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**Frequently Asked Questions**

Newport News Public Schools is committed to keeping families informed during the school closure. This webpage will address some of the questions NNPS has received from parents, students and the community. We will continue to provide necessary updates to the FAQs based on the feedback and questions that are received.

**School Year Calendar**

**How will the mandated shutdown affect school next year? Will schools start earlier next year to help ensure students get the materials from this year?**

At this time there are no plans to change the 2020-2021 calendars that were approved at the March 24 School Board meeting. The District Calendar and the An Achievable Dream Calendar may be found at <http://sbo.nn.k12.va.us/calendars/>.

**When will the current school year actually end now that schools are closed?**

In accordance with the 2019-2020 NNPS calendar, the last day of school is slated for June 15.

**Instruction**

**Will NNPS continue providing at-home learning resources through June?**

Yes, NNPS will continue to support students and families educationally. Please see the academic plans below.

**Elementary Academic Plan**

**Is there an academic plan for elementary school students?**

The second elementary instructional packets for preschool and elementary students have been created for the next 10 instructional days (March 30 - April 17). Students and staff will observe the regularly scheduled week of spring break (April 6 – April 10).

The instructional packets will be posted on the At-Home Learning website, (<https://sites.google.com/nn.k12.va.us/nnpscoronavirusacademics/home>), and available at all school sites and food distribution sites on Monday, March 30. Directions for how to submit work and receive feedback for instructional packets will be forthcoming. Teachers and families should continue to reach out to one another using their established lines of communication to support students.

NNPS is working on an instructional plan to ensure that our students stay engaged in learning for the remainder of the school year. In accordance with federal and state guidance, instruction will continue so that students will be able to show mastery of learning standards that were covered prior to March 13 in each content area. While there will be an emphasis on reading, writing and mathematics, students will receive continued learning opportunities and activities in science and social students during the fourth quarter. Additionally, families may access resources for fine arts, physical education, art, gifted education and special education on the At-Home Learning website.

**How will my child’s grade be determined? (Elementary Students Grades PK-5)**

The third quarter grades will conclude as scheduled, April 3, 2020. The calculation of third quarter grades will be based on your student’s grade as of March 13, 2020. That said, students also can improve their third quarter grade by completing missing assignments that would have normally been allowed had the quarter continued with schools open. This includes any packet work that has been completed since schools have closed. We expect to share details about a method to submit student work by early April. Please communicate directly with your child’s teacher(s).

The fourth quarter grading period will begin after spring break. A Continuity of Learning Plan is currently in development which will provide further information on how student work during the fourth quarter will be reviewed and assessed. At the conclusion of the school year, elementary students will be given the option of taking the higher final grade based on their cumulative March 13th grade or a final grade which includes the calculation of work which was collected and reviewed over the fourth quarter. Consequently, all elementary students who were in good standing as of March 13 will progress to the next grade level.

**How will schools maintain high expectations for learning during the closure?**

Elementary students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of curriculum content which was introduced from the start of the 2019-20 school year to March 13, 2020. For elementary students, the remaining course curriculum, which would have been introduced from March 16, 2020 to the end of the school year, will be incorporated into the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Students who were at risk of being retained will be invited to attend a summer program to address their specific learning needs. Those that are recommended for summer school will be notified on the 3rd quarter report card.

**Will elementary school students be able to submit their work?**

Yes, processes are being developed to allow elementary students to submit their work to their teachers for feedback.

**How will elementary teachers ensure the students learned the content not covered yet this year? How can next school year be structured to supplement instruction students are missing right now?**

For elementary students, the remaining course curriculum, which would have been introduced from March 16, 2020 to the end of the school year, will be incorporated into the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

**Will students will be able to move to the next grade level?** **Will all students pass this school year?**

An Elementary Continuity of Learning Plan is currently in development which will provide further information on how student work during the fourth quarter will be reviewed and assessed. At the conclusion of the school year, elementary students will be given the option of taking the higher final grade based on their cumulative March 13th grade or a final grade which includes the calculation of work which was collected and reviewed over the fourth quarter. Consequently, all elementary students who were in good standing as of March 13 will progress to the next grade level.

**Will elementary students take SOL tests this year?**

SOL testing will not take place this year. The Virginia Department of Education is submitting a waiver to the federal Department of Education to release students from taking mandated state testing.

