out our [video on the mobile device distribution as part of the NPS video series, “Rising to the Challenge: School Closure 2020”](#)



Where to Access Free Wifi

Norfolk Public Schools’ WiFi is accessible and available in the parking lots of schools with the exception of Sewells Point Elementary and Lake Taylor High. In the case of Lake Taylor High, access is available in the parking area of Lake Taylor School, and in the case of Sewells Point Elementary, access is available in the parking area of nearby Camp Allen Elementary.

Parents/Guardians also have the option of contacting local Internet service providers, as some are offering no-cost access to qualifying families during the school closure.

With the help of local officials, schools, and libraries across Virginia, the Commonwealth Connect team and Virginia Tech have developed [an interactive map](#) of free, publicly available WiFi hotspots that Virginians can access from a vehicle. This map will be continually updated with WiFi hotspots. For Coronavirus broadband resources, please visit the [Commonwealth Connect website](#).

Need Help with Your Mobile Device?

The NPS Department of Information Technology’s Helpdesk can assist students or parents/guardians with questions about their device or WiFi access. The NPS Helpdesk can be reached at 757-628-3900.

NPS Expands Meal Distribution Program to Cover Weekends

Beginning Friday, May 1, Norfolk Public Schools will expand its meal distribution program to provide two additional days of food, at no charge, per child, for Saturday and Sunday. The school division has been operating this program throughout the pandemic at 12 school sites and three sites served by school bus.

Recipients will get one regular “grab-n-go” bag on Fridays along with a larger bag for the weekends. The larger bag will have two breakfasts and two lunches. It will be a mixture of pre-packaged, ready to eat items as well as “heat and eat” items.

The meal distribution sites serve families from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. Their locations are: Azalea Gardens Middle School, Booker T. Washington High School, Camp Allen Elementary, Coleman Place Elementary, James Monroe Elementary, Lake Taylor School, Norview Elementary, Oceanair Elementary, P.B. Young Elementary, Southside STEM Academy, St. Helena Elementary, and Suburban Park Elementary.

The three sites served by school bus are: Titustown Recreation Center (11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.); Huntersville Community Center (12 noon – 12:30 p.m.) and Grandy Village Recreation Center (1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.).

Additionally, beginning Monday, May 11, meal distribution will be modified from a Monday through Friday process to a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday process. Students will receive meals for two days on Mondays and Wednesdays, and will receive meals for three days on Fridays. Although the number of days for distribution will be modified from five to three days, students will continue to be provided meals to cover the entire week.

“VA TV Classroom” Resource

Hampton Roads’ WHRO Public Media along with the Virginia Department of Education and three other public media stations have launched the “VA TV Classroom” that provides broadcasts of teacher-led classroom instruction. Families are invited to tap into:

- K-3 instruction from 1-2 p.m. “Learn to Grow with WHRO;”
- Grades 7-10 instruction from 2-3 p.m. on Earth Science and Algebra 1; and
- “AP Prep Week,” which focuses on a different AP subject each day from 3-4 p.m. during the week of April 27.

WHRO also offers free digital learning courses. Learn more at WHRO’s [digital learning webpage](#).

More Learning Resources

The Virginia Department of Education encourages parents/guardians to explore resources provided by public libraries, public media (see above story), civic and community groups, and other resources, including those found on the VDOE [For Families webpage](#).

Resources such as [Activities for Kids While Schools Are Closed](#) (PDF) and [Free Audibles for Kids](#) can help keep children active and engaged during the school closure.



NPS Launches Phase III of Learning in Place Plans

Norfolk Public Schools remains committed to ensuring students have access to quality instruction during this time of extended school closure.

Beginning Monday, April 27, Phase III Learning in Place plans will be posted on the NPS webpage by grade level. Phase III will extend through May 15.

These new materials and activities are designed to keep students engaged in the learning process during the extended closure. Students’ completion of these assignments will be considered as part of their assessment for Quarter 4 (see story on page 1). Students need to continue to retain their work, if not submitted online, until their classroom teachers instruct them on how to turn it in for assessment.

For families who do not have access to the Internet, paper copies of Learning in Place plans will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at one of the “grab-and-go” meal distribution sites for students during the weeks of April 27 and May 4 (see box above for locations).

Preschool Registration Underway

Norfolk Public Schools provides a full-day, high-quality preschool program to help prepare students for success in kindergarten and beyond.

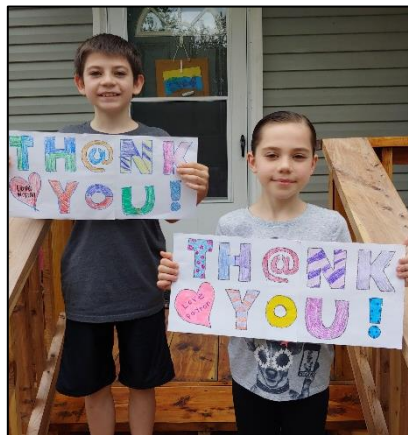
NPS welcomes preschool enrollment applications for the 2020-2021 school year. If your child lives in the City of Norfolk and will be 3 or 4 years old by September 30, 2020, please visit the [NPS preschool webpage](#) to download an application. Parents/Guardians can e-mail a completed application and supporting documents, seek information, and/or request a paper copy of the preschool enrollment application at preschool@npsk12.com.

Need to Enroll Your Child this School Year?

There may be some families who want to enroll their children in Norfolk Public Schools this academic year even during the closure because their children need to have access to Learning in Place plans, teachers, and the food distribution sites. Families can enroll their children by visiting the school their child is zoned to attend between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Parents/Guardians must schedule an appointment through an e-mail message 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.

Send Your “Thank You” Photos by Monday, April 27



Weston (left) thanks his 3rd grade teacher Ms. McCoy, while Payton thanks her 2nd grade teacher Ms. Diggs. Both attend Granby Elementary School.



Third grader Noah gives a shout out to his Crossroads Elementary School teacher.

Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, is a great time to show your teacher thanks for all they are doing during this school closure. NPS is asking families to take a photo of their child(ren) holding a sign with a “thank you” message to their teacher(s).

Parents/Guardians can also choose to be in the photo to support their children’s message. Photos should e-mailed to npsnews@nps.k12.va.us. Please include your child’s name, school, and grade level and your name, if you are photographed with your child. **The deadline for submission is the end of the day on April 27.** We’ll use the photos in a video compilation and on social media as a “hats off” to our teacher heroes!

HELPFUL RESOURCES TO INFORM AND SUPPORT

- The Virginia Department of Education offers [COVID-19: A Parent Guide for School Age Children](#), a webpage that addresses testing, grading and grade point averages, graduation requirements and continuity of learning, and helping your child be resilient.
- The Virginia Department of Health has activated a public information line, 877-ASK-VDH3, for questions from residents about COVID-19. Questions can also be e-mailed to respiratory@vdh.virginia.gov.
- Parents and families who are in search of child care for essential personnel, which is currently permitted under the Governor’s current order, can find more information on Virginia’s [Child Care Aware website](#).