



# VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## CHARTING THE COURSE

Graduation 2019

Dear Parents or Guardians of Graduating Seniors:

Graduation marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and commitment, not only by students but also by parents, teachers, administrators, and school support staff. Congratulations to you for helping your child reach this momentous milestone.

The commencement ceremony at the Virginia Beach Convention Center will be both a joyous and a solemn occasion. We call upon you to help make the ceremony one that will be remembered with pride and a sense of accomplishment by all who attend.

Because safety is always uppermost in our minds, precautionary measures will be in place at the Virginia Beach Convention Center to ensure the ceremony is as safe and free from disruption as possible. After much discussion by the Virginia Beach Convention Center administration and public safety officials, precautions will include the following:

- Gifts (boxes), camera bags, large objects, containers, noisemakers, balloons, and signs are not permitted; items brought into the Virginia Beach Convention Center are subject to inspection.
- The Virginia Beach Convention Center will be locked and searched before and between graduation ceremonies.
- Some access doors may be restricted to the public.
- All attendees are subject to metal detector inspection.
- Appropriate attire is requested.

Since attendees are subject to metal detector inspection, we must warn you that you should have no illegal materials, weapons of any kind or substances on your person when you attempt to enter the Virginia Beach Convention Center. In addition, you should make no jokes to officers who are conducting the inspections. Please talk with your child who is graduating and other guests attending with you since they, too, will be subject to the same scrutiny. As in the past concerning these issues, you, your graduating child, or guest will be asked to leave if he or she violates any of these restrictions.

Finally, due to the construction and road work currently taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> Street and the areas surrounding the Virginia Beach Convention Center, please know additional information regarding suggested arrival times and parking will be communicated both centrally and by specific schools in the weeks preceding graduation.

We thank you for your patience, understanding, and support of the safety measures outlined, helping to make graduation a safe and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Robertson, Jr., Ph. D.  
Chief Schools Officer  
School Leadership

Jack Freeman  
Chief Operations Officer  
School Division Services