



SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Dr. Gwendolyn Page Shannon, Division Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Chair
James D. Pope, III, Vice-Chair

March 24, 2020

Dear Southampton County Public School Division Families:

Monday, March 23, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam announced that Virginia K-12 schools will remain closed for all students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This closure is heartbreaking to many, to say the least, but understandable as the COVID-19 pandemic is a serious and continually changing national public health issue. This is a time of great uncertainty for us all, and many of you probably have more questions than I have answers at this time. Nevertheless, together we will get through these uncharted waters. I want to assure you that the Southampton County Public School Division is working conscientiously to address the concerns of parents, students, employees and our community as well as to ensure continuity of instruction.

During the initial two-week closure, Southampton County Public School Division teachers, administrators, and staff worked together to serve approximately 10,400 meals for students and provided instructional materials, in packet form and through virtual formats, reinforcing the curriculum.

Today, we received guidance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and Dr. James Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and are working to determine potential implications to our school division based on the guidelines. Our division employees are dedicated to ensuring that we maintain quality instruction during this mandated extended school closure.

We will continue to communicate with you through the Remind app, instant alert phone messages, and social media to keep you updated and informed. We will all work together to provide your child, our students, with a quality educational experience during the closure. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones during this time, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Shannon, Ph.D.
Division Superintendent

Board of Education

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