



Next Step to Success Weekly Update

Message from our Executive Director



James Harris

Happy New Year to our students, families, staff, and community partners! As we begin Week 18 and step into a new year, we are filled with excitement, gratitude, and renewed energy for what lies ahead at Next Step to Success.

We are thrilled to welcome our community partner Together We Can to our campus. Their presence and commitment to supporting our youth adds another layer of care, mentorship, and opportunity for our students. Partnerships like this strengthen our ability to meet students where they are and provide the academic, social, and personal supports they need to thrive.

As we move forward in 2026, please stay tuned for updates on additional community partners who are taking the “next step” with us. These

collaborations will continue to increase the rigor of our programming while expanding the supports available to our amazing Norfolk students.

Thank you for starting the new year with us. We look forward to continued growth, strong partnerships, and even greater impact in the months ahead.

James Harris, Executive Director



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Introducing our Student of the Week



Moriaah

This week, we're excited to highlight Moriaah Vines, a 9th-grade student who has been part of the Next Step to Success family for two years. Known for her creativity, growing confidence, and great sense of style, Moriaah brings humor, heart, and artistic talent into every space she enters. Get to know more about what inspires her, what she's working toward, and what success means to her below!

1. What is your name and grade? **Moriaah, 9th**

2. How long have you been a part of Next Step to Success? **2 years**
3. What do you like most about coming to NSTS? **Seeing my friends**
4. What is one goal you're working on right now? **Trying to be more energetic**
5. Who inspires you the most, and why? **Coach Allicen – She has a great personality and reminds me of me.**
6. What is your favorite subject in school? **Art**
7. What activities or hobbies do you enjoy outside of school? **Art, sketching and singing**
8. What's your favorite book, movie, or song right now? **Book Harry Potter, Fav Song Try Again , Movie Avatar**
9. What does success mean to you? **To focus on something you want to do in life... For your future...**
10. If you could give advice to another student, what would it be? **Always try your best and put effort into everything you do.**
11. What do you see yourself doing in the future (career, dreams, or big goals)? **I want to be a housewife...**
12. Share a fun fact about yourself most people don't know! **I can make animal sounds.**
13. Is there someone at NSTS (staff or peer) who has made a big difference for you? **Tenaiah – She make me laugh**
14. If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be? **Funny, cool and fashionable**
15. What makes you proud of yourself this week? **I'm more confident**

Moriaah's creativity, confidence, and positive energy continue to grow, and we're proud to watch her step into her strengths each week. Her willingness to try her best, stay true to herself, and support those around her is exactly what Next Step to Success is all about. We can't wait to see where her talents and confidence take her next!

NSTS Leadership Insights



Education Update

Dear NSTS Families,

I am excited to announce a new partnership between Next Step To Success and TCC's Apprenticeship Program, through which we will be offering a certification in Food Service Management. Youth who enroll in this program will be dually enrolled with both NSTS and TCC while continuing to maintain their regular academic curriculum with NPS. This opportunity allows students to gain valuable career skills, earn an industry-recognized certification, and explore workforce pathways while remaining on track academically.

As a reminder, grades will officially close on the 14th, and report cards should be sent home shortly thereafter. Once report cards are received, I will need a copy for our records, so please be sure to submit a copy to NSTS as soon as possible. We encourage families to review academic progress with their students and reach out with any questions or concerns as we prepare for the next grading period. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's educational journey.



Programming Update

We were excited to welcome our youth back to Next Step to Success this week! They returned on Monday with so much energy and excitement, ready to jump right back in. Throughout the

Operations Update

Parking Lot Update

Great news! Our parking lot repaving is complete and will be open beginning Monday, January 12, 2026. Thank you for your patience during this improvement,

week, youth participated in New Year vision board activities and goal setting groups, setting a positive tone for the months ahead. We didn't miss a beat as basketball and karate continued seamlessly, as if we never took a break. Our middle schoolers also had the opportunity to give back by volunteering at a local preschool, where they led small group activities and had a wonderful time connecting with the younger students.

The first week back was truly fantastic, and we can't wait to see all the great things our youth will accomplish in this new year!

we're excited to welcome families back to the updated space.

Action Needed: Verify Youth Information

To ensure we have accurate records, please log into TraxSolutions and confirm or update the following information for your youth:

- Youth Name
- Youth Address
- Parent/Guardian Phone Number
- Youth School
- Youth Grade
- Parent/Guardian Email Address

Accurate information helps us communicate effectively and keep everyone safe.

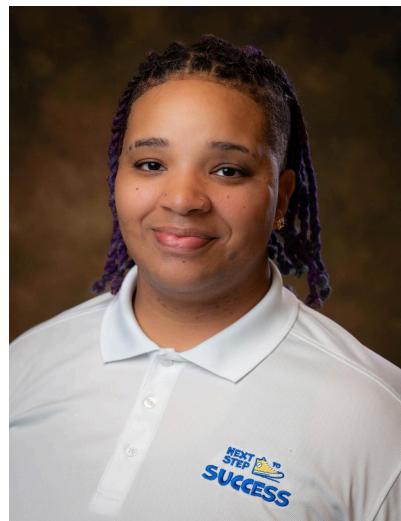
Save the Dates

- Friday, January 16, 2026 – NPS Teacher Workday (No Youth Day)
- Monday, January 19, 2026 – MLK Day (NSTS Closed)
- Wednesday, January 28, 2026 – Family Resource Night





Culinary Corner



From the Coordinator of Culinary Arts

Hey NSTS Family & Team! 🙌✨

Get readyyyy — because next week's menu is bringing **comfort, flavor, and BIG smiles** 😊🙌. The kitchen is buzzing, the youth are learning, and the plates are about to be FULL!

Here's what we're serving up next week 🤝🍽️

👉 **Monday:** Chili Cheese Fries – loaded, cheesy, and a guaranteed hit

👉 **Tuesday:** Chicken Elote Bowls with Cilantro Lime Rice – fresh, flavorful, and full of vibes

👉 **Wednesday:** Wings & Wedges – crispy, seasoned, and always a favorite

👉 **Thursday:** Lasagna – classic comfort, baked with love

👉 **Friday:** Chicken & Waffles – sweet, savory, and the perfect way to end the week

As always, these meals are more than food — they're part of our youth learning kitchen skills, teamwork, confidence, and responsibility ❤️💛. Thank you for rocking with us and supporting the journey week after week!

Let's get ready for another delicious, successful week at NSTS! 🔥

With love & flavor,

Brittany "Chef B" Brown

Upcoming Events & Community Updates



Join Us for the
Next Step to Success
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Wednesday, January 28 | 10:00 AM
More information to follow!

Leave Your Mark. Build Their Future.
Buy a Legacy Brick for the St. Vincent de Paul House.

Your brick isn't just engraved—it becomes part of a story. A story of hope, community, and the belief that every young person deserves a strong foundation. Whether you're honoring someone special, celebrating your family name, or spotlighting your business, your personalized brick will live permanently on the new St. Vincent de Paul House campus. Every brick supports the growth of Next Step to Success youth programs, turning your contribution into real opportunities for Norfolk's young people. It's a simple way to leave a legacy—and an unforgettable impact.

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