



# Return to In-Person Instruction Newsletter | JUNE 2021



Dear NPS Families:

We are excited to announce that Norfolk Public Schools is ready to return to in-person instruction 5 days per week for the 2021 – 2022 school year! After navigating such an unprecedented year, there have been many lessons learned regarding school division operations and instructional practices. As we transition to a full in-person schedule for students in the fall, students and families can expect the following:

- NPS will continue to follow the most current health and safety guidance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which currently includes mask-wearing, physical distancing, routine sanitization, and other common risk-mitigation measures. *This is subject to change should updated guidance be released prior to the start of the new school year.*
- Bell schedules will return to their normal, five-day, full-length times. Although there may be a need for concurrent instruction in limited instances, it will no longer serve as the format for how division-wide classroom instruction will be provided.
- NPS strengthened its commitment to all students’ social and emotional learning (SEL) during the pandemic, and this support will continue to ensure that students are being provided access to positive learning experiences.
- The Virtual Scholars Academy (VSA) remains available for eligible students who will be in grades 4-12 next school year. Parents/Guardians who are interested in this option for their child(ren) must apply by no later than **June 14, 2021**. The VSA program has full course offerings to include services and accommodations for students with disabilities as determined by students’ Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 team. More details are available on the NPS website: [npsk12.com/VSA2021-22](https://npsk12.com/VSA2021-22).

For more in-depth information regarding plans for next school year, the draft of the *Norfolk Public Schools’ Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services for the 2021 – 22 School Year* can be viewed on the school division’s website: [npsk12.com/Page/SafePlanforReturntoInPerson](https://npsk12.com/Page/SafePlanforReturntoInPerson). Public comment and feedback regarding this draft plan can be submitted by completing this [form](#) by Friday, June 18, 2021.

As we close out this school year, I would also like to commend our students, families, administrators, teachers, and staff for finishing strong! The accomplishments and successes of this school year have truly been a collaborative effort. Thank you for continuously rising to the challenge and exuding equity and excellence for all. I wish all of you a fun, safe summer break, and we will return stronger than ever next school year! #NPSReady2Return

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong  
Superintendent of Schools

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2021**

LEADERSHIP  
LITERACY  
RIGOR  
INNOVATION

A GOOD TEACHER CAN INSPIRE HOPE.  
IGNITE THE IMAGINATION, AND INSTILL A LOVE OF LEARNING. — BRAD HENRY

Sabrina Wahid  
Richard Bowling  
Elementary School

Sammy Breshears  
Northside  
Middle School

Don Lyons  
NET Academy  
High School

Congratulations to the 2021 school-level finalists and the division-wide NPS Teacher of the Year! Sabrina Wahid, a first-grade teacher at Richard Bowling Elementary School, has been named the 2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year and Norfolk Public Schools’ 2021 Division-wide Teacher of the Year. Wahid was notified of her selection in a surprise announcement on Monday, May 24, 2021. NPS’ High School Teacher of the Year is Don Lyons, a Health and Physical Education teacher at NET (Norfolk Educational Transition) Academy, and Samary Breshears, an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher, is NPS’ Middle School Teacher of the Year.

These three educators were selected from 53 teachers representing all NPS schools, centers, and programs. To learn more about these extraordinary teachers and our entire All-City Teaching Team, visit: [npsk12.com/2021TeacheroftheYear](https://npsk12.com/2021TeacheroftheYear).

**COVID Vaccination Clinics for NPS Students 12 and Older.**  
Completed Consent Form Required.

NPS is continuing to partner with the Norfolk Department of Public Health to provide vaccination clinics for students 12 years of age and older to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine beginning June 7, 2021. Visit [npsk12.com/Page/17762](https://npsk12.com/Page/17762) or contact your child’s school for more details.



# Graduation Update

In response to Governor Ralph Northam's recent announcement (effective May 28, 2021) calling for the easing of distancing and capacity restrictions as it relates to COVID-19, Norfolk Public Schools has made plans to move in-person graduation ceremonies from S.B. Ballard Stadium at Old Dominion University (ODU) to the Chartway Arena. ODU is working with NPS to ensure that all mitigation protocols are followed so that graduates and their families can celebrate as safely as possible and experience a memorable occasion.

Graduating seniors will be issued 10 tickets each. With this move to Chartway Arena, we will follow the established original graduation rehearsal and ceremony schedules, as published on our [2020-2021 Academic Calendar](#).

**Graduation ceremony schedules:** (Chartway Arena, 4320 Hampton Blvd. Norfolk, VA 23529):

Norview High School	June 14, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Booker T. Washington High School	June 14, 2021	4:00 p.m.
Maury High School	June 15, 2021	1:00 p.m.
Lake Taylor High School	June 15, 2021	4:00 p.m.
Granby High School	June 15, 2021	7:00 p.m.

*\*\*The ceremonies will also be live streaming and can be accessed here:* <http://media.swagit.com/play/fp/?h=oflash.dfw.swagit.com&a=live/norfolkpublicschools&s=live-2-a&width=1280&height=720>

Information regarding specific details for each graduation ceremony is being shared with families by the high school principals.



Student applications for summer programs continue to be available on the [NPS website](#) and on each school's webpage. Paper copies can also be picked up at each school by appointment. Parents/guardians are encouraged to apply early as each program has its own specific deadline. Visit [npsk12.com/summer-school](https://npsk12.com/summer-school) for more details and to apply today!



## NPS is Now Accepting Preschool Applications!

NPS is now accepting preschool applications for three- and four-year-olds for the 2021-22 school year! Email ([preschool@npsk12.com](mailto:preschool@npsk12.com)) is the preferred method for submitting applications and supporting documents and as a means of direct contact in case additional information is needed. Applications can also be mailed to the address found on the application or dropped off at the nearest elementary school. Additional information regarding the NPS Preschool program is available on the school division's website: [npsk12.com/pre-k](https://npsk12.com/pre-k).



The Hampton Roads Workforce Council is excited to announce a new initiative for job seekers and are looking to recruit 700 participants to join the Future of Work Grand Challenge! This is a no cost program with 3 training tracks to choose from: Manufacturing, Community Healthcare, and Construction. The challenges are open to job seekers without a college degree who are unemployed or underemployed. This national competition is designed to develop new training approaches to help job seekers and displaced workers impacted by the covid-19 pandemic rapidly build new skills and move into high-wage careers. Recent graduates, 18 or older who have not decided on their career path may also find this to be beneficial. To learn more about this initiative, please visit [vcwhamptonroads.org/700-participants-needed-for-free-rapid-training-career-program/](https://vcwhamptonroads.org/700-participants-needed-for-free-rapid-training-career-program/).



Now is the time to register your child for kindergarten to Prepare for the development of skills to ensure School Success in grades K-12! Kindergarten sets the foundation for the future. It is a wonderful opportunity for young learners to practice the essential social emotional, critical and creative thinking skills that they will use throughout their education. To learn more about the registration process and requirements, visit: [npsk12.com/kindergartenregistration](https://npsk12.com/kindergartenregistration).