



May 26, 2025

Dear Norfolk Public Schools' Families:

On Memorial Day, we pause together as a school community to honor and remember the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in defense of our country. This national day of remembrance reminds us that the freedoms we enjoy each day were secured through profound courage, deep commitment, and ultimate sacrifice.

Memorial Day is not just a date on the calendar, it is a sacred opportunity to reflect on the lives lost in service to our nation. Across our communities, flags are lowered, flowers are laid, and quiet moments are observed as we express our gratitude for those who never returned home. Their stories—of valor, service, and selflessness—must never be forgotten.

Many within our NPS Family have personal ties to military service. Whether you are a veteran, a military-connected family, or someone whose loved one made the ultimate sacrifice, please know that we stand with you. Your service, and the legacy of those you honor, is deeply appreciated.

Let us also embrace the responsibility we have to educate the next generation not only through textbooks and history lessons, but by instilling a deep respect for the values that define our democracy—duty, honor, and patriotism. In our classrooms, through our conversations and our commemorations, we can help students understand the true meaning of this day.

May this Memorial Day be a time of heartfelt remembrance, respectful reflection, and renewed dedication to living lives worthy of the sacrifices made on our behalf.

With deep respect and enduring gratitude,

Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong
Superintendent of Schools

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