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# June

## National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

2020 June E-Brief for Districts, States, and Organizations

### Partnerships: True “Essentials” in the COVID Crisis

**The school year is closing in a way never known.  
We hope that, tho’ challenged, all students have grown.  
School and family partnerships were needed as never before,  
And revealed innovative ways to involve families much more!**

#### CLOSING OUT THE YEAR STRONG

In some places, the school year has ended. In others, there are a few weeks to go. In some places, summer school is planned. In others not so. Some districts plan to open schools in the fall. Others are still working things out. It is true that this school year was different from any in the past, and there are many unknowns about the future.

Here at NNPS, we continue to work every day to provide guidelines and services to our member districts, schools, organizations, and states, and to the public. We hope that three NNPS opportunities will help you close this school year in good style and take the right path for the 20-21 school year:

1. Share your good work with others in ***Promising Partnership Practices***.  
**DUE JUNE 30, 2020 - Submit your PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICE**  
**[Submit my PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICE](#)**
2. Earn recognition for great work with an **NNPS Partnership Award**.  
**DUE JUNE 30, 2020 - Submit an application for an NNPS AWARD**

## [Apply for an NNPS AWARD](#)

3. Evaluate your progress on the **2020 UPDATE Survey**, and