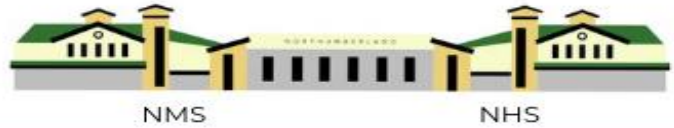


NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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June 8, 2020- Lottsburg, Virginia – The Northumberland County Public Schools’ School Board met on Monday through audio conferencing as a result of the Governor’s Executive Orders and COVID-19. Board Chair Mrs. Betty Christopher announced two moments of silence. The first moment of silence was held to honor the life and legacy of Northumberland High School (NHS) Custodian Lynn Verzi who sadly passed away. The second moment of silence was held for those who have been affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as recent tragic events across the nation.

The School Board referred to the Northumberland County Public Schools' Equity Policy which was adopted last fall. The equity policy states, "The Northumberland County School Board is committed to equitable and fair educational opportunities for all students through the support and allocation of appropriate resources, diverse learning opportunities, and commitment to equity and fairness across the school division." School Board members stated, "NCPS values diversity and will always strive for equity, access, and opportunity for ALL."

Summer Food Nutrition Program The Board approved the following personnel for the summer food nutrition program: **Sandra Lopez-Patrick, site supervisor; Romania Giles, Tunisia Taylor, Belkis Molina, Donna Kimball, Phyllis Coleman, Roberta Drummond-Carter, Cathay Bantacourt-Ramos.**

New Hires 2020-2021 **Abbeyvanne Rose, paraprofessional NES; Shonia Sanchez, paraprofessional NES; Kim Jenkins, paraprofessional NES; Ashley Deihl, paraprofessional NES; Angela Burkhead, paraprofessional NES; and Bernice Stevenson, paraprofessional for students with intensive needs NMS/NHS.**

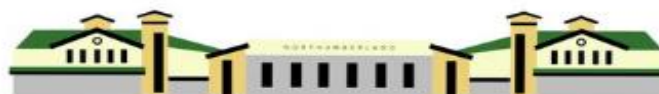
Gabrielle Balderson, early childhood special education teacher NES; Blaire Russell, NMS 6th grade Mathematics; Carolyn Crockett, special education teacher for students with intensive needs NMS/NHS; and Bernice Stevenson, paraprofessional for students with intensive needs NMS/NHS.

Presentations/Recognitions The School Board recognized the **2020 NCPS Division Teacher of the Year Mrs. Melissa Saunders.** Saunders teaches Algebra I, serves as Mathematics Department Chair,

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



NES



NMS

NHS

and sponsors the freshman class at NHS. Saunders holds a Master's degree in Curriculum Development with Technology Integration and a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Mathematics from Grand Canyon University. Congratulations, **Mrs. Melissa Saunders!**

Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act for Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Grant Update Presentation Instructional Technology Resource Teacher **Mrs. Rachel Hall** began the presentation with the Verizon Tower Map of Northumberland County's internet availability comparing the map with the student map of grades 6-12. By locating the "pockets" of students, the technology department will deploy hot spots. Director of Technology **Mr. Bob Gilbert** stated the technology department has ordered 706 Chromebooks and laptops for grades 6-12 and Chrome management tools to provide continuity of instruction when we return to school in the Fall. Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement **Mrs. Sophronia Smith** stated that the \$406,917.83 final entitlement grant is complete and will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education after the Superintendent's approval. Director of Finance **Mrs. Donna Booth** explained two priority areas for use of funds: continuity of instruction and continuity of services. The grant will concentrate on Technology distance learning, provide materials for distance learning, sustaining the "Meals with Wheels" program and COVID 19 sanitation protocols.

Program of Studies Director of Special Education **Mr. Adam Letizia** provided updates to the *Program of Studies*. The School Board adopted the *Program of Studies* as presented. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the updates, and special thanks to Director of Instruction **Mrs. Amy Lamb** for facilitating the work.

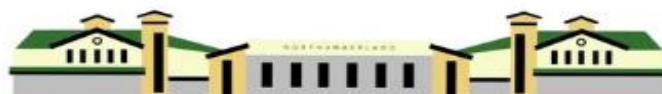
NES Instructional Report Principal **Mrs. Stephanie Baker** stated final report cards will be mailed the week of June 8 and will include literacy and mathematics activities as well as summer reading information. NES continues to partner with the Northumberland Public Library and the YMCA for the Summer Reading Program. Mrs. Baker also announced a PreK and Kindergarten enrollment update for the 2020-21 school year.

Mrs. Baker shared information regarding a letter/article addressed to fifth grade students that will be published in the local paper: "Dear NES 5th Grade Students, Today marks the beginning of your last week at Northumberland Elementary School. Although our hearts are sad that we are not able to spend these last five days together at NES, we still wanted to share our pride and excitement for you as you finish this very important part of your lives. You have learned and grown so much at NES, and we can't wait to see your great accomplishments at NMS, NHS, and beyond! We are proud of you and wish you nothing but the best! Have a wonderful, safe, and healthy summer! Much love from all of us at NES!"

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



NES



NMS

NHS

NMS Instructional Report Principal **Mrs. Javornda Ashton** stated sixth through eighth grade students continue to engage in Continuity of Learning, and final report cards will be printed and mailed home on June 11, 2020.

NMS celebrated the current eighth grade students through a commemorative video uploaded to the school social media with special messages from administration and teachers. A special tribute article will be placed in the local newspapers and released on June 10, 2020, for families.

NMS will participate in One School, One Book with a universal study on *Stolen Children* by Peg Kehret. Students will receive discussion questions and are encouraged to record their responses in a journal. Questions will be mailed with the book to each student and staff member.

Mrs. Ashton provided a tentative plan for Summer Learning opportunities once the Governor announces the Recover, Redesign, and Return to Learn Plan for public schools.

NHS Instructional Report Principal **Dr. Travis Burns** provided an instructional report, an update on scholarships, and follow up regarding Commencement for the Class of 2020 which was conducted May 20-24, 2020, following the Governor's guidelines for social distancing. Dr. Burns announced a commemorative recording by *Yours Truly* will be shared with the community via social media and the school website.

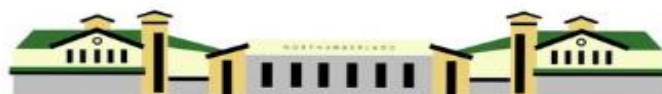
Graduation Highlights include the following: Number of Graduates - **117**; Number of students attending a four year college in the fall. - **40 or 34%**; Number of students attending a 2 year college in the fall. - **36 or 31%**; Number of students attending a trade school in the fall. - **7 or 6%**; Number of students joining the military - **10 or 9%**; Number of students entering the workforce - **22 or 19%**; Total amount of local scholarships earned - **\$211,890** as of June 2, 2020; Percent of students with a 3.5 GPA or better. - **32% or 38 students**; Number of students and names of students who have earned associates degrees. - **4/Anna Jett, Kelsey Moss, Chloe O'Bier, McKensy Smithart**; Male and Co-Female Athletes of the Year. - **Mason Adams and Hannah Hayes/Cameron Lewis**; Valedictorian - **Kelsey Moss**; Salutatorian - **Anna Jett**

School Board member **Mrs. Dana O'Bier** personally thanked **Dr. Travis Burns** and his staff for a successful and meaningful graduation. Many parents have expressed to her how proud and thankful they were.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



NES



NMS

NHS

Dr. Burns announced final grades will be posted to PowerSchool on June 9, 2020, and report cards will be mailed on June 12, 2020. He also stated the Northern Neck Technical Center will operate a summer school virtually via Edgenuity starting on June 15, 2020. Summer school will be offered for credit recovery at no cost to students/families. In addition, Algebra I and Math 8 Remediation for rising 10th and 9th grade students will be offered to close pre and post-pandemic learning gaps for struggling numeracy learners. The estimated time of the program is 4 weeks with student enrollment of 15-20 students.

Dr. Burns provided an overview of the NHS School Climate Survey which addresses student, teacher, and staff perceptions regarding student support, disciplinary structure, academic expectations, student engagement, prevalence of teasing and bullying, and aggression toward staff.

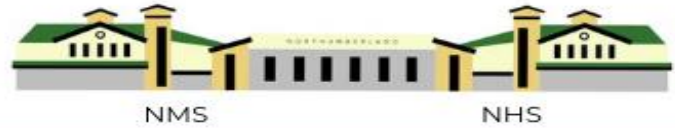
Superintendent **Dr. Holly Wargo** thanked all three principals for all of their hard work, collaboration, and perseverance during the COVID-19 school closure.

Health Requirements for Enrollment Reentry Superintendent **Dr. Holly Wargo** shared Health Requirements for Enrollment Reentry. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) encourages school divisions to communicate the importance of getting immunizations and physicals required for school enrollment to parents and guardians of school-age children. The Virginia Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that parents proceed with well-child physical and immunizations through their local health care providers. Planning ahead to complete these state requirements for school enrollment will ensure a smooth and safe start when schools reopen.

The Code of Virginia requires that children receive a comprehensive physical examination within 12 months prior to start of school and be adequately immunized before entering public kindergarten or elementary school. Other required immunizations include Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for girls entering sixth grade; and a Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Tdap) booster before seventh grade.

Maintenance & Facilities Update Director **Mr. Jeff Brann** reported the NES HVAC project is on schedule with the conduit and electrical contractors currently on site. HVAC installation will begin July 7th. Other projects currently taking place are: inspections of the fire systems; inspections of the well house and storage tanks; painting of the metal poles and steel doors; NHS gym floor resurfacing, painting, and installation of hardware needed for dual volleyball courts; and updating of the current irrigation system.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Transportation Update Director **Mrs. Stacy Branem** reported all current sixteen buses with air conditioning will receive inspection services first since they are used for “Meals with Wheels.” Mechanics follow a mandated service checklist. Buses and vehicles are washed outside and washed and sanitized inside. The goal is to service one bus and one vehicle per day.

Technology Update from Director **Mrs. Bob Gilbert** sent **Congratulations to Mrs. Rachel Hall! Mrs. Hall has earned her Google Educator Level I Certification.** NCPS Technology Department plans to upgrade all computers to Windows 10; reconnect lab computers, reconnect teacher/classroom computers and laptop cart maintenance. The installation of the new web filter, Linewize, supports Google Classroom/ Management systems, allows teacher control and “student” login will no longer be used as each student is given a personal login. Technology staff training will be ongoing over the summer on Google Device Management and Linewize Web Filtering. The technology department plans to continue the district wireless upgrade by installing forty new access points, new circuits and connectivity to additional facilities with Atlantic Broadband, the new internet service provider.

Board Comments **Mrs. Gayle Sterrett**, on behalf of the entire School Board and Superintendent, expressed congratulation and well wishes to Director of Instruction **Amy Lamb** on her retirement. The School Board will honor Mrs. Lamb at an upcoming luncheon while observing Phase II COVID-19 guidelines.