**Will report cards be issued this school year?**

Yes, report cards will be issued for students in all grade levels.

**How and when do students return textbooks and other materials?**

A plan is being developed and will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

**Middle and High School Academic Plan**

**What is the learning plan for middle and high school students?**

Based on federal and state guidance, instruction at the middle and high school level will be continued. Clear guidance from VDOE dictates that students must show mastery of learning standards for the full year in each content area. Therefore, NNPS is working on a plan for continuous instruction to ensure that our students are engaged in learning new course curriculum for the remainder of the school year.

**How will instruction be provided for middle and high school students?**

Middle and high school teachers will continue to provide online learning through Google Classroom and other media tools. Gmail accounts were created for all middle school students this week to improve communication. Please use the link <https://sites.google.com/nn.k12.va.us/students-athome-learning/home> to learn how to activate accounts or for additional assistance on how to use the accounts. All high school students who already had Gmail accounts may communicate directly with their teachers via email. To continue with online learning for all students, a limited number of Chromebooks are available for students. Middle and high school students who do not have a computer in the home or internet access, should contact their teacher or principal immediately.

Teachers are planning lessons and using various instructional tools, videos and resources to provide engaging lessons for students. Additionally, teachers are communicating with students and families to provide support and feedback on their learning. Grades will be recorded in StudentVue and ParentVue regularly. Students who do not master learning will be provided opportunities to improve assignments by completing a similar task or assessment. It is the expectation that all students will complete the lessons and assignments to continue their learning and to receive credit for courses for the 2019-2020 academic school year. For additional at-home learning resources, visit (<https://sites.google.com/nn.k12.va.us/nnpscoronavirusacademics/home>).

**How will my child’s grade be determined? (Secondary Students Grades 6-12)**

The third quarter grades will conclude as scheduled, April 3, 2020. For the third quarter, grades will be calculated based on a student’s grade as of March 13, 2020. Please know, students can improve their third quarter grade by completing missing assignments and assessments that would have normally been allowed had the quarter continued with schools open. This includes any work that has been completed since schools have closed. Please communicate directly with your child’s teacher(s).

The fourth quarter grading period will begin after spring break. A Continuity of Learning Plan is currently in development which will provide further information on how student work during the fourth quarter will be reviewed and assessed. At the conclusion of the school year, students will be given the option of taking the higher final grade based on their cumulative March 13th grade or a final grade which includes the calculation of work which was collected and reviewed over the fourth quarter. Students must show mastery of the standards for the course during the fourth quarter, to include new curriculum content. If they do not complete the work or show mastery, they will receive a grade of incomplete. Should a student receive a final grade of (I) incomplete, they will be provided the opportunity to complete the requirements of the course during the summer. It is the expectation that all students will be prepared to succeed in their next level course for the 2020-2021 school year.

**What grading accommodations have been made for senior students?**

Seniors who have not completed the necessary work to be successful as of March 13 will be contacted by their teachers and/or school counselor to ensure they are aware of the possibility of not graduating on time. Any seniors who were not on track for graduation on March 13 due to grades will have the opportunity to improve their grades during the fourth quarter. Seniors at risk of not graduating as of March 13 will be contacted by their school counselors to develop a specific plan towards graduation. **For determination of the final grade for the course, all seniors will have the option of accepting their final average on March 13, 2020 or the inclusion of their fourth quarter assignments.** This will allow all seniors the opportunity of improving their final grade. All seniors are expected to complete work being assigned by their teachers through the remainder of the school year.

**Will teachers be allowed to introduce new topics and assign grades?**

Yes, new topics can be introduced.

**Is technology available to assist middle and high students with online learning?**

To ensure that our middle and high school student are able to fully participate in virtual learning during the closure, the school division will work to ensure that secondary students have access to a computer, or other device, and internet access. NNPS has a limited number of Chromebooks that may be checked out to those students who have the greatest need. Families are encouraged to contact their child’s principal via email or phone message to request that they be added to a waiting list for these devices. Please be sure to give your child’s full name, student ID number and your contact information.

**Is technology assistance provided for students with NNPS devices?**

Support is available for students who are having trouble with their Chromebook or other NNPS-issued device. Click [here](https://sites.google.com/nn.k12.va.us/students-athome-learning/home?pli=1&authuser=1) to complete a Technology Support Request or access virtual learning support. Students may also access assistance at <http://www.nnschools.org/coronavirus>.

