



## **From the Desk of the Superintendent**

### **March 23, 2020**

As you are aware, the Governor has closed all schools for the rest of the academic year to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Today's decision will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on our families, our community and the NNPS team.

Thank you for remaining committed to our students and families. I know many of you are facing the unknown and are working through your own family circumstances. I continue to be proud of all that you do to ensure that our students remain engaged in learning and have access to meals-to-go, while making sure that all NNPS operations continue.

In an effort to keep you informed, we will continue to provide you with timely updates and other helpful information. Please expect another update later this week. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through these unprecedented events.

#### **Access to Schools, Offices for Essential Items**

Schools and offices will be open on Thursday, March 26, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. for employees to pick up any essential items that may be needed during the closure. This time is set aside for pick up only. Our custodians will begin another thorough round of cleaning and sanitizing promptly at 9 a.m.

#### **At-Home Learning**

Elementary lessons have been created for an additional 10 days and are being printed this week. The lessons will be posted on the At-Home Learning website and distributed to all school sites on Monday. As we work to develop further learning concepts for elementary students, the Curriculum and Development team will be in contact with elementary teachers.

Secondary teachers should expect to receive a few invites for online conferences from content area supervisors and specialists to discuss the development of additional at-home learning plans for the next 10 days.

Please note that there was a miscommunication sent last week regarding using Zoom to communicate with students. Our attorney has researched this and determined that teachers may use Zoom to conference with colleagues, students and parents. In his opinion, there are no legal issues with using this platform.

### **Technology for Secondary Students**

To ensure that our secondary students are able to participate in virtual learning during the closure, NNPS continues to work with families to identify those in need of computers and Internet access. So that we can make sure those with the greatest need are being served, we are asking families to contact their child's principal to request that they be added to the waiting list for these devices. Our technology staff will work with principals to coordinate distribution.

### **Employee Pay**

Unless we receive other guidance from the Virginia Department of Education, NNPS will pay all contracted employees and designated employee groups during the closure.

### **Employee Well-Being**

Our Benefits Team will continue to provide us with resources for navigating this difficult time. The NNPS Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is providing a free webinar, "Mental Health and Coping during COVID-19," on Wednesday, March 25 at 12:00 noon. Employees are invited to participate in the Zoom webinar. The Zoom link will be posted on the myNNPS employee intranet home page.

Please remain safe, observe social distancing, and take care of your family and yourself.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Parker, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George Parker, III, Ph.D.  
Superintendent