



SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Post Office Box 96 · Courtland, Virginia 23837
Phone (757) 653-2692 · Fax (757) 653-9422

Dr. Gwendolyn Page Shannon, Division Superintendent

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

March 29, 2020

Dear Southampton County Public School Division Families:

On March 23, 2020, Governor Northam enacted Executive Order 53, which closed schools for students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Southampton County Public School Division received guidance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), and we have developed our plan for the Continuity of Learning for our students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. As a school community, it is our goal to ensure that our students are provided quality instruction for the remainder of the school year and are fully prepared for 2020-2021. Below is information regarding the continuation of the school year (Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic is an ever-changing situation, and, as such, the plan for the remainder of the school year is subject to change).

Nutrition Plan

Meals will be available to students each week on Mondays and Thursdays. The distribution of meals for all students will be as follows:

Mondays and Thursdays:

Riverdale Elementary:	9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Capron Elementary:	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Nottoway Elementary:	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Meherrin Elementary:	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Continuity of Learning

Schools will continue to provide quality instruction for each student for the remainder of the school year. The Continuity of Learning Plan consists of a blended model of virtual learning through Schoology, our learning management system, which encompasses our online programs and instructional packets. School administrators and teachers will work with families to provide technology as needed and as available. Virtual student lessons will be provided on a continual basis, and instructional packets will be available for pick up on Thursdays. For all students enrolled in Southampton County Public Schools, we are working diligently to ensure that even though the schools have been closed, learning is continuing, course content is covered, and students are prepared for the 2020-2021 school year.

Equitable Opportunities

We will continue an equitable education delivery to provide the necessary support and resources for all students to be successful. We will meet all federal and state requirements, as well as legal requirements related to supporting Individualized Education Programs for students receiving special education, ESL, and student device services.

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Technology

Access to proper technology is at the heart of a virtual learning strategy. We are taking inventory of, and collecting, all available devices currently in our buildings that could be issued to students, as well as assessing the need for additional devices. We are developing a process for staff and families to evaluate technology available at home and evaluate needs. We will also provide technical support and training to families and employees who may run into issues with technology.

Graduation Requirements

VDOE has established graduation requirements that can be waived and will be addressing requirements that require action by the General Assembly in order to be waived. Southampton High School Counselors will be conducting an audit of each of the seniors' transcripts to determine who is on-track for the 2019-2020 school year graduation. Through this audit, they will indicate which requirements need to be waived, if any, for each student. This process should be complete by May 15, 2020.

Students Enrolled in Credit-Bearing Courses Graduating in 2021 or After

Southampton High School and Southampton Middle School students enrolled in credit-bearing courses will complete their courses this school year, with teachers providing instruction through a blended model of virtual learning and instructional packets. Teachers will review standards that must be taught and adjust their teaching and schedule accordingly.

Students in Grades PreK-8

As with students in grades 9-12, our students in PreK-8 will be provided instruction through a blended model of virtual learning and instructional packets. We are ensuring that all standards are covered by adjusting the pacing and grade-level curricula.

Advanced Placement Courses

The College Board has announced that students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes will be able to take AP exams online, at home, and has provided preparation materials for home access for AP teachers and students. AP teachers will continue to teach and work with students to prepare them for these exams.

Virtual Virginia

Students enrolled in Virtual Virginia courses should follow the direction given by the instructor regarding expectations for work and grading.

Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Courses

Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit courses should continue to complete the assignments issued by the instructor. We are discussing the courses with administrators at Camp Community College and will provide updated information once received.

Grades

Student work, regardless of classification, will be graded. Guidance from the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) and the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) was issued on

Board of Education

Friday, March 27, 2020. The information will be presented to the school board at our next school board meeting, and a decision will be made at that time.

Report Cards

Report cards for the 3rd nine weeks will not be distributed on Friday, April 3, 2020. We are providing students an opportunity for makeup work, enrichment, reteaching, and reassessing. We will begin the abbreviated 4th nine weeks on April 20, 2020.

SOL Testing

Standards of Learning (SOL) testing has been suspended for the spring of 2020, due to the school closure for students, for all subjects and all grades. VDOE is currently reviewing options for the assessments moving forward. Updates will be provided as we learn more.

Spring Break

Spring Break will be honored as planned. Spring Break is scheduled for April 10, 2020, through April 17, 2020.

Spring Sports

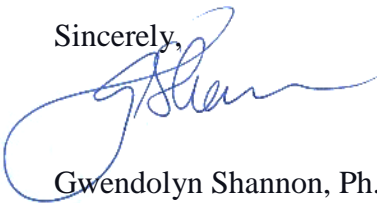
The Virginia High School League (VHSL) has delayed its final decision on spring sports until May. We will provide an update as soon as a decision is made.

Prom

A decision has not been made at this time regarding the Prom. The status of the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations by the CDC will guide us in our plans.

The COVID-19 pandemic is ever-changing, and we are continually reviewing the information provided by the CDC and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff. We will continue to communicate with you through the Remind app, instant alert phone messages, and social media to keep you updated and informed of our Continuity of Learning Plan. Please stay safe and take care of yourself and your family, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Gwendolyn Shannon, Ph.D.
Division Superintendent

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