



Next Step to Success Weekly Update

Message from our Executive Director



James Harris

As we move into Week 11, I'm proud to highlight the incredible work of our Student Ambassadors. This group of emerging leaders has truly stepped into their roles with confidence, professionalism, and pride. Each week, they greet visitors, guide guest tours, and represent Next Step to Success with an energy that reflects the heart of our program. Their ability to speak about their experiences—and showcase the growth happening here—has made a powerful impression on every guest who walks through our doors.

This week, our ambassadors will begin creating spotlight videos, sharing who they are, why they chose to lead, and what NSTS means to them personally. These stories will give our community an authentic look at the impact of NSTS through the voices of the students themselves.

The ambassador program is not only strengthening leadership and

communication skills but also building a culture of pride and ownership among our youth. We are excited to watch these young leaders continue to grow and inspire their peers.

James Harris - Executive Director



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Student Spotlight: Shyyahri

This week, our student spotlight is Cessiah, an 11th grader at Granby High School.

1. What is your name, School and grade? **Shyyahri, Granby High, 11th Grade**
2. How long have you been a part of Next Step to Success? **Since 8th grade**
3. What do you like most about coming to NSTS? **The experience, meeting new people, and trying new things**
4. What is one goal you're working on right now? **Getting my grades up,**

graduating, and getting accepted into a good university

5. Who inspires you the most, and why? **My mom, she is a hard working woman who helps other people. I want to be like her.**

6. What is your favorite subject in school? **Earth Science**

7. What activities or hobbies do you enjoy outside of school? **Traveling**

8. What's your favorite book, movie, or song right now? **Movie - Forrest Gump**

9. If you could give advice to another student, what would it be? **Focus on moving forward - with your dreams and getting into the right place.**

10. What do you see yourself doing in the future (career, dreams, or big goals)?

Working as a Psychologist

11. Share a fun fact about yourself most people don't know! **I like musicals**

12. Is there someone at NSTS (staff or peer) who has made a big difference for you? **Coach Brittany**

13. If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be? **Goofy, Open-minded, and Talkative**

14. What makes you proud of yourself this week? **I passed a very important SOL! (Standard of Learning)**

We're so proud of the example Shyyahri sets for their fellow Success Stories!

From the Director of Education



As we continue supporting our students' academic growth, I want to remind families that financial aid applications are now open. If you or your student would like assistance with completing financial aid forms, exploring scholarship opportunities, or navigating the CommonApp in preparation for college applications, please feel free to contact me - I am here to help.

We are also in the process of reviewing student grades, and individualized academic support will be offered to those who may benefit from additional tutoring or targeted intervention. Additionally, we are actively seeking tutors and volunteers to support students in our Homework Hub. If you're interested in contributing your time and skills, we would love to have you join us.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our youth thrive!





This week at Next Step to Success, our youth engaged in activities focused on growth, confidence, and community.

- We want to recognize Coach Whitley, who joins us every Tuesday and Thursday to help our youth enhance their basketball skills while reinforcing discipline and teamwork on and off the court. His dedication continues to make a positive impact.
- Our groups also worked on hygiene bags to take home and participated in confidence-building projects, including creating sidewalk chalk messages and decorating positivity jars filled with affirmations.
- This week, our youth also experienced a martial arts demonstration, introducing them to new skills and disciplines. We are excited about the potential for a future partnership in this area.
- Holiday decorations have begun throughout the building. A special thank-you to our Juniors and Seniors for leading the effort and supporting our middle school youth.

Thank you all for a productive week and for your continued

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Save the Date:

- November 20, 2025: NSTS Gratitude Dinner (*A community celebration for youth, families, and partners*)
- November 26–28, 2025: NPS Thanksgiving Break (NSTS Closed all three days)

Family Satisfaction & Impact Survey:

Our NSTS Family Satisfaction and Impact Survey remains open. Families are strongly encouraged to check their email and complete the survey as soon as possible. Your feedback directly supports program improvements, strengthens communication, and informs future funding decisions.

Transportation Reminders:

- Route revisions must be requested at least 24 hours in advance to ensure timely evening drop-offs.
- Coaches are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of all youth and must wait until each student is safely inside their home. If a parent/guardian is not home, the youth will be brought back to NSTS and must be picked up from campus.
- Families experiencing delays or changes must contact the Main Office at 757-995-2111 or Mr. Muhanma at 757-404-1818.

Parking Lot Renovation:

- NSTS parking lot renovations have begun and will continue over the next few weeks.
- We kindly ask families and staff for patience during this transition.
- Once closing dates and work schedules are confirmed, we will provide updated drop-off and pick-up procedures to ensure safety and

commitment to supporting our youth.



smooth traffic flow.



Staff Spotlight



□ Staff Spotlight: Coach Ronisha

1. What inspired you to become a Success Coach at Next Step to Success? **Wanting to make a difference in children's lives and provide them with guidance**
2. If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be? **Creative, Outgoing, and Energetic**
3. What's one lesson you hope every student you work with carries with them? **To be comfortable is to be uncomfortable**
4. Who was a mentor or role model in your own life, and how did they shape you? **My friend Tiffany. She gives back to the community and inspires me.**
5. What's your favorite way to spend a Saturday when you're not working? **Doing something fun with my family/daughter**
6. If you could have dinner with any historical figure or celebrity, who would it be and why? **Rosa Parks. She made a difference for women. Strong-willed and determined to make a difference**
7. What's a fun fact about you that most people don't know? **I am very creative**
8. If you had to pick a theme song for your life, what would it be? **"Can't give up now" by Mary Mary**
9. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received? **You are better than your circumstances or environment**
10. Finish this sentence "Working at Next Step to Success means..." **Helping children build their brighter future**
11. What's your all-time favorite TV show or movie? **House of Pain**
12. If you had a superpower for a day, what would it be? **I would be invisible**

Culinary Corner

From the Coordinator of Culinary Arts



Hey Team & NSTS Family,

Your favorite kitchen crew is back with another week of good vibes & full plates! Here's what's cookin' in Chef B's world this week:

This Week's Menu:

- ☐ **Cheeseburgers & Fries** – Classic, crispy, cheesy, and not up for debate.
- ☐ **Taco Rice Bowls** (Chicken or Beef) – All the fixings, all the flavor, all the smiles.
- ☐ **Wings & Wedges** – Because wings make the world go 'round.
- ☐ **GRATITUDE DINNER!** – A special meal to celebrate our youth, our staff, and our village.
- ☐ **Breakfast Burritos** – Morning vibes for any time of day, wrapped up just right.
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Thank you all for the continued support, patience, and laughs in and out of the kitchen. We don't just serve food—we serve love, lessons, and a whole lot of second helpings. 😊

If you have any questions, allergies, or special considerations, please let the kitchen know so we can keep everyone safe and satisfied.

With gratitude & good seasoning,
Brittany "Chef B" Brown **& The Kitchen Crew** ☐☐☐☐

Cement Your Legacy with a Brick at St. Vincent de Paul House

Be part of our history and our future! Through our Brick Fundraiser, you can honor a loved one, recognize a business, or leave a family legacy by purchasing an engraved brick. Each brick will be placed on the new St. Vincent de Paul House campus, creating a lasting tribute while supporting Next Step to Success youth programs.

NEXT STEP  TO SUCCESS

BUY A BRICK



CEMENT YOUR LEGACY &
INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION!



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Next Step To Success | 3401 Tidewater Dr. |
Norfolk, VA 23509 US



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