



Return to In-Person Instruction Newsletter | March 2021

Greetings NPS Families,

We are excited to welcome our students back to in-person instruction, with the first group of students already back in the classroom as of March 15, 2021! Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) remains committed to following key health mitigation strategies to provide equitable educational opportunities and positive learning experiences for all. Here are a few important reminders to support our safe and successful reopening:

Health & Safety:

- In alignment with the transition of returning to in-person instruction, NPS is reporting the number and location of confirmed COVID-19 cases within our schools and administration buildings. This information is updated daily on the [iDashboard](#) located on the school division's website.
- Using CDC guidelines, NPS developed a plan to evaluate fresh air ventilation in each school's classrooms. Ventilation details by school can be viewed on the [NPS website](#).

Healthy Best Practices

- Parents/guardians should complete symptom screenings at home each morning before the school day. Students with symptoms and/or a fever of 100.4 or higher should be kept home, and parents/guardians should notify the school of their child's(ren's) absence.
- Parents/guardians must communicate their child's(ren's) COVID-19 symptoms and direct exposure to someone with COVID-19 when reporting an absence.
- If a child begins showing symptoms while at school, parents/guardians will be notified to make arrangements to pick their child(ren) up immediately. An isolation room, with staff supervision, is available in all schools for students to remain until they can be picked up from school.

Instruction

- Students returning to school for in person instruction will follow a hybrid learning model with an A or B schedule. Wednesdays will remain as an asynchronous at-home learning day.
- The [Virtual Scholars Academy](#) (VSA) will continue for students whose parents/guardians choose for them to continue learning from home. Please contact your child's(ren's) principal(s) to discuss which option is best for your child(ren).

Transportation

- The newly launched "[Here Comes the Bus](#)" app allows families to monitor daily school bus transportation information, including where a specific bus is on its route. It can be downloaded to any smartphone, tablet, or personal computer from the App Store or [Google Play](#), depending on the operating system of the device. The "Here Comes the Bus" app and website include details about bus number changes and alerts to families when their child's(ren's) bus is approaching the designated bus stop.
- To sign up for the app, parents/guardians will need to enter the Norfolk Public Schools' Account Code 29096 and their child's(ren's) student ID number. To find your child's student ID number:
 1. Login to ParentVue.
 2. Click on your child's name. This will access the modules list.
 3. Click on "Student Info." Your child's Student ID is in the field labeled "Perm ID."
 4. If you have multiple children in Norfolk Public Schools, click the Navigation button in the upper left corner of the screen. Then click "Student List" in the upper left corner of the screen. This will return you to the screen with the list of your children. Return to Step 2 above.

Childcare

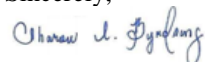
- Norfolk Public Schools is continuing to partner with childcare providers across the city to offer programs for students who may need childcare on Mondays through Wednesdays or Wednesdays through Fridays: [Extended Face to Face Child Care Program 2020-2021](#).

School Nutrition

- Grab-N-Go meals will continue for any child (ages 18 and under) and may be picked up by students or adults at any open site they choose. Information on new sites and times for grab-n-go meals can be found on the Department of School Nutrition's webpage: [grab n' go meals](#).

For the most up-to-date information regarding decisions for returning to in-person instruction and school division operations, please visit the NPS website: [Updated Plan for Returning to In-Person Instruction](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong
Superintendent of Schools



Virtual Scholars Academy Update

PLEASE COMPLETE PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY

As we plan for next school year, NPS is considering a full virtual program similar to the current **Virtual Scholars Academy (VSA)**. While a final plan has not been determined, we will need data from parents to determine the details of the program for next school year. For the 2021-2022 school year, the Virtual Scholars Program will be a school-sponsored program open to all NPS students grades K-12 with full course offerings to include special education services and collaborative classes.

A few things you may want to consider when determining if the VSA Program is the educational program for your student:

- Students may or may not be taught by a teacher from their home school.
- Students **CAN** participate in sports and extra-curricular activities at their zoned/home school.
- Students cannot attend VSA if they are attending a specialty program (IB, Medical, Arts, etc.).
- *Students/Parents will be asked for a year-long commitment to the program.*

The VSA will provide students with 4 synchronous days of class per week to Zoom with their teachers and 1 asynchronous day to complete class assignments. The VSA may also have an Independent Study Program (VSA-ISP), which will allow students to work asynchronously all week through Canvas with scheduled meeting times with their teachers. As always VSA and VSA-ISP students must follow all NPS policies and procedures within the traditional schools and specialty programs.

Click here to take the survey: [2021-22 Virtual Scholars Program](#)



20 SUMMER 21 Programs



Student applications for summer programs are now 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.

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 city-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 for more details and to apply today!



Norfolk Public Schools wishes you a safe and enjoyable Spring Break! Remember to follow healthy best practices during your time away!

Tips and Reminders from the Department of Learning Support & Special Education

As we welcome our Phase I students back to in-person instruction, the Department of Learning Support-Special Education Services is prepared to address the social-emotional and academic needs resulting from the challenging circumstances of the mandated school closures. With many of our students returning to the traditional school environment, it is a great opportunity to reassess and recalibrate our work and our collaborative relationships. The following key actions can help to support the success of your child:

- *Revisit and reorganize your child's "school space" to support learning while at home as needed.*
- *Report to school every day, both virtual and in-person, and focus on turning in the work.*
- *Talk to your teachers, case managers, and school administrators about challenges and options for adjustment and flexibility. Ask for help when needed.*
- *Take advantage of opportunities to be informed, monitor your child's progress, and participate in parent workshops, when offered.*
- *Take advantage of opportunities to inform school staff of how your child is doing so they can proactively offer assistance.*

Norfolk Public Schools has an active Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Now more than ever, your input and experiences are important. SEAC meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. See below for the upcoming dates and Zoom meeting information:

- April 1
- May 6
- June 3

Zoom: <https://norfolkpublicschools.zoom.us/j/93242881985?pwd=Mm9JbWtTcXM0RzdLVVg4YTRUVG02UT09>

Password: SEACNPS

Dial-in Information: 1 929 205 6099 OR 1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 932 4288 1985

Password: 4013231