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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Norfolk Public Schools' Decision for 2020 - 2021 High School Fall Sports Season

NORFOLK, VA – Following a discussion during the City of Norfolk's School Board Work Session Wednesday, February 3, 2021, a decision was made to begin the high school fall athletic season for the following sports:

- Football
- Field Hockey
- Volleyball
- Golf
- Cross Country
- Sideline Cheerleading
- Competitive Cheerleading

The football season will begin Monday, February 8, 2021. The remaining sports listed are scheduled to begin Monday, February 15, 2021.

"We are grateful for the opportunity our student-athletes and coaches have to participate in the upcoming fall season. Tirelessly putting health mitigation plans in place for this return, Norfolk Public Schools' athletic directors, athletic trainers, coaching staff, and student-athletes will continue to follow the mitigation strategies to ensure a safe and enjoyable return," said Stephen Suttmiller, Senior Coordinator for NPS Athletics. "This return is going to allow our student-athletes to regain the much-needed social and emotional support that has been missed over the past year due to the pandemic closure. The connection will be invaluable to the growth of our student-athletes."

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff continue to be our top priority. We will continue to monitor health conditions and follow the health mitigation guidelines put forth by the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If a student-athlete tests positive for COVID-19, the athlete will be required to get a doctor's clearance before returning to the respective sport.

In addition, media reporters will need to reserve access to NPS facilities for practices and games. Once granted access, they must go through COVID mitigation screening before entering.

Please visit www.npsk12.com for the most up-to-date information regarding instructional plans and athletics during this time.

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Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) is on a mission to ensure that all students maximize their academic potential, develop skills for lifelong learning, and become successful contributors to a global society. We believe Norfolk Public Schools is the cornerstone of a proudly diverse community with highly qualified teachers and staff dedicated to providing diverse teaching and learning opportunities for all students.