



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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May 6, 2020

Greeting Governor Morehead School Community,

I hope this communication finds everyone healthy and safe and interested in a few updates. The Governor Morehead School will continue providing remote instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders for all public schools in North Carolina. The decision, while a tough one to make, hopefully, will keep us as safe as possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This mandate has the support of the State Board of Education as well as the Department of Public Instruction while realizing the impact this has on children and families across our state.

The State Board of Education has approved guidance for grading and testing for students in grades K-12 (including seniors) to ensure that no student is negatively impacted by the change to remote learning. More information regarding how these grading policies will be implemented at GMS will be shared with students and parents. The General Assembly also provided directives on school calendars, graduations, resource support giving the schools some flexibility. A plan for Graduation will be developed to consider the health and safety criteria at that time.

Summer Camp will not be scheduled this year as they must operate in full compliance with the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines developed regarding social distancing, disinfecting/sanitation, and personal protective equipment and monitoring the health of students and staff.

We would like to express our appreciation to the staff for serving as education's first responders by maintaining critical connections and nurturing social and emotional well-being amongst students and families. We would also like to thank the families that have joined us giving feedback and sharing successes. We especially enjoy the stories and photo's shared on Facebook.

The Governor Morehead School will continue to play a critical role in response to this public health emergency. Remote work opportunities continue as a viable option and we are encouraging all students and families to take full advantage. We remain forward-focused and will incorporate distance and remote learning opportunities even after we return to campus for times when students are not in school. School leaders are already discussing options and planning for what re-entry in the 2020-21 school year can look like and what resources will be necessary to support our students' academic and social, emotional, and health needs.

Thank you for your ongoing support of GMS students and staff. We will share more information with you as it is developed.

Please keep your families healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbria Bacon".

Barbria Bacon

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Barbria Bacon, *Superintendent* | [barbria.bacon@esdb.dpi.nc.gov](mailto:barbria.bacon@esdb.dpi.nc.gov)

2303 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2303 | (919) 733-6382 | Fax (919) 715-2206

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