



#115-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #115-21**

DATE: April 30, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Teacher Appreciation Week in Virginia May 3-7, 2021**

On behalf of the Virginia Board of Education and the Department of Education, I am pleased to announce that [Governor Ralph S. Northam designated May 3-7 as Teacher Appreciation Week in the Commonwealth of Virginia](#), coinciding with National Teacher Appreciation Week. I hope that you and others throughout your community will join me in acknowledging the commitment, enthusiasm, caring, professionalism and compassion our teachers extend to their students every day. During this past year, teachers across Virginia have risen to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and provided unwavering support to their students in all of the Commonwealth's 132 school divisions.

Teachers are vital to the growth and development of our children and to the future of our Commonwealth. The Department of Education will be sharing #ThankaTeacherVA messages during the week, in support of the national celebration. The **Thank a Teacher** campaign, sponsored by the Virginia Lottery in partnership with Virginia Tourism Corporation and the Virginia Parent Teacher Association (PTA), has thank-you notes featuring artwork by three Virginia public school students. Contact Jacqueline Severance at the Virginia Lottery (jseverance@valottery.com) to have printed notecards sent to you or go to [ThankaTeacherVA](#) to fill out a digital thank-you note or learn more information about the campaign.

Each year, we encourage students, parents and the general public to send thank-you notes to Virginia's deserving public school teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week. These note cards not only express your gratitude for all that teachers do, but also provide them a chance to win a fantastic Virginia-themed vacation and \$5,000 in supplies for their school. We hope you join our partners, parents, and students to send messages of appreciation to public school teachers across the Commonwealth during this special week. In addition, I hope you and everyone in your community will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week by planning special events and taking some time to **#ThankaTeacherVA**.

For more information

For additional information, please contact Ken Blackstone, Executive Director of Communications, at Ken.Blackstone@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2543.

JFL/KB