



# SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Dr. John B. Gordon III, Superintendent*

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May 8, 2020

Dear SPS Family:

I hope that everyone is doing well and is staying safe. As we move forward with properly closing out the 2019-2020 school year, I want to bring to your attention some important dates and information:

## **General Reminders and Important Dates**

**May 5, 2020**-Kindergarten registration and New Enrollment is available by appointment only. Please contact your respective school to complete this process.

- Forms are available online at [www.spsk12.net](http://www.spsk12.net) under Enrollment and New Registration.
- Please bring completed forms with you for your appointment. An SPS School Staff member will assist you in turning in your paperwork and completing the enrollment process.
- During appointments, parents and guests will communicate with school staff using Chromebooks that will be set-up in school lobby areas or the school counseling office.

**May 5, 2020**-3rd Nine Weeks Report Cards are available in HAC. Report cards will also be mailed for any families that do not have access. Please contact your respective school to request a report card through the mail.

**May 11, 2020**- Secondary School administrative teams will begin to send out letters to those students who have yet to log in to their courses in Edgenuity or are severely behind. It is of the utmost importance that parents assist Suffolk Public Schools in the Continuity of Learning Plan for their students.

**May 15, 2020-2:00 P.M. Facebook Live with Dr. JBG3-**This is our 2nd Facebook Live Event that provides an opportunity for our Suffolk Public Schools Community to interact with me as your Superintendent and to answer any questions that you have related to Suffolk Public Schools.

**June 5, 2020-**End of **Virtual SPS**, the conclusion of the 4th nine weeks. All courses in Edgenuity and Google Classroom should be completed by this date unless other provisions have been made.

**Week of June 8, 2020-June 12, 2020-**Secondary Students are to return Chromebooks, chargers, and Kajeet Devices to their respective schools. We will communicate the check-in process the week of May 26th-May 29th.

### **Update on Virtual SPS**

We have received feedback concerning the amount of time needed to complete modules in Edgenuity. In general, module completion should be approximately 30 minutes a day per course with a start date of April 20, 2020. Please keep in mind that any courses that were started after this date will take longer as they will have more daily assignments than what was originally scheduled.

We realize that it can be challenging for students to begin a new platform from a distance so we are making accommodations to assist students wherever possible. We encourage families to communicate with your student's teachers if your student is behind in the course and may need additional resources, instruction or support.

Please keep in mind that while the expectation is for students to complete the courses, our main goal is mastery of skills. Therefore, please do not encourage your student to rush through the material just to complete the course, if they are not understanding the concepts. **If a student does not complete a course, they will not automatically fail.** A student's actual grade will be determined based on their performance as of June 5, 2020. To be fair to students, Suffolk Public Schools expects students to have completed approximately 80% of their coursework to earn the necessary "63" passing grade to earn an "A.". Prior to June 5, we will assess completion rates to determine if that threshold needs to be adjusted further.

Please also note, that it is important for students to stay engaged in Virtual Learning in electives and CTE courses during this time as well. In most cases, these courses are being offered by teachers through Google Classroom. These courses are also being graded on a pass/fail basis.

We have updated our [Virtual Learning FAQs](#) and have linked them here for your reference. Most importantly, we cannot stress enough the importance of communicating with your child's teacher if they are having difficulty with any of their courses.

Our instructional team is reviewing data to determine which skills will need to be retaught in subsequent courses next year to ensure your child does not miss critical concepts as they progress through middle and high school.

### **Update on Meal Distribution Plan**

Beginning May 7, 2020, the Food and Nutrition Services Department expanded the SPS Meal Distribution plan to now include an additional afternoon snack and dinner. As a part of a partnership with the At-Risk After School Meal Program, Suffolk Public Schools will now be able to offer three meals a day to our families in need. We will continue with our current bus routes for Meal Distribution through May 17, 2020.

Beginning May 18, 2020, our SPS Meal Distribution Plan will expand to **provide meals to families seven days a week**. Meals will be distributed two days a week with Tuesday and Thursday being the distribution days. On **Tuesdays**, families will receive meals for **three days**, and on **Thursdays**, families will receive meals for **four days**. **An updated bus distribution schedule will come out the week of May 11th-15th for our new distribution plan**. Thank you to Dr. Whiting and the Food and Nutrition Services department for making this happen for our school division.

### **Graduation Plans and Senior Information**

I also want to take the time to discuss the Graduation Plan and upcoming Senior Information for Suffolk Public Schools. We have reviewed several graduation options for our students since our official school closure on March 13, 2020. I have personally received feedback from several members of the Graduating Class of 2020 on ways to ensure that we have a personal and memorable experience for our students. In working with Dr. Ron Leigh, Director of Secondary Education, Mr. Anthony Hinds, Purchasing Manager, and our three high school principals, we believe we have come up with a plan to adhere to our public safety guidelines while still providing a special occasion for our Seniors. We promised that Seniors would be able to "walk across the stage." The following dates and activities have been planned for the Suffolk Public Schools Graduating Class of 2020:

**May 5, 2020**-High School Bookkeepers began refunds of Senior Dues and Prom Fees for those that have been collected. Refund checks are continuing to be mailed to student homes.

**Week of May 11th-May 15th-Cap and Gown Pick-up at King's Fork, Lakeland, and Nansemond River High Schools. Please visit school websites for more information.**

**Cap and Gown Photos: 8:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.-**Lifetouch and Suffolk Public Schools have partnered to ensure a memorable graduation experience for our Seniors. **Seniors will walk across the stage in their high school auditorium.** Each Senior will receive two 8 X 10 photos of this occasion and a hyperlink to download additional pictures. Lifetouch will have two photographers available to take pictures for each Graduating Member of the Class of 2020. Two pictures will be taken to include:

- Graduating Senior receiving their diploma cover
- Post-Graduation Picture with two family members (Only two family members will be allowed to attend per safety guidelines)

Here is the schedule for Cap and Gown Photos: (Please visit your respective school websites for specific times for student pictures)

- Nansemond River High School: May 18th, May 19th, May 20th
- King's Fork High School: May 21st, May 22nd, and May 26th
- Lakeland High School: May 27th, May 28th, May 29th

At the conclusion of Cap and Gown photos, Seniors will also receive a **“Congratulations Graduate”** yard sign to be put on display for neighbors, family, and friends. Families will be asked to vacate school property immediately after Cap and Gown photos in order to continually follow health and safety guidelines.

### **Virtual Senior Spirit Week: June 1st-June 5th**

This is the time for the Senior Class of 2020 to show their school spirit! High School Principals are currently working with staff and students for Virtual Senior Spirit Week 2020. Pictures and themes will be shared on individual school websites during the week. More information to come!

### **Suffolk Public Schools Graduation-June 20, 2020**

Suffolk Public Schools will have the Class of 2020 Graduation Exercises on June 20, 2020. Our Graduation ceremonies will include speeches from the class Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Principal, School Board Chair and Superintendent. Each graduate will have their name called and cap and gown pictures will be shown during the ceremony. Ceremonies will be shown on our SPS Youtube Channel at the following times:

- Nansemond River High School: 9:00 a.m.
- Lakeland High School: 12:00 p.m.
- King's Fork High School: 3:00 p.m.

Five graduation programs will also be mailed to each member of the Graduating Class of 2020. Programs will be mailed the week of June 15, 2020-June 19, 2020.

**SPS Virtual Summer-July 6, 2020-August 6, 2020**

Suffolk Public Schools will proceed with a Virtual Summer School option free of charge to both students and families. Elementary school students will pilot an expansion of the SPS Connect Initiative using the i-Ready instructional platform. SPS Virtual Summer for Elementary School will focus on remediation for students in both Math and Reading. Secondary School students will use Edgenuity for their instructional platform.

Please stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Gordon, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dr. John B. Gordon, III  
Division Superintendent