**If parents are looking to purchase a device, can NNPS offer discounts through its vendors to parents for such purchases?**

Dell allows our families to receive their employee discount. NNPS parents and staff can receive members only pricing on all personal PCs from Dell, and exclusive members only elite offers (up to 30% OFF list prices for select configurations of Dell consumer PCs). Order by calling dedicated member # 1-800-695-8133, or by purchasing online at www.dell.com/epp. To receive your exclusive discount over the phone, NNPS families and staff must mention Member ID#KS15941399, or if purchasing online members must enter this Member ID at [www.dell.com/epp](http://www.dell.com/epp).

**Will middle and high school students take SOL tests this year?**

SOL testing will not take place this year. The Virginia Department of Education is submitting a waiver to the federal Department of Education to release students from taking mandated state testing. If a student is a senior who needed a verified credit, the requirement will be waived as long as they were enrolled in the needed course on March 13, 2020.

**Will students will be able to move to the next grade level?** **Will all students pass this school year?**

A Continuity of Learning Plan is currently in development for middle school and high school students which will provide further information on how student work during the fourth quarter will be reviewed and assessed. At the conclusion of the school year, students will be given the option of taking the higher final grade based on their cumulative March 13th grade or a final grade which includes the calculation of work which was collected and reviewed over the fourth quarter. Students must show mastery of the standards for the course during the fourth quarter, to include new curriculum content. If they do not complete the work or show mastery, they will receive a grade of incomplete. Should a student receive a final grade of (I) incomplete, they will be provided the opportunity to complete the requirements of the course during the summer. It is the expectation that all students will be prepared to succeed in their next level course for the 2020-2021 school year.

For determination of the final grade for the course, all seniors will have the option of accepting their final average on March 13, 2020 or the inclusion of their fourth quarter assignments.This will allow all seniors the opportunity of improving their final grade. All seniors are expected to complete work being assigned by their teachers through the remainder of the school year.

**How will Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Testing be handled? And what about the Early College Program and Virtual Virginia Courses?**

For students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes, the College Board has announced that students will be able to take their AP exams online at home and has provided preparation materials for home access for AP teachers and students. AP teachers will continue to work with their students to prepare them for these exams. Please reach out to your AP teacher if you have questions.

International Baccalaureate (IB) has announced that their exams will be canceled. These students should adhere to the guidelines for learning and work completion being shared with all students. IB teachers will be the direct line of communication for further information on IB requirements.

Regarding dual enrollment at Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC), if students are receiving instruction by a NNPS teacher as part of the dual enrollment program, they should adhere to the guidelines for learning and work completion being shared with all students. However, students in dual enrollment programs who receive instruction from a TNCC instructor will continue to have graded assignments that need to be completed on the timeline their TNCC instructors lay out for them, per TNCC requirements.

Students who are in a Virtual Virginia online course should follow the directions given by their instructor regarding expectations for work and grading.

**How does the school shutdown affect students at New Horizons?**

New Horizons teachers will be in touch with their students on how their courses are continuing. All New Horizons teachers are required to have office hours. If you have not heard from your teacher, please reach out to New Horizons. Their website can be accessed through this link: <https://nhrec.org/>.

**How will behind-the wheel instruction be handled?**

Behind the wheel driver education will be cancelled for the remainder of the school year. The summer schedule will depend on the Governor's decisions about schools and programs.

**How and when do students return textbooks and other materials?**

A plan is being developed and will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

**Will report cards be issued this school year?**

Yes, report cards will be issued for students in all grade levels.

**How will senior class rankings be determined?**

In keeping with School Board policy, senior class rankings were determined based on the students’ grades at the end of their first semester in January 2020. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian for each of our six high schools were designated at that time.

**How will graduation requirements be handled?**

The State Superintendent has given assurances that seniors who have either completed or are currently enrolled in all needed classes and who were on track to graduate as of March 13, 2020, will graduate. It is imperative that those seniors who are determined to be in jeopardy of not graduating make every effort to work with their teachers and school counselors for the remainder of the year to ensure their grades are on track for graduation. Doing so will allow NNPS to grant our seniors the credits needed to graduate. We encourage parents or seniors to email their school counselor regarding their eligibility for graduation or other related questions.

The U.S. Department of Education has waived accreditation requirements this year. Consequently, the Virginia Department of Education has approved the cancellation of the administration of the Standards of Learning Assessments (SOLs) for the 2019-2020 school year. While specific graduation requirements such as verified credits (of courses students are currently enrolled in), CTE Credentials, online learning, CPR, W!SE Financial Literacy and the like is still being determined, school divisions have been given the ability to waive these requirements, and those that are required by law are likely to be addressed by the General Assembly soon.

Again, we want all our seniors to know that we are going to do everything we can do to make sure that they will still receive their diploma. Our high school staff will be working with each student and family to make sure they understand their current status and what they need to do to graduate. If you have more questions about graduation requirements, please email your child’s school counselor.

**Will NNPS have commencement ceremonies?**

We have heard from many of our seniors and their families. High school graduation is an important milestone and we will do all that we can to ensure that the Class of 2020 is able to participate in this significant occasion. Currently, our high school commencement ceremonies are scheduled for June 4-7, 2020. We have secured the alternate dates of July 9-12, 2020, with the Ferguson Center for the Arts and the Hampton Coliseum should the June dates be deemed unsafe for a community gathering. We have also explored the option of hosting commencement exercises virtually. As always, we will solicit input from our students, schools and community as we finalize any plans.

**Meal Service for Students**

**Will meal service continue?**

The Child Nutrition Services Department is providing meals-to-go for any student in need through June. The meals-to-go include a lunch and a breakfast snack for the next day and are available for pick up at 21 locations throughout the city each weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 pm. Two new locations were added this week. Click [here](http://www.nnschools.org/cns/) for a complete list of our meals-to-go sites.

**School Office Hours**

**Can we go to school to pick up what we need?**

Beginning April 15, all schools will have office hours every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parents will be able to pick up medications and other essential items, and register and withdraw their children by appointment only. Parents may request an appointment by visiting the “contact us” link at the top of the school’s webpage or by calling the school and leaving a message. A school administrator or office professional will contact the parent to set up an appointment time. Parents are asked to bring a photo ID to their scheduled appointment and should avoid coming to the school if they are ill.​

**May I pick up my child’s medication?**
Yes, since schools are closed to the general public, NNPS has designated Wednesday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for medication pickup by appointment only. If your child has medication at school, please request an appointment time by visiting the “contact us” link at the top of the school’s webpage or by calling the school and leaving a message. Please be sure to include your name, your child’s name and a contact number. A school administrator or nurse will return the call to confirm your appointment time.

At your appointment time, a school administrator or school nurse will meet you for a drive thru pick up at your school's main entrance. Please be sure to bring a photo ID to confirm your identify. This opportunity is only available for medication pick up. Details on retrieving other school supplies and personal items will be provided at a later date.

Additional opportunities to pick up student medications will be available during school office hours beginning Wednesday, April 15. Please refer to the School Office Hours section for more information. ​

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, NNPS is adhering to strict access and social distancing protocols.

**Canceled Field Trips and Events**

**May I get a refund for a canceled field trip or event?**

Parents and students should contact their school for information about refunds. Click on the “contact us” link at the top of the school’s webpage or call the school and leave a message. Please be sure to include your name, your child’s name and a contact number, and identify the field trip or event. A school staff member will contact you and provide you with additional information.

**Summer Learning**

**Will SPARK be held this year?**

NNPS is currently developing a summer learning plan. This information will be shared in a future update.

**Will we continue to have Career Pathways Summer Internships?**

The school division would like to continue to provide these valuable internship experiences for our high school students but is unable to make that determination at this time given building access restrictions and social distancing requirements. If the internship program is reinstituted for this summer, it will be posted on the NNPS webpage in upcoming months.

**Student Emotional Health and Well-Being**

**Is emotional support available to my child during the closure?**

NNPS has created a Social/Emotional Support area within the COVID Academic Plan website. To assist in supporting students and families with additional mental health needs, contact information for social workers and psychologists is listed on this site as well as several activities individuals or families can do to assist with stress and anxiety. Please contact our professionals for assistance. Throughout the remainder of this virtual school year, this site will continue to be updated. For information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2QSQKyT>.

**Have an additional question?**

Additional questions and comments may be submitted [here](http://www.nnschools.org/contact/contactus.html).