



# Return to In-Person Instruction Newsletter | May 2021



Dear NPS Family:

I am so excited to kick off Teacher Appreciation Week to recognize our teachers who go above and beyond for our students to ensure that they continue to have positive, meaningful learning experiences. This annual celebration is an opportunity to collectively express our appreciation for the extraordinary dedication and tireless efforts that our teachers have demonstrated.

Even in the face of adversity, such as our experiences with a global pandemic that resulted in the mandated school closures, our teachers continue to maintain an unwavering commitment to the academic success of all students. Norfolk Public Schools' teachers understand that now more than ever, their role is one that is critically important. Whether it is a creative activity, a word of encouragement, a safe space to share feelings, or extra assistance to complete an assignment, they are heavily relied upon in the lives of our students who are coping with a range of emotions and uncertainties.

As we celebrate our teachers this week, we salute the flexibility and resiliency demonstrated while enduring this unprecedented time in public education. Our educators have navigated every obstacle and have been instrumental in sustaining engaging environments that cultivate a lifelong passion for learning. They have created lesson plans that straddle virtual and in-person instructional formats while attending professional development sessions and juggling the responsibilities in their own personal lives.

For these reasons, I ask you all to join me in celebrating our teachers all week long and beyond. Norfolk Public Schools is filled with caring individuals who remain committed to the well-being of our students. On May 7, 2021, we will salute our school nutrition staff and building cafeteria staff on *School Lunch Heroes Day* for providing our students with healthy, nutritious meals whether schools are open or closed. We also honor our school nurses who are being recognized on May 12, 2021, for *School Nurse Appreciation Day* for keeping our students healthy and safe. I extend my sincerest gratitude to all of you who are shining representations of equity and excellence for all!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong  
Superintendent of Schools



**COVID Vaccination Event for NPS Students 16 and Older**  
Consent Form Deadline  
May 7th, 2021

Norfolk Public Schools is working with the Norfolk Department of Public Health to provide an opportunity for NPS' students, 16 years of age and older, to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination during the week of May 10, 2021. Visit [npsk12.com/Page/17762](https://npsk12.com/Page/17762) or contact your child's school for more details.



Student applications for summer programs continue to be available on the [NPS website](https://npsk12.com) 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.

Each school's administrative team will contact parents/guardians of students who are identified as eligible to participate in the basic skills programs and invite them to enroll. Students who are not eligible to attend the basic skills programs are encouraged to enroll in the summer innovation programs for their schools or one of the division-wide application enrichment programs.

Norfolk Public Schools is committed to providing students with powerful educational experiences and look forward to having students embrace summer learning. Visit [npsk12.com/summer-school](https://npsk12.com/summer-school) for more details and to apply today!



# Graduation Information

Norfolk Public Schools will host in-person high school graduations at Old Dominion University's S.B. Ballard Stadium, rain or shine. In the event of severe weather, "rain dates" have been reserved, and preparations have been made to offer a virtual experience similar to last year's graduation celebrations, should any late-breaking health guidelines be issued from the Governor's office.

## Graduation Dates and Times:

- 6/10/21 at 9:00 am – Norview High School
- 6/11/21 at 9:00 am – Booker T. Washington High School
- 6/12/21 at 9:00 am – Maury High School
- 6/14/21 at 9:00 am – Lake Taylor High School
- 6/15/21 at 9:00 am – Granby High School

## Rain dates:

- 6/14/21 at 6:00 pm
- 6/15/21 at 6:00 pm

## Basic graduation information for the Class of 2021:

- Six (6) tickets per graduate will be issued along with reserved seating. Groups of seats will be six (6) feet apart in the stadium.
- Graduations will take place rain or shine. In the event of severe weather, "rain dates" are scheduled for June 14, 2021, and June 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.
- Each school will communicate dates/times for regalia distribution and will share information about parking, entrances, allowable items in the venue, attire for graduates, etc.

Additional information regarding each high school's ceremony will be shared by building principals over the next week. In the meantime, visit [npsk12.com](https://npsk12.com) for the most up-to-date information.

The 2021-22 Academic Calendar is now available! Visit [npsk12.com/AcademicCalendar](https://npsk12.com/AcademicCalendar) for more details.



## Virtual Scholars Academy Update for the 2021-22 School Year

The NPS Virtual Scholars Academy (VSA) may be available to all students in grades 4-12 with full course offerings to include special education services and collaborative classes for the upcoming school year. Students and families may choose VSA for health concerns or for the desire to have virtual instruction. Additional information regarding final plans for the NPS VSA is forthcoming.

Norfolk Public Schools 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar

Month	Calendar Grid	Key Dates
Summer	Calendar grid for Summer months (June, July, August)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer NPS Closed Weeks</li> <li>Independence Day</li> <li>Observed - NPS Closed</li> <li>Students Return</li> <li>Grade Reports Distributed</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>HLA Day - NPS Closed</li> <li>Quarter 2 Grades Close</li> <li>Teacher Records Day (No Students)</li> </ul>
September	Calendar grid for September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning of 3rd Quarter</li> <li>Grade Reports Distributed</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>Early Release Day</li> <li>President's Day - NPS Closed</li> </ul>
October	Calendar grid for October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Progress Grades Close</li> <li>Grade Reports Distributed</li> <li>Professional Development - Division</li> <li>Early Release Day</li> </ul>
November	Calendar grid for November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarter 3 Grades Close</li> <li>Spring Break</li> <li>Beginning of 4th Quarter</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>Teacher Records Day</li> <li>Grade Reports Distributed</li> </ul>
December	Calendar grid for December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Progress Grades Close</li> <li>Grade Reports Distributed</li> <li>Memorial Day - NPS Closed</li> </ul>
January	Calendar grid for January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLA Days, Early Release for All Students</li> <li>Quarter 4 Grades Close</li> <li>Teacher Records Day</li> <li>Grade Reports Distributed</li> </ul>
February	Calendar grid for February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Progress Grades Close</li> <li>Spring Break</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>Early Release Day</li> <li>Thanksgiving Break - NPS Closed</li> </ul>
March	Calendar grid for March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Progress Grades Close</li> <li>Spring Break</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>Early Release Day</li> <li>Thanksgiving Break - NPS Closed</li> </ul>
April	Calendar grid for April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Progress Grades Close</li> <li>Spring Break</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>Early Release Day</li> <li>Thanksgiving Break - NPS Closed</li> </ul>
May	Calendar grid for May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Progress Grades Close</li> <li>Spring Break</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>Early Release Day</li> <li>Thanksgiving Break - NPS Closed</li> </ul>
June	Calendar grid for June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Progress Grades Close</li> <li>Spring Break</li> <li>Professional Development - In building</li> <li>Early Release Day</li> <li>Thanksgiving Break - NPS Closed</li> </ul>