



# MACK BENN, JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1253 Nansemond Parkway, Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Phone: (757) 934-6224 Fax: (757) 925-5644



**Mr. Garrick Rhoads  
Taylor**  
*Principal*

**Dr.. Shalise**  
*Assistant Principal*

Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary Parents and Students,

We hope everyone has remained healthy and safe over the course of this summer. We have truly missed our students and while most of us won't be back face to face just yet, we are excited to interact with students and to provide virtual instruction until we are cleared to return to the school building.

We have been working hard over the course of the summer to prepare for online learning. While we can't wait to begin instruction in the classroom again, I assure you we will do everything we can to make sure each student gets the best online instruction possible as we enter the virtual learning portion of our school year.

While we are in our virtual learning, our focus will be on language arts and math, but we will also incorporate history and science content via choice boards and activities students can do at home and on their Chromebooks. Your child's teacher will host daily online classes Monday through Thursday and will be available for individual phone conferences and communication on Fridays. In addition, you may contact any one of the Mack Benn, Jr. Administrative Team via email or by calling the school any time you have a question or if you need assistance with technology or resources and supplies.

Due to restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic, we will not be able to host an in-person open house as we would during a normal school year. Hopefully you were able to check out our Virtual Orientation, but a link is provided below if you would like to check it out! It can also be accessed via our school website, [mbes.spsk12.net](http://mbes.spsk12.net).

[Welcome Back to the 2020-2021 School Year!!](#)

We look forward to partnering with you and with our staff to ensure your children are getting the best possible education during this most difficult time.

The administrative team is here for you if you need anything or if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach us via the email addresses below and you are also welcome to schedule a time to meet with us by calling the front office at 757-934-6224.

### Administrative Team

Principal - Garrick Rhoads - [garrickrhoads@spsk12.net](mailto:garrickrhoads@spsk12.net)

Assistant Principal - Dr. Shalise Taylor - [shalisetaylor@spsk12.net](mailto:shalisetaylor@spsk12.net)

Dean of Students - Melissa Zawodny - [melissazawodny@spsk12.net](mailto:melissazawodny@spsk12.net)

School Counselor - Kandace Taylor-Tysinger - [kandacetaylor-tysinger@spsk12.net](mailto:kandacetaylor-tysinger@spsk12.net)

Academic Coach - Paula Ridenhour - [paularidenhour@spsk12.net](mailto:paularidenhour@spsk12.net)

We are here for you during this most trying time for all of us. Please know that, as always, we have your child's best interests at heart and we value the opportunity to partner with you to make this a positive educational experience.

Most Sincerely,

Garrick Rhoads  
Principal