

NewsLines

Newport News Public Schools Community Newsletter

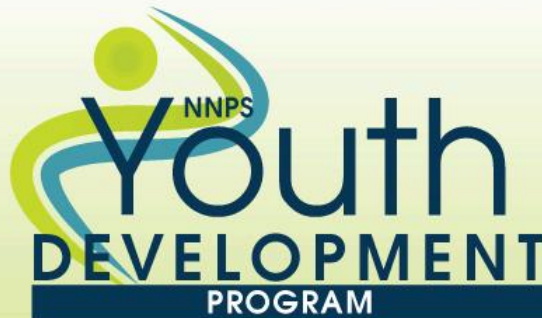


March 2024

2024

Silver Magna Award

NATIONAL WINNER



[Read more and learn why we're NNPS Proud!](#)



Newport News Public Schools has again been selected as a system of top schools by Virginia Living Magazine. The 2024 list appears in the State of Education section of the April edition of the magazine, now on newsstands across the state.

The magazine's editorial staff reviews each institution's curriculum and accomplishments, selecting schools that have implemented programs aimed at strengthening students' experience in the classroom and in their communities.

Newport News Public Schools is recognized for our commitment to college, career, and citizen readiness and notes that our AP courses, dual enrollment, Early College, STEM, CTE and Early Career programs ensure students have viable career and additional educational options. The magazine also noted the school division's award-winning Youth Development Program and service learning initiative.

This is the third year that NNPS has earned this recognition.



The Woodside High Boys Basketball Team earned the 2024 Virginia High School League Class 5 State Championship, securing back-to-back state championship titles.

Woodside Senior Jordyn Anderson captured the 2024 Virginia High School League All Around 126-Pound Girls State Wrestling Championship.



Operating Budget

During its regular meeting on March 19, the School Board approved the Superintendent's Proposed Budget of \$386.6 million. The budget is based in part of the Governor's proposed budget released in December 2023, which includes \$1.7 million increase in state revenue for the school division and an increase of \$3.5 million from the City of Newport News to ensure our employee salaries remain competitive.

The approved budget includes one change that was proposed following its initial release: employees in the NNPS health plan will not experience any premium increases for the 2025 plan year.

The approved budget also includes:

- A 2% general salary increase for all contracted and appointed NNPS employees. In addition, the starting pay for a new teacher with a bachelor's degree will increase from \$52,710 to \$53,000 a year. As funding permits, the budget may provide support staff compression adjustments.
- Funding for the BASE Program (Behavior, Accountability, Supports and Empowerment Program), a new short term intervention program for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade who have engaged in behaviors that impact their academic progress within the general education environment
- Funding to move 18 positions funded by grants that are ending into the operating budget including eight Family and Community Engagement Specialists to ensure support at all elementary and middle schools, and 10 Technology Support Specialists to ensure technology support throughout NNPS (vacant positions and the associated funding will be repurposed to ensure a \$0 increase to the operating budget)
- The proposed operating budget continues to support student attendance initiatives, student social emotional supports, athletics, youth development, employee expertise, building and campus safety, technology, and building operations and maintenance.

School Calendar

The School Board also approved the [2024-2025 school calendar](#). The school year will begin for students on Monday, August 26. The calendar includes a two-week winter break and a one-week spring break. The school year ends for students on Tuesday, June 10.



Archers Advance to National Tournament

NNPS archers aimed high March 9 at the 2024 Virginia National Archery in the Schools Program Bullseye/International Bowhunting Organization 3D State Tournament in Doswell with three teams qualifying for the 2024 NASP Eastern Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky, May 9-11.

The B.C. Charles team earned 3rd place in the bullseye competition and 4th place in the bowhunting 3D competition and will compete at Nationals in both categories. Charles student Landon Coleman placed 2nd overall in the state for males.

Ella Fitzgerald placed 5th in 3D competition to move on to national competition, and the Menchville team took 3rd place in the Bullseye competition and earned a 4th place finish in the 3D competition and will also compete in the Eastern National Tournament. The Monarchs' Sebastian Arsenault placed 3rd place among male competitors.

Students from Denbigh, Woodside and Warwick also competed in the tournament.

Read more and view pictures [here](#).

Student Projects Earn Awards at Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair



Newport News Public Schools students who advanced from this year's [All-City event](#) participated in the Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair on March 10th at the Old Dominion University Webb Center.

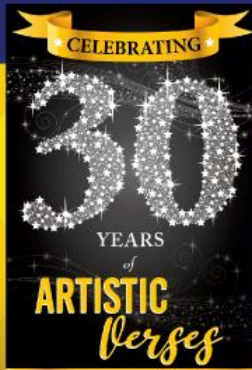
NNPS represented 23 of the 104 projects from the Tidewater Region. NNPS' 28 participating students received a total of 26 awards.

First place winners are eligible to advance to the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair April 13 at ODU Chartway Arena.

Thermo Fisher Outstanding Project Award winners are eligible to compete in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge national competition.

For a complete list of Tidewater Science and Engineering Fair winners, click [here](#).

Student Readings, Awards Cap 30th Annual Artistic Verses at Torggler



Students read from their poetry submissions and place winners were recognized at the Artistic Verses Student Readings and Awards Ceremony the morning of March 9 at the Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center at Christopher Newport University.

This marked the 30th anniversary of Artistic Verses, which is a collaborative partnership between Newport News Public Schools and CNU.

This school year, up to 30 students from each high school had the opportunity to view an art exhibition and engage in a poetry writing workshop with local poet Nathan Richardson. Students wrote original poems inspired by the artwork and submitted them for judging by the NNPS Secondary English Team.

During the event, all students were invited to read their poems, families and attendees were able to view the artwork that inspired the poetry, certificates were presented to all participants and winners were announced.

Congratulations to first place winner Mya Pridgen from Woodside High School; second place winner Arianna Frazier from Achievable Dream High School; and third place winners (tie) Chaniya Painter from Achievable Dream High School and Molly Weisiger from Menchville High School. Honorable mentions went to Dylan Fox of Woodside High School, Massimiliano Ariano of Warwick High School, Raymond Hayes of Heritage High School and Cilyce Hicks of Woodside High School.



NNPS Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to State

Three of our Odyssey of the Mind teams earned top honors in the 2024 Tidewater Regional Tournament held on March 16 and will advance to compete in the state finals on April 16 in Northern Virginia.

Teams from Knollwood Meadows Elementary and Booker T. Washington Middle School earned first place in their problem and division. The team from Warwick High School earned second place and will also advance to the state tournament.

The teams have worked since September to practice spontaneous problems and solve their specific long-term problem. Odyssey of the Mind emphasizes teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, budgeting, time management, public speaking, performance and set design, costume design and building.

Learn more about the winning teams and view pictures [here](#).

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Avid reader who leads by example.

**Martha-Ann • 8th Grade
Hines Middle School**

Learn more about Martha-Ann at nnschools.org/spotlight



Newport News Council PTA Honors PTA Reflections Winners

The Newport News Council PTA recognized the creative works of 15 students who participated in the 2023-2024 National PTA Reflections competition at an awards ceremony March 18 at Kiln Creek Elementary School.

This year's theme was "I am hopeful because ..."

Students participated in the appropriate division for their grade level and submitted their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts.

Kaia Trieshmann Murphy, a second grader at Hilton Elementary School, received Honorable Mention at the state level by the Virginia PTA for her entry in the literature category, primary division.

The National PTA's Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life, according to the organization.

For the complete list of NNPS winners, click [here](#).

On the Calendar

March 29	Students Dismiss Half Day Marking Period 3 Ends
April 1 - 5	Spring Break Schools and Offices Closed National Assistant Principals Week
April 7 - 13	National Library Week
April 8	Schools Closed for Students Full Day of Teacher Planning
April 12	All-City Music Event CNU Ferguson Center, 6 - 8:30 p.m.
April 16	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Administration Building Meeting will be televised live on NNPS-TV on Cox Channel 47 in Newport News, Verizon Fios Channel 17 and online at nnpstv.com , YouTube, Roku and Apple TV.
	Report Cards Issued
April 17	Purple Up Day Wear Purple to Support Military Connected Students
April 20	NNPS Job Fair, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Gildersleeve Middle School
April 22	Earth Day
April 22 - 26	Public School Volunteer Week Administrative Professionals Week
April 23	George Green Field Day, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Todd Stadium
April 24 - 30	National Student Leadership Week

