



**PORTSMOUTH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

SHINING BRIGHTER TOGETHER

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



OUR MISSION

The mission of Portsmouth Public Schools is to engage all students in learning that will foster academic excellence and responsible citizenship.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Looking back at our past school year, there are a few words that immediately come to my mind: *Resilience. Dedication. Perseverance.*

Our students, families and staff members faced more unprecedented challenges - especially those related to navigating the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as trying to define a new sense of normalcy in its wake.

These were no easy tasks. Yet, I am here to tell you that our PPS community rose to meet every one of those challenges.

Throughout the year, students engaged in rigorous and relevant learning while continually being supported by a team of caring and capable professionals focused on helping each child be successful - both in and out of the classroom. Not only did I see that firsthand as I toured through our schools and centers, we also have seen the fruits of that hard work through our students' achievements.

This year, our Class of 2022 earned more than \$11.3 million in scholarships based on merit. From that same graduating class, 306 students graduated with honors and 139 students earned college credit during their time with us as part of our First College Academy. In addition, 27 students graduated with their associate's degree before they officially graduated from high school thanks to their participation in our Early College Academy.

In this report, you can learn about these incredible academies in more detail as well as read about our comprehensive Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum, our award-winning Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings and the goals and objectives for our division as a whole.

As you go through these pages, I hope you, too, can see those same qualities of resilience, dedication and perseverance in our students who take part in these extraordinary opportunities; our families who support them throughout their academic journeys and beyond; and our staff who work to build and enhance our efforts all year long.

I thank you for your continued partnership with our school division. We are fortunate to have an engaged and involved community that works alongside our schools, volunteers with our classes and helps ensure we are all shining brighter together.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elie Bracy, III". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Elie Bracy, III
Superintendent
Portsmouth Public Schools



ABOUT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Portsmouth Public Schools (PPS) is a thriving, urban school division located in the heart of the Hampton Roads region. The division consists of three high schools, three middle schools, 13 elementary schools, three preschools, an alternative education center and an adult education center.

According to the most recent Sept. 30 report, the Portsmouth school division serves 13,517 students with 1,883 employees. 12.3 percent of all PPS students receive special education services.



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- 73.1% African American
- 19.3% Caucasian
- 5.8% multi-racial
- 0.7% Asian
- 0.6% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 0.5% Native Hawaiian or Pacific islander



PPS STAFF FACTS

- Number of employees: 1,883
- Avg. teacher salary: \$59,160.65
- Certified classroom teachers: 878
- Avg. years of professional experience: 12
- Certified staff with master's degrees or above: 49.8%

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



The city of Portsmouth is in close proximity to U.S. military installations, including the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and the U.S. Coast Guard Base Portsmouth.

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Brighton Elem.
1100 Portsmouth Blvd.
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 393-8870

Cradock Elem.
18 Dahlgren Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23702
(757) 558-2811

Park View Elem.
260 Elm Avenue
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 393-8647

Westhaven Elem.
3701 Clifford St.
Portsmouth, VA 23707
(757) 393-8855

Churchland Academy
4061 River Shore Rd.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 686-2527

Douglass Park Elem.
34 Grand St.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 393-8646

Simonsdale Elem.
4841 Clifford St.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 465-2917

Churchland Elem.
5601 Michael Ln.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 686-2523

Hodges Manor Elem.
1201 Cherokee Rd.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 465-2921

Victory Elem.
2828 Greenwood Dr.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 393-8806

Churchland Primary/Int.
5700 Hedgerow Ln.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 686-2519

Lakeview Elem.
1300 Horne Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 465-2901

Waterview Elem.
3649 Hartford St.
Portsmouth, VA 23707
(757) 393-8879

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Churchland Middle
4051 River Shore Rd.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 686-2512

Cradock Middle
21 Alden Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23702
(757) 393-8788

W. E. Waters Middle
600 Roosevelt Blvd.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 558-2813

HIGH SCHOOLS

Churchland High
4301 Cedar Ln.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 686-2500

I.C. Norcom High
1801 London Blvd.
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 393-5442

Manor High
1401 Elmhurst Ln.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 465-2907

PRESCHOOL CENTERS

Churchland Pre-K
4061 River Shore Rd.
Portsmouth, VA 23703
(757) 686-2533

Mount Hermon Pre-K
3000 North St.
Portsmouth, VA 23707
(757) 393-8825

Olive Branch Pre-K
415 Mimosa Rd.
Portsmouth, VA 23701
(757) 465-2926

ALTERNATIVE CENTERS

Adult Education
2801 Turnpike Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23707
(757) 393-8822

New Directions Center
401 West Rd.
Portsmouth, VA 23707
(757) 393-8728



STEM LEARNING IN PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth Public Schools has emerged a leader in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) instruction not only in Hampton Roads, but in the entire nation. In recent years, superintendents and school district leaders from throughout the country came to learn how Portsmouth promotes STEM instruction for all students, thanks to the division's partnership with JASON Learning.

In addition, AASA, the School Superintendents Association, published a case study highlighting PPS and its effective STEM programming for other school divisions to use as a model.

What makes PPS truly unique is how the division is leading students and community partners towards equity using STEM instruction. PPS emphasizes the power of students' creativity, ingenuity and 21st century habits of mind.

Learners are currently involved in robotics, health sciences, drones, and digital shipbuilding problem-based learning modules.



HOW WE DO IT

The Portsmouth STEM curriculum utilizes **The Five E's model**:

Engage: Ensuring that all students understand the "compelling why" of what they are learning and how it connects to themselves and the world beyond the classroom

Explore: Providing extensive opportunities for students to engage in experience-based research, hypothesis testing, decision making, and problem solving

Explain: Requiring students to frame hypotheses, claims, or thesis statements and use investigations to collect and analyze evidence to support them

Elaborate: Encouraging all learners to explain, interpret, analyze, and create STEM-related issues, products, and performances using evidence generated through real-world explorations and investigations

Evaluate: Reinforcing students' critical thinking skills, ensuring that they are informed consumers of information who use criterion-based performance criteria to evaluate their own work processes and products as well as those of peers and professionals in the STEM field



INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Portsmouth also ensures STEM is for everyone. The division brings all students in grades 4-6 to the division's STARBASE Victory STEM Center for four days of STEM instruction each year.

During their time at STARBASE Victory, students are immersed in hands-on, real-world learning such as programming sphero rovers, exploring the local Elizabeth River watershed and using Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) software to build maps.



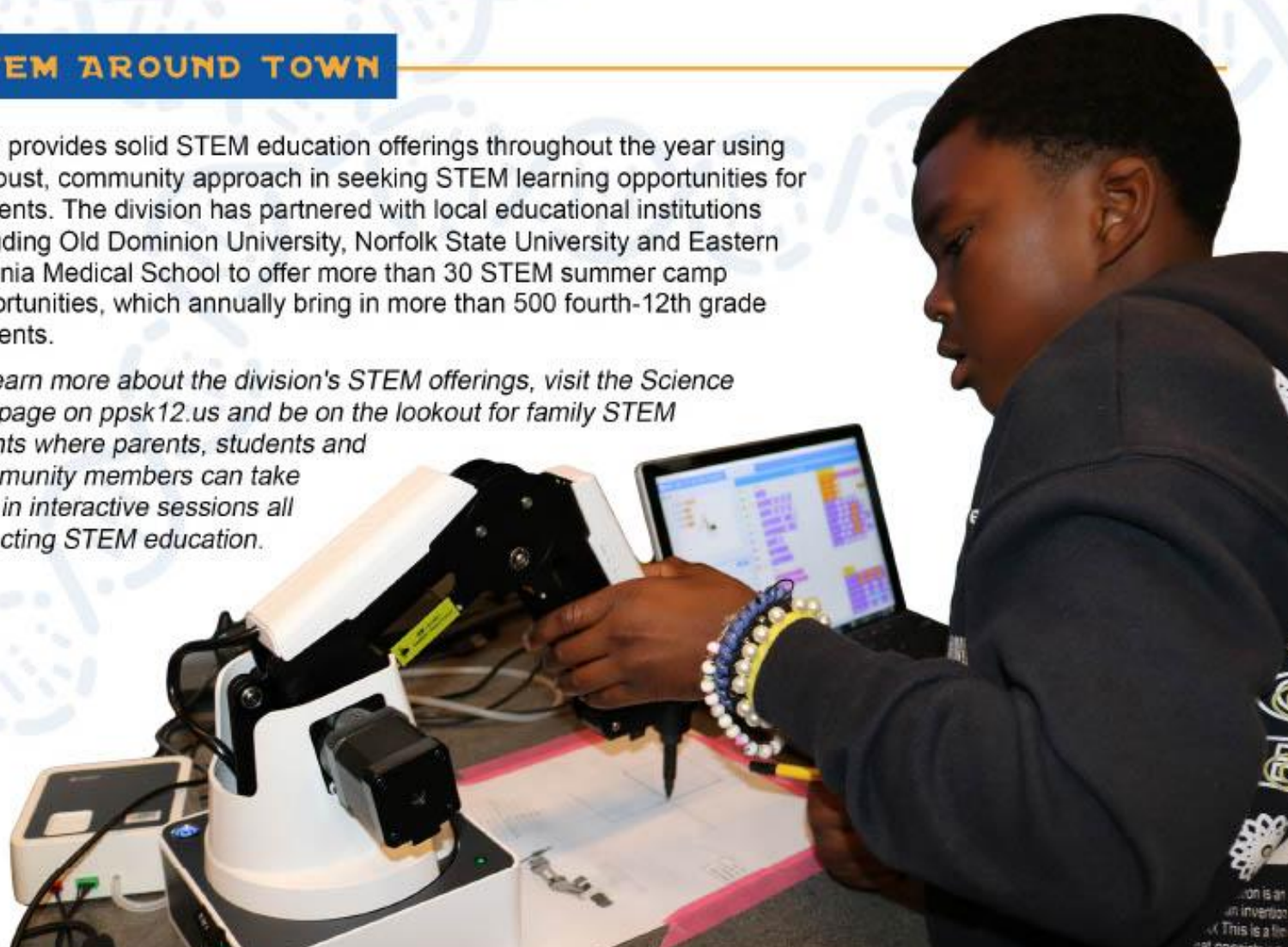
Approximately 3,000 total students take part in an aspect of STARBASE each year (1,000 each year are new to the program). Over the course of its 18-year history, this program has given STEM instruction to more than 15,000 students.

In addition to STARBASE, throughout the year, division STEM staff visits each elementary school's fourth-grade classrooms as part of STEM Outreach to help reinforce STEM learning opportunities with students.

STEM AROUND TOWN

PPS provides solid STEM education offerings throughout the year using a robust, community approach in seeking STEM learning opportunities for students. The division has partnered with local educational institutions including Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University and Eastern Virginia Medical School to offer more than 30 STEM summer camp opportunities, which annually bring in more than 500 fourth-12th grade students.

To learn more about the division's STEM offerings, visit the Science webpage on ppsk12.us and be on the lookout for family STEM events where parents, students and community members can take part in interactive sessions all reflecting STEM education.



FROM THE CLASSROOM

For hundreds of students in Portsmouth Public Schools, their classes are not held in a typical classroom that one would normally find in a traditional high school. Instead, their classrooms are clinics, garages, hospitals, salons and television studios.

Through the division's robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, high school students can get an early start on their dream careers by getting access to the skills and instructions needed to excel in those career pathways.

For example, students in the nursing program learn how to assist physicians and therapists in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes through hands-on clinical experiences. In the Television and Media Production course, students utilize an in-house, three-set studio, complete with its own custom audio and lighting systems.

Students not only earn high school credit for completing these courses, but they also earn sought after industry credentials. An industry credential is used by industries for hiring, retaining or promoting staff.

The CTE program is a crucial part of the division's support of student learning. As part of the PPS strategic plan, *Expedition 2025: Purpose. Promise. Success.*, five main goals are outlined for Portsmouth Public Schools - the first one being to provide educational opportunities to ensure all students achieve high academic growth. The first objective under that goal is that PPS graduates will be college and career ready.

CTE courses help ensure students are successful after graduation and can either directly enter the workforce or they can seek the appropriate educational opportunities to help further their career goals.



Learning that works for Virginia

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

To build the CTE program, school division staff works closely with the community to learn what workforce needs there are and where skilled workers could thrive. Staff has committed to build programs where students could go directly to work and be successful.

In fact, the division has a CTE Advisory Board made of local business and community professionals, teachers, students, administrators and parents.

The purpose of the advisory committee is to support educators, students and businesses in developing, establishing and evaluating CTE programs to ensure students are well prepared for the workforce. From this collective work, PPS has a robust CTE program for students.

CTE SIGNING DAY

Mirrored after the National Signing Day, an event held each April to celebrate a student-athlete's commitment to attend the college of their choice on an athletic scholarship, the Career and Technical Education Signing Day honors the students who have already secured jobs in their desired field based on the education and training received in PPS.

At the Signing Day, students are joined by their future employers as they make official their post-graduation plans. Also during the event, students throughout the division who earned an industry credential while in school are recognized.

WHICH PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

All three high school campuses offer courses and pathways in careers.

Those CTE programs are:

- Auto CAD
- Barbering
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Cybersecurity
- Early Childhood Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Horticulture
- Nail Tech
- Nursing
- Pharmacy Tech
- Public Safety
- Sports Medicine
- Television & Media Production
- Welding





COLLEGE STARTS NOW

For students in Portsmouth Public Schools, their college careers can begin right away. Through the division's ongoing partnership with the Tidewater Community College (TCC) Portsmouth campus, students can take advantage of several opportunities to work on their high school diploma while also earning college credit.

EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

Beginning with students in their freshman year of high school, a dual enrollment program is available where students take courses both at their home school as well as the TCC Portsmouth campus. In order to apply for the program, students must have successfully earned at least three high school credits coming into their freshman year.

If students complete the program in their years of high school, they can graduate with one of the following:

- Associate of Science Degree in Social Sciences;
- Associate of Science Degree in General Studies; or
- Associate of Science Degree in Science.

FIRST COLLEGE SCHOLARS GRADUATE ACADEMY

Students at any time in their high school careers can join the First College Scholars Graduate Academy. They must show success in their high school coursework and pass TCC's placement test. If the test is passed, students can begin taking courses at TCC and can earn roughly 30 college credits during their high school years.



FIRST COLLEGE ACADEMY

In students' junior year, they have the opportunity to take a placement test to gauge their readiness to begin taking college classes their senior year. If they successfully pass the placement test and they have no more than four courses left in order to graduate, students can take part in the First College Academy – better known as First College.

In First College, students spend their last semester of their senior year on the TCC Portsmouth campus, earning at least 18 college credit hours.

Students meet with school counseling staff from both their home schools and TCC in order to find the courses that are of most interest and best use for them in their academic and career goals. For example, students are often encouraged to research their college of choice and see what courses align with their desired major in order to ensure the classes they take at TCC are easily transferrable to that college and/or program.

FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS



This year, 27 PPS seniors earned their associate's degree from TCC while still in high school.



EXPEDITION 2025: PURPOSE • PROMISE • SUCCESS

To help guide the division in its future work, Portsmouth Public Schools administration and staff met with city and community leaders to help formulate and outline the key goal areas for the division. These conversations and meetings led to the development of the division's five-year strategic plan, *Expedition 2025: Purpose. Promise. Success.*

The 2019-2020 school year was the first year under the new strategic plan. Updates on the work accomplished under this plan will be reported annually to the School Board and on the division's website, www.ppsk12.us.

This plan outlines five goal areas for PPS, with specific objectives and action steps to ensure the division meets its goals.

Goal 1: Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Provide educational opportunities to ensure all students achieve high academic growth

- **Objective 1.1** - Provide all students with opportunities to graduate with skills to be College and Career Ready
- **Objective 1.2** - Prepare all instructional personnel with the knowledge and skill to implement highly effective, research-based curriculum, instructional and assessment practices
- **Objective 1.3** - Provide equitable opportunities using the curriculum and related programs to support and challenge all students



Goal 2: Social-Emotional Development

Strengthen practices and policies focused on social-emotional development and wellness of all students

- **Objective 2.1** - Implement social-emotional learning lessons and strategies to support all students
- **Objective 2.2** - Provide learning environments that foster inclusivity and connectedness and encourage social and emotional wellness for all



📍 Goal 3: High-Quality Personnel

Recruit, retain, and develop highly-qualified personnel to support student learning and employee engagement

- **Objective 3.1** - Provide a competitive compensation package comparable to other school districts in the state of similar size and resources
- **Objective 3.2** - Strengthen the teacher and leader recruitment pipeline
- **Objective 3.3** - Provide research-based and differentiated professional learning opportunities aligned to the district's strategic plan and school improvement plans
- **Objective 3.4** - Provide ongoing support for new teachers and administrators through a comprehensive induction plan

📍 Goal 4: Family and Community Engagement

Build and strengthen school, family, and community perceptions, relationships, and involvement for student success

- **Objective 4.1** - Partner with families to strengthen understanding of academic standards, student progress, social-emotional development support and the importance of teachers and families working together
- **Objective 4.2** - Identify and implement practices to increase positive perception of schools among families and community members



📍 Goal 5: Finance and Operations

Align financial practices and decision-making to provide financial stability aligned with fiscally responsible decision-making to provide high-quality school facilities for all students and communities

- **Objective 5.1** - Align financial management with best practices as identified by industry standards and PPS regulations
- **Objective 5.2** - Financial processes will consist of internal and external reviews that included the beginning of year and end-of-year budgets aligned to the strategic plan
- **Objective 5.3** - School facilities will be safe and inviting places for students, families, staff, and the community



PORTSMOUTH CITY SCHOOL BOARD



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The mission of the Portsmouth Public School Board is to challenge the minds, challenge the bodies, and challenge the dreams of all students while focusing on excellence.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

Follow us on social media and share your posts with us using *#PPSShines*



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@PortsVASchools



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NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY FOR PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Portsmouth Public Schools provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetics.

PPS complies with applicable federal, state, and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment. This applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfers, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.

Produced by the Department of Communications
For further information, please call (757) 393-8751

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