



Norfolk Public Schools

The cornerstone of a proudly diverse community

May 7, 2025

Dear Esteemed Educators:

As we celebrate *Teacher Appreciation Week*, I am honored to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you—the dedicated professionals who make Norfolk Public Schools a beacon of excellence, equity, and opportunity

There are few words that can fully capture the magnitude of what you do. You are mentors, motivators, scholars, counselors, champions, and leaders. You are builders of character and confidence. You are protectors of dreams. Every day, in every classroom, you create spaces where students feel seen, heard, and valued. You foster curiosity and creativity. You model perseverance and compassion. You do much more than teach—you inspire.

Your work is at the heart of our school division's mission. With your guidance, our students learn not only how to think critically and communicate effectively but also how to believe in themselves and their futures.

I am aware that teaching is both a calling and a commitment, requiring extraordinary resilience and adaptability. Yet, you continue to show up with grace, passion, and purpose for our students. You meet every challenge with integrity and care. I see your extraordinary work. I recognize the long hours, the thoughtful planning, the creative problem-solving, and the personal sacrifices. I see how you build bridges with families, collaborate with colleagues, and serve as role models in your communities.

Norfolk Public School is better because of you. Our students are stronger because of you. And our future is brighter because of you. On behalf of your NPS Family, thank you for your devotion to our students, for your belief in what is possible, and for the hope you bring into our schools each day.

With deep appreciation and respect,

Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong
Superintendent of Schools

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