



## *Next Step to Success Weekly Update*



### A Message from our Executive Director



Dear NSTS Families,

As we close out another school year, the NSTS Team and I want to take a moment to thank you for a wonderful year. We are so grateful for your continued trust, support, and partnership. We also have a little extra reason to celebrate — our staff pulled off a nail-

biter overtime win in this year's Staff vs. Youth Basketball Game, taking the victory 61-59! It was a fun reminder of the energy, teamwork, and joy our youth and staff bring to NSTS each day.

It has been a joy to watch your children grow, build confidence, form friendships, and take steps toward becoming strong, independent, and resilient young people. This year brought many moments worth celebrating — including our ribbon cutting ceremony in January, where we gathered with families, partners, staff, and community supporters to celebrate NSTS's new temporary home. That day was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and our shared commitment to creating a safe, supportive space for our youth.

We are also incredibly thankful for the many community partners and supporters who have shown up for NSTS throughout the year. Whether you visited our program, donated your time or resources, or purchased a brick for our future home, your generosity has helped move our mission forward. Every act of support — big or small — makes a meaningful difference.

As we look ahead, we are so excited for Summer Program and all of the adventures to come — field trips, new experiences, and more opportunities for our youth to learn, explore, and enjoy time together.

Thank you again for allowing us to be part of your children's journey. We wish you and your family a safe, restful, and joyful summer. We can't wait for the fun ahead!

James Harris  
Executive Director

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## Summer Program 2026: Get Ready for a Season of Fun!

Summer Program is right around the corner, and we are looking forward to a season filled with fun, learning, growth, and new adventures! NSTS Summer Program will provide youth with opportunities to connect with friends, participate in exciting activities, enjoy field trips, and continue building positive skills throughout the summer. Please check out the flyer below for important details, including program dates, hours, location, transportation, registration, and contact information.

# NEXT STEP TO SUCCESS

Building Brighter Futures, One Step at a Time!

## SUMMER PROGRAM 2026

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



#### 1 WHEN WILL THE SUMMER PROGRAM BEGIN?

Summer Program begins on **Monday, June 15, 2026** and ends **Friday, August 7, 2026**.



#### 6 WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Our program is open to youth ages **13–18** (18 still in High School) who are primary residents of Norfolk.



#### 2 WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM HOURS?

Monday – Friday  
**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
*(Hours may vary slightly for offsite activities.)*



#### 7 WHAT SHOULD MY YOUTH BRING?

A backpack, water bottle, healthy lunch (if not provided), comfortable clothes, and a positive attitude!



#### 3 WHERE WILL THE PROGRAM BE HELD?

Our primary location is **3401 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23509**.



#### 8 IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED?

Yes! Our Success Coaches will begin picking up youth in the morning beginning at **8:00 AM** and dropping off youth at the end of the day beginning at **3:00 PM**.



#### 4 WHAT'S THE COST OF THE PROGRAM?

The program is **FREE** for all youth ages 13–18 (18 still in High School and primary residents of Norfolk).



#### 9 HOW WILL I STAY INFORMED?

Updates will be provided via email, text messages, phone calls, flyers, and our website. Please make sure we have your current contact information!



#### 5 HOW DO I REGISTER?

To apply, please visit **[www.nextsteptosuccess.org](http://www.nextsteptosuccess.org)** and click on "Apply Now".



#### 10 WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Call **(757) 995-2111** or email **[info@nextsteptosuccess.org](mailto:info@nextsteptosuccess.org)**.



Learn. Grow. Lead. Succeed! ♥

Next Step To Success  
3401 Tidewater Drive  
Norfolk, VA 23509

[www.nextsteptosuccess.org](http://www.nextsteptosuccess.org)

FOLLOW US!



## NSTS Leadership Insights



## Carly Gelles Director of Education

Happy Last Day of School, Next Step Families!

Today is a day to celebrate! We are so proud of every student for the hard work, growth, resilience, and determination they have shown throughout this school year. From academic achievements to personal growth, this year has been full of milestones, and we are grateful to have been part of each student's journey.

As we close out the school year, we also want to give a very special shoutout to our graduating seniors as they officially become Next Step to Success alumni! We are incredibly proud of the paths they are preparing to take next and cannot wait to see all they accomplish.

### 🎓 Senior Shoutouts 🎓

- Taylor Bennett — Attending TCC to study Social Work
- Khamari — Attending ODU
- Lemorn — Pursuing the Navy / Job Corps
- Jamir — Attending Batten University
- Isreal — Joining the TCC Apprenticeship Program
- Christopher — Pursuing Job Corps or TCC EMT Program
- Madison — Attending Batten University

Please join us in congratulating these amazing young people as they begin their next chapter!

For families whose students are enrolled in summer school, please reach out to me directly so we can ensure your child has the support, transportation information, resources, and encouragement they need throughout the summer. We want to stay connected and continue supporting their success.

Thank you all for your continued trust, partnership, and support this school year. We hope your family has a safe, restful, and joyful summer — and we look forward to everything next year will bring!

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**Kaelyn Hundley**  
**Director of Programming**

Dear NSTS Families and Community,

As we wrap up another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to say thank you. This year has been filled with growth, connection, creativity, and so many meaningful experiences for our youth. None of it would be possible without the support of our families, staff, volunteers, and community partners who continue to show up for NSTS in such powerful ways.

We are especially grateful for the many partners who helped enrich our programming this year, including martial arts, Gamers & Gods, boxing, Together We Can, The Hermitage, Vital Pivots, the Chrysler Museum, and so many others. Each visit, workshop, activity, and shared experience gave our youth new opportunities to learn, explore, build confidence, and discover new interests.

Thank you to everyone who poured time, energy, resources, and encouragement into our students this year. Your support helps create a safe, positive, and inspiring space where our youth can grow into strong, capable, and resilient young people.

We are so thankful for a wonderful year and look forward to even more learning, leadership, and fun ahead!

With gratitude,  
Kaelyn

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**From DePaul's Legacy to the Next Generation's Future**

# WERE YOU BORN AT DEPAUL HOSPITAL?

Your story started here. Now, help write the next chapter.

Then






Our Future



From a Legacy of *care...* To where *futures* are built.

 **HONOR THE PAST.  
INVEST IN THE FUTURE.**

Purchase a commemorative brick and be part of transforming the historic DePaul Hospital site into the future home of Next Step to Success.

-  Leave a Lasting Legacy
-  Honor a Loved One or Family
-  Support Norfolk's Youth



SCAN TO  
**BUY YOUR  
BRICK  
Today!**



**NEXT STEP**  **TO SUCCESS**

 **St. Vincent de Paul House**  
Future Home of Next Step to Success

## Were You Born at the Historic DePaul Hospital?

For generations, DePaul Hospital was more than a building. It was where families began, where first breaths were taken, and where lifelong stories started.

If you or someone you love has a connection to DePaul, this is your opportunity to honor that legacy in a meaningful and lasting way. Next Step to Success is proud to carry that history forward as we transform this historic space into a place where young people can grow, learn, and build their futures. By purchasing a commemorative brick, you become a permanent part of this next chapter — celebrating the past while investing in the future of Norfolk's youth.

Each brick tells a story. Each name becomes part of the foundation.

**Honor your DePaul story. Invest in their future. Purchase your commemorative brick today.**

[Buy a Brick](#)

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Next Step To Success | 3401 Tidewater Dr. | Norfolk,  
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