

March 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southampton County Public School Division Distributes Meals during Statewide Closure

Southampton County Public School Division moved swiftly on Friday, March 13, 2020, after Governor Northam's statewide school closure announcement, to develop a plan to provide meals for Southampton County children who are 18 years of age or younger.

Through the collective efforts of the Food Services Department Supervisor Angela Sproul and Assistant Raquel Locklear and district administration, led by Division Superintendent Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon, the plan was developed and implemented on Monday, March 16, 2020, the first day of the closure.



L to R: Superintendent Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon, Custodian Clayton Banks, Director of Special Education Dr. Tonia Taylor, NES Principal Susan Melbye, & MES Principal Rickeita Jones.

The meal distribution plan is a drive-thru meal service operating out of Riverdale Elementary School. Three days of meals, breakfast and lunch, are being provided for each child on Mondays, and then meals are provided again for three days on Thursdays.

Individuals picking up meals simply need to

drive to the back of the school and meals will be handed to them while they are in their vehicle. Children do not need to be present in the car to receive the meals.



Teachers April Lane and Chikita Peterson ready to distribute meals to students.



Cafeteria Staff preparing meals. L to R: Sylvie Murphy, Viola Worrell, Elaine Barnes, & Gevonnia Freeman.

The first day of meal distribution was a huge success! Southampton County Public Schools provided approximately 2,000 meals to the children of Southampton County. Through our partnership with the Obici Grant Foundation, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and Eastern Shore will provide fresh produce that will be distributed along with the school meals on Thursday, March 19, 2020. The produce is being provided as a replacement for

the very successful Healthy School Market program that was originally scheduled for later this month.

In order to ensure enough meals are prepared each distribution day, parents should send the number of students, or persons under the age of 18 in the household, for whom they are requesting meals to: their principal's REMIND app, Dr. Shannon's inbox directly on Facebook messenger, Dr. Shannon directly by text at 757-653-4464, or call (757) 352-8951 or (757) 556-4890.



School Board Members Jim Pope and Denise Bunn (not pictured) along with Custodian Clayton Banks taking meals outside to be distributed.

Southampton County Public School Division considers it a pleasure to be able to provide this service to our community. We are very appreciative of the employees, faculty, staff and administration, who are volunteering their time to distribute the meals.

Please stay safe and healthy during the statewide school closure.

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Teacher Tracy Brown delivering meals to the students.



SCPS staff putting meals together. L to R: Scott Stephenson, Chad Brock, Joy Carr, Norma Jones, Amesheia Warren, Kim Walker-Lee, Tracy Dollarhide, & Forrest Picot.



Teachers Laura Ellsworth and Kaci Keech handing meals to families in the RES drive thru.