



Norfolk Public Schools

The cornerstone of a proudly diverse community

Dear Norfolk Public Schools' Parents and Guardians:

Norfolk Public Schools and all of our staff send condolences to the families of Uvalde, Texas, as they deal with the tragic, senseless deaths of students and staff at Robb Elementary School.

We mourn with them. And because we are parents as well as educators, we know that many of you are inquiring about safety and security measures within public schools here in Norfolk.

We do everything we can, within our control, each and every day, to ensure our buildings and all within them are safe.

All schools have updated School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plans that were developed in collaboration with the City of Norfolk Emergency Management Office. This office and the Norfolk Police Department each have copies of all school emergency plans.

The school division has and will continue to provide professional development opportunities to school personnel, to include but not limited to safety drills and security training. The NPS administration, including facilities and security staff, has had recent meetings with both the Norfolk Police Department and the Norfolk Emergency Management Office to assist with training school personnel. These initiatives have been ongoing and will continue.

Additionally, the NPS Public Safety Liaison participates in school security round table discussions with school divisions from across Virginia to ensure that we are implementing best practices in the area of school safety and security.

Thanks to funding from the Virginia School Security Equipment Grant, NPS is implementing security enhancements to all our buildings. Our facilities and security teams are installing updated iPhone Video Intercom Systems at the main entrances of all schools.

All exterior doors are locked throughout our schools.

The Raptor Visitor Management System requires all who enter our schools to check in using an official identification. This system runs a national sex offender registry check for everyone who enters. Volunteers who register through the Raptor system undergo a national background check.

School security officers and building administrators conduct random searches at all secondary schools.

Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong, Superintendent of Schools
800 East City Hall Avenue • Suite 1200 • Norfolk, Virginia 23510
Telephone (757) 628-3832 • Fax (757) 628-3820 • www.nps.k12.va.us



Norfolk Public Schools

The cornerstone of a proudly diverse community

All high schools have assigned school resource officers (SROs), and NPS works closely with the Norfolk Police Department to investigate *all* threats made toward our schools.

We know that children and teens will process this news in different ways. School counselors are available at each of our schools to assist students who may need some extra support. We strongly encourage our students to engage with our school counselors when they feel the need to do so.

Most importantly, we take seriously the trust and care you place in Norfolk Public Schools for the safekeeping of our precious children. We know that our role includes developing positive relationships with those within our schools and community. We appreciate your continued support in this effort. Moreover, we must all be diligent, proactive, and yes, vigilant.

If you see something, say something: call or text Vector Alert at **757-255-7461** or email: 2110@alert1.us. Call 911 in the case of an emergency.

You or your child(ren) may also use our Vector app to report bullying or other concerns. Download the app, and use our school code, 2110. [Find more information](#) on our website.

Call your child's(ren's) school(s) at any time. You may find additional information about [school safety and security](#) on our website under Student Support Services.

School should and must be a place where students feel completely safe and secure. As an added precaution, we are working with our local law enforcement officials to have an increased police presence in and around our schools for the remainder of the school year.

Please join us in sending healing thoughts to the students, staff, and families of the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District.

Yours in service,

Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong
Superintendent