



SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Dr. John B. Gordon III, Superintendent

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Dear SPS Family:

Suffolk Public Schools is committed to ensuring that our students have a premier learning experience and active participation in extracurricular activities through the Virginia High School League. The school division fully understands the importance of developing well-rounded students who excel both in the classroom and athletics. We also understand that our students' and staff's safety is our priority while balancing the desire for socialization, competition, and overall school involvement.

We are pleased to announce that Suffolk Public Schools will move forward with the Fall Sports season in a revised format. Due to current health metrics in the City of Suffolk and our surrounding localities, Suffolk Public Schools will participate in the Fall Sports season while only competing against each other. The "Suffolk Bubble" will also only allow competition at the Varsity level. While this is an unusual set-up, it does allow for our students to participate in Virginia High School League athletics and activities. Our three high schools of King's Fork, Lakeland, and Nansemond River will compete against each other multiple times in the Fall season. The final competition or game of the season will include the two programs with the best overall record for that particular sport. The winner of this game will be the City Champion. We are in the process of purchasing City Championship Trophies for all of our sports and extracurricular activities. The new tradition of establishing a City Champion will be based on any school or program having swept the other schools or programs in competition. For the Fall Season, the City Championship will replace our participation in regional and state competition.

As a reminder, Football and Competition Cheer will begin on February 8, 2021. Football will play a maximum of four (4) games, and Competition Cheer will have a maximum of three (3) contests. Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, and Volleyball will begin practice on February 15, 2021. Cross Country will have a maximum of six (6) contests, Field Hockey ten (10) contests, Golf eight (8) contests, and Volleyball twelve (12) contests. We are in the process of developing a new schedule for our "Suffolk Bubble" for competition and will release it to the public in the next couple of days. We also have purchased the Pixellot Service that will stream games and competitions. A monthly pass through Pixellot is \$9.99, and an annual pass is \$69.00. This will allow our school community and alumni from all over the country to view our students in action. More information about this system will be distributed by our high schools. We are also currently reviewing options for a limited number of fans for events such as "Senior night" but will begin the Fall season with no fans in the stands.

All participants will be expected to follow all mitigation strategies for participation:

- Completion of Daily Parent Acknowledgement Form
- Temperature Checks upon arrival at school for every player and coach
- Practice Plans to include position or pods to minimize the number of participants for potential quarantine
- Wearing of Mask for appearances and select levels of competition (Cheerleading, Volleyball, Golf)

Suffolk Public Schools will be responsible for the disinfection of equipment, washing of game and practice uniforms, etc. Our Directors of Student Activities and Coaches will further explain practice schedules, potential locker-room usage, etc., in individual meetings with schools and programs. We are also designating transportation hubs throughout the city to transport our student athletes to and from practice. Student-athletes must wear their masks to use Suffolk Public Schools transportation. We will provide a safe level of participation for our students and coaches and ask for full cooperation to complete the Fall Sports Season.

Sincerely,



Dr. John B. Gordon III
Division Superintendent