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DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT
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May 14, 2020

Good afternoon,

I continue to be amazed at our school community and all that we are doing in response to the COVID-19. We continue to make positive opportunities out of this negative situation. While we have not always had perfect responses to every aspect of this situation, I am proud of the caring attitude and teamwork that I witness daily from our faculty, staff, families, and students. I commend each of you on the efforts you have demonstrated to put one another first during this uncertain time.

End of School Year 2019-20 (Last Day May 22, 2020)

Next week, we will be making strides to provide *recognition* opportunities for our students. Principals are working with their teachers to create unique experiences for families and students during this unusual time.

John I. Burton

June 13, 6 pm- Graduation- with modifications for COVID-19 (more info will be released from the Principal, Brad Hart)

May 31, 3 pm- Baccalaureate- Norton City Center- 50% occupancy guidelines- students and guardians.

Virtual Senior Awards- Video to be released soon.

May 20-21 Burton--Pick up/Returns to school

NEMS

May 22- 5-7 pm Reverse Teacher Parade

May 18- 20- NEMS-Pick up/Returns to school

School Year 2020-21

As this year is coming to an end on May 22, 2020, we are currently unsure about what the beginning of the next school year will look like. The Virginia Department of Education has created a task force which is considering multiple approaches to opening schools that range from a normal opening to a remote opening. I expect we will experience a hybrid approach that will incorporate approaches. I will continue to keep you updated as we receive information and determine our opening date for the 2020-21 school year. We are definitely looking forward to the time when we can interact with our students and we continue to hope that safety protocols will allow us to do so sooner than later. Currently, we have a planning committee of leaders, teachers, and counselors that will be involved in creating procedures to ensure that we are ready to address the needs of our students when we return.

Summer Meals Program

Norton City Schools will continue to provide daily meals on weekdays as we have implemented during the school closure during the summer. As of right now, this will be provided through June 30. We are seeking guidance on how we can provide into the month of July.

Summer Learning Opportunities

We are in the planning process of what summer school will look like for Norton City Schools. We plan to offer learning opportunities this summer *if* State guidelines allow us to do so. In the near future, you should receive a survey so that we can determine interest in our summer programs/learning opportunities at the elementary/middle school. Summer School for John I. Burton students will be provided on an individual basis, pending recommendations from the teacher(s) with input from the school counselor and principal.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-21 school year is still open. Please contact the office at NEMS (276-679-0971) for more information.

Closing

Once again, I want to say thank you for your support, patience, and understanding as we continue to remain "Raider Strong." We will continue to move forward as best as we can during the COVID-19 crisis. You are in my thoughts and prayers daily. I encourage you to support and reach out to one another in ways that are safe to do so. We all have been impacted by the many changes in our schools and daily lives. It can take a toll emotionally, mentally, economically, and most certainly in this case, socially, on everyone. Please reach out to us if you or your family have needs that we can address. We are here for you!

Sincerely,


Dr. Gina Wohlford