



Information for Students/Families

May 20, 2020

Dear Students and Families:

The year 2020 will definitely be one to remember! More than ever, we want to extend a thank you for the shared work of our students, families, and staff members to bring continued learning and support, even during a challenging time. The collective work of all of us helped make this abrupt shift in teaching/learning and lifestyle much smoother. We are continuing to learn and grow from this experience and have greatly appreciated the feedback we have received by so many on the [Reflections on Remote Learning Survey](#). This survey will remain open through **Friday, May 22**. If you have not had a chance to complete this, please do so. A link to this survey is also available on the division and school websites.

Graduation for our Seniors:

Many thanks to our high school staff for sorting through multiple options and adapting the original graduation plans to provide the most timely and special graduation for our students possible, while adhering to gathering size and social distancing requirements. Individual diploma presentations will be held at Gypsy Hill Park during the week of June 15th, where students and their family members will be able to honor each graduate. Each graduate will experience a personal, traditional diploma conferral, complete with the playing of *Pomp and Circumstance* and the announcement of each graduate's name over the stadium loudspeaker. This experience will allow for an up-close experience for both the graduate and family members. In addition, each diploma presentation and traditional speeches will be videoed and shared with graduates. Virginia is also offering a ["Virginia Graduates Together"](#) ceremony on Friday, May 29 at 5pm on PBS stations and Facebook Live. While the senior graduation may not look the exact same as previous years, the Class of 2020 will be able to acknowledge that their graduation may be the most unique and perhaps the most memorable of graduations.

School Nutrition Updates:

Free summer meals begin **Thursday, May 28** through **Thursday, July 23**. Staunton City Schools will continue to deliver meal. In addition, curbside pick-up at Shelburne Middle School returns. These services are available each **Monday and Thursday**. Please refer to the schedule below:

Bus #4 ~ Meal Delivery	Bus #24 ~ Meal Delivery
10:10-10:40 Staunton Public Library 10:45-11:15 Staunton YMCA 11:20-12:10 Willow View Apartments	10:10-10:40 Bessie Weller Elementary 10:50-11:30 Churchville Ave., Shell Station Lot
Shelburne Middle School, Curbside Pick-Up: 10:30-11:30 <i>Please wait until at least 10:20 to arrive, as our meal delivery buses need to load and leave from this location.</i>	

Looking Ahead to 2020-2021:

This year has definitely been different for education, and we all are beginning to wonder, “What will next year bring?” A lot of this is determined by the future data from COVID-19 and the phase of restrictions, as defined by the governor. The chart below helps define the different phases:



Virginia’s 3-Phase Plan to Ease Restrictions (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/>)

	Phase 1 (beginning May 15) 2-4 weeks (or more) ▶	Phase 2 (Date TBD) 2-4 weeks (or more) ▶ (until no evidence of rebound)	Phase 3 (Date TBD)	
Stay-At-Home Order	<i>Safer-at-home</i>	<i>Stay-at-home for vulnerable populations</i>	<i>Safer-at-home for vulnerable populations</i>	Normal Operation
	<u>Restrictions:</u> Social distancing Teleworking Face coverings Gatherings of <u>no more than 10</u> Enhanced cleaning <u>Lessen Restrictions:</u> Ease business limitations	<u>Restrictions:</u> Social distancing Teleworking Face coverings Gatherings of <u>no more than 50</u> Enhanced cleaning <u>Lessen Restrictions:</u> Ease business limitations	<u>Restrictions:</u> Enhanced cleaning Other TBD, as needed <u>Remove bans on:</u> Social gatherings Capacity limits	

We hope to open with our current schedule in phase 3, which is the least restrictive scenario. However, our staff is continuing to build and share their repertoire of skills this summer, so they are prepared to support students and families, no matter the scenario. We feel this is the most strategic approach.

At this point, please plan for school to begin on **August 4, as scheduled**, with safety measures in place (as provided by VDOE, VDH, and CDC). The health and safety of our students, families, and staff remain our number one priority and will be the first consideration in decision-making. Should we remain in phases 1 or 2 or have additional restrictions at the start of the year or at any part of the year, this would modify our plan for the upcoming year, which could include online learning or a modified schedule that involves blended learning (both face-to-face and online learning).

Should this become necessary, we will communicate the changes as soon as possible. There are many additional next steps and questions/answers related to these scenarios.

Next Steps for Everyone:

Please remember that this is the end of the school year. We want you to spend this last week celebrating the accomplishments for the year and wrapping up with your teachers and school friends in your own modified way.

Take care of yourself by doing the things that you enjoy, just as you would any summer, so that we all come back ready and eager for the 2020-2021 school year, however that may look!