

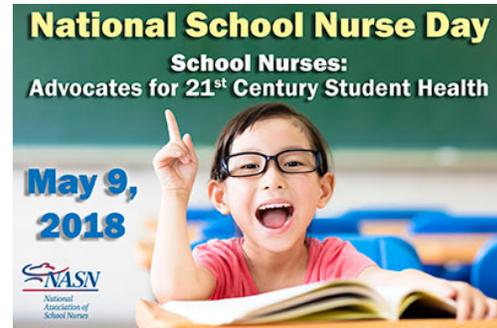
Feature Stories

Celebrating School Nurses on Wednesday, May 9

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 is National School Nurse Day!

We honor more than 95,000 school nurses in the United States who make a difference in the lives of children every day!

The theme this year is *“School Nurses: Advocates for 21st Century Student Health.”*



School nurses are responsible for:

- Significantly decreasing the amount of days missed due to asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for more than 14 million missed days annually
- Managing students with chronic conditions such as diabetes and seizures to allow them to stay in class
- Identifying and treating accidents and injuries
- Counseling students about physical and emotional issues

Attendance – School nurses improve attendance through health promotion, disease prevention and disease management. Students with a full-time school nurse have about half the student illness- or injury-related early releases from school where no school nurse is present.

Academics – Improved attendance means the healthy student is in the classroom and ready to learn. School Nurses enable better performance, which also contributes to reducing drop-out rates.

Time – School nurses save time for principals, teachers and staff. A school nurse in the building saves principals, teachers, and clerical staff a considerable amount of time that they would have spent addressing health concerns of students. A school nurse in the building saves principals almost an hour a day, teachers almost 20 minutes a day, and clerical staff over 45 minutes a day.

Staff Wellness – School nurses improve the general health of staff. According to school reports, principals, teachers, and clerical staff are VERY satisfied with having school nurses in their schools for several reasons: Teachers can focus on teaching; Office staff spend less time calling parents and sending students home; and Healthy staff means increased attendance and productivity.

Accountability – School nurses help schools stay accountable by promoting compliance with federal and state law mitigates lawsuits; advocating for adequate staffing aligns with Healthy People 2020 recommendations of the ratio of one school nurse per 750 well students (1:750); preparing for emergencies saves lives and property; and addressing student mental health links to academic achievement. School nurses are instrumental in the identification and referral to community resources for health risks and are often the only health professional who see students on a regular basis.

References

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Video Feature

Meet our City-Wide Teacher of the Year ... Visit the classroom and learn more about Katelyn Leitner Black, the 2018 City-Wide Teacher of the Year. Watch it [here!](https://goo.gl/GctJMi) (https://goo.gl/GctJMi)

News

The Suffolk School Board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 10 in the Nansemond River High School auditorium

- This month's meeting will begin early – **at 6 p.m.** – as the board meets the honor graduates from Nansemond River High School, followed by the regular School Board meeting at 7 p.m.
- The [agenda and board materials](http://pesb.spsk12.net/) (http://pesb.spsk12.net/) will be available to the public online early in that week.

Suffolk Public Schools will be closed Monday, May 28 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Graduation 2018 on YouTube ... Suffolk Public Schools is providing LIVE VIDEO STREAMING of this year's graduation ceremonies from the Ted Constant Center in Norfolk. Any mobile device or computer with Internet connection should be able to view the live stream. At the time of the ceremony on Saturday, June 9, go to the [graduation page of our website](http://graduation.spsk12.net/) (http://graduation.spsk12.net/). For more information, contact Bethanne Bradshaw at 925-6752.

- **Graduation ceremonies for Lakeland High School** will be held at **9 a.m. Saturday, June 9** at the Ted Constant Convocation Center in Norfolk. This event is for ticketed guests only. Call the school at 925-5790 for more information.
- **Graduation ceremonies for King's Fork High School** will be held at **12 noon Saturday, June 9** at the Ted Constant Convocation Center in Norfolk. This event is for ticketed guests only. Call the school at 923-5240 for more information.
- **Graduation ceremonies for Nansemond River High School** will be held at **3 p.m. Saturday, June 9** at the Ted Constant Convocation Center in Norfolk. This event is for ticketed guests only. Call the school at 923-4101 for more information.

Public Input Wanted on World Language Textbooks... Suffolk Public Schools is collecting public input for an adoption of World Language textbooks for the upcoming school year. The public is welcome to review the considered textbooks at the North Suffolk Public Library and Morgan Memorial Library during regular library hours. Participants may review textbooks and complete the survey linked below to provide feedback prior to the adoption. The survey will be available until May 23, 2018. Questions about the adoption process may be directed to Dr. Maria Lawson-Davenport at marialawson-davenport@spsk12.net or 757-925-6750. The [World Language Textbook Adoption Public Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SuffolkTextbookSurvey) can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SuffolkTextbookSurvey>.

The 2018-2019 Student Transportation Form is available online NOW for current enrolled students. This form will allow the Transportation Department to properly plan by knowing who is and who is not riding the school bus and where your child will need to be picked up. To access the form, visit your child's individual school website, click on the photo slider about the Student Transportation Form to link to the 2018-2019 Student Transportation Form. Please complete one form per student at each individual school. If you have any questions or concerns, email kebabaldwin@spsk12.net or annettemclamb@spsk12.net.

The voluntary Majority to Minority transfer option currently in place at Booker T. Washington, Elephant's Fork Elementary, Mack Benn, Jr. and Pioneer Elementary Schools will continue for the 2018-19 school year.

Because of a long-standing federal court order requiring desegregation of Suffolk Public Schools, the U.S. Department of Justice was required to review and approve the zoning plan. The district can further desegregation by adopting a voluntary Majority to Minority transfer option at Pioneer, Booker T. Washington, Mack Benn, Jr., and Elephant's Fork Elementary Schools. The schools will be holding informational meetings to explain the optional transfer in more detail on:

- **Tuesday, May 15 ... 5:00 p.m. at Booker T. Washington Elementary**

- **Tuesday, May 15** ... 6:00 p.m. at **Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary**
- **Thursday, May 17** ... 5:00 p.m. at **Pioneer Elementary**
- **Thursday, May 17** ... 6:00 p.m. at **Elephant's Fork Elementary**

Please visit our website [for additional information](https://goo.gl/yPvdPH) (https://goo.gl/yPvdPH) about the voluntary Majority to Minority transfer option. Completed forms should be submitted to your child's principal by **Friday, May 18**. Questions may be directed to either your school principal or to Pamela Connor, Director of Elementary Leadership, at 925-6760.

The second Kindergarten Registration date for the 2018-19 school year will be Wednesday, May 9. The hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all elementary schools. Rising kindergarten students can be registered at any time, but two special dates are scheduled each year to benefit parents who may need the choice for the sake of convenience. Details about [what to bring to registration](https://www.spsk12.net/families/kindergarten_registration) (https://www.spsk12.net/families/kindergarten_registration) can be found on the SPS website. Call the Parent Resource Center at 934-6202 for more information.

There will be a Back-to-School Immunization Clinic at the Suffolk Health Department (135 Hall Avenue, Suffolk) also on Wednesday, May 9. Immunizations will be given on a walk-in basis from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring a copy of your child's immunization record, a parent's picture ID and insurance card if available. If you have a rising sixth-grader, please bring them for their required sixth grade shot (Tdap), along with a copy of your child's immunization record, a parent's picture ID and insurance card if available. For more information, contact the Suffolk Health Department at 514-4783.

KINDERGARTEN VIDEO SERIES ... The start of a school career can be a stressful time for students and parents alike. The Suffolk Early Childhood Development Commission and Suffolk Public Schools have partnered to create a unique tool to help with the transition into kindergarten. The Suffolk Kindergarten Kickoff Video Series was created to prepare children and their parents for that first day of Kindergarten. The series includes ***The Year Before Kindergarten: For Parents***. This video gives practical tips on how to prepare your child for their first day of school. Kindergarten teachers give helpful advice on simple activities to promote math, science, reading, and much more during the year before your child enters school. The series also includes ***A Day in Kindergarten: For Children***. This video will walk children through an entire day of school so they know exactly what to expect on their first day. From getting dropped off at school or riding the bus to leaving in the afternoon, children have a better understanding of the places and people they will encounter on their first day. You can find links to the [kindergarten videos at](http://www.spsk12.net/parents/parent-workshops/) www.spsk12.net/parents/parent-workshops/. For more information, contact Brenda O'Donnell with the Early Childhood Development Commission at 514-7457.

Early Start Pre-Screening Applications Now Available ... The Early Start program is for children who turn 4 years old by September 30, 2018 and who need an extra year to prepare for success in kindergarten. Children must be Suffolk residents. Prescreening applications are available on the Suffolk Public Schools website and in each elementary school. Screenings for both child and parent will take place in June. This screening will allow school officials to select children according to their needs. Appointment cards will be mailed to the home address. Eligibility criteria includes but not limited to these factors: Family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (or below 350% for students with special needs or disabilities), family homelessness, parents/guardians lack high school diploma, and/or language and development assessment of child. Because Early Start classes are not located in each elementary school, school placement will be determined based on Early Start zoning. Transportation is provided. For questions regarding this program, contact Tomika Doleman at (757) 925-6760.

Need money for college? The school division's Scholarship Hub is an online, local resource for high school seniors searching for scholarships. This central site can be searched by criteria, such as career, college major, GPA, and extracurricular activities. You can access [Scholarship Hub](http://www.spsk12.net/community/scholarship-hub/) at www.spsk12.net/community/scholarship-hub/ High school guidance counselors will continue to distribute scholarships including those linked to specific colleges, athletic opportunities and other focused awards, not listed on the Hub. **Share Your Scholarship** – If your community group has a scholarship suitable for Scholarship Hub, please send information by email to bethannebradshaw@spsk12.net. For more information, call the School Administrative Offices at (757) 925-6752.

Mark Your Calendars

Driver Elementary School will host a **Final Farewell Celebration** on Tuesday, May 8 at 6 p.m. on the front lawn of the school. Please join us as we celebrate the history of the school and prepare to say a final farewell. There will be a special cake cutting ceremony at 5:45 p.m. All present and past students, faculty, principals, other staff members, and community are welcomed to join us for our closing celebration. Please RSVP to driverpta@gmail.com.

King's Fork Middle School, as part of their commitment to the community, is sponsoring an event to make a difference in the lives of Suffolk's homeless citizens. On **Wednesday, May 9**, faculty and community members will gather at the school to learn about **Operation Bed Roll: Conserve, Crochet, Care**. Attendees will begin making plarn (plastic yarn). The plarn will then be used to crochet bed rolls, which will be distributed to homeless citizens through various community outreach programs. Anyone interested in this project is welcome to attend the event from 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the King's Fork Middle School cafeteria. If attending, please bring a pair of scissors, plastic grocery bags, and a willingness to help others. This workshop welcomes experienced crocheters but unfortunately will not be able to teach how to crochet at this event. If you plan to crochet, please bring a size Q crochet hook. Written crochet directions will be provided. The essential ingredient to the success of this program is **you!** Bring a friend! For more information, contact the school at 923-5246.

Suffolk Public Schools will sponsor a **Teacher Recruitment Fair** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Saturday, May 19** at King's Fork Middle School. Applicants will have the opportunity to meet school officials from Suffolk Public Schools. Check our [website](#) for updated information or call the Human Resources department at 925-6758.

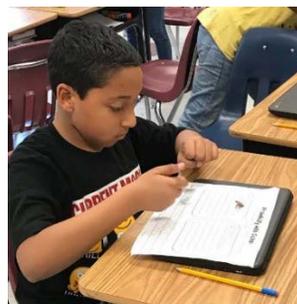
King's Fork High School will hold their **Senior Awards Night** on **Wednesday, May 16 at 6 p.m.** Contact the school at 923-5240 for more information.

Nansemond River High School will hold their **Senior Awards Night** on **Wednesday, May 23 at 6 p.m.** Contact the school at 923-4101 for more information.

Lakeland High School will hold their **Senior Awards Night** on **Wednesday, May 23 at 6 p.m.** Contact the school at 925-5790 for more information.

Hands-On Learning

Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School fourth-graders recently learned about probability. The students completed hands-on lessons including coin flips, spinners, graphing and tallying to help students understand the concept of probability. For more information, contact the school at 934-6224.



Fifth grade students at Pioneer Elementary School recently got creative when making common weather instruments. The students used paper cups, straws and pencils to make anemometers and barometers. When they were finished designing and building their weather instruments, they took them outside and tested them. For more information, contact the school at 925-5782.



Guiding Lights

The J. M. Smucker Company, one of Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School's Partners-In-Education, recently donated 100 snack packs to students at the school. The Snack Pack program offers a supply of nutritious meals and snacks for children to eat over the weekend when they may not otherwise have a meal to eat. This program is free of charge to the students and their families. For more information, contact the school at 934-6224.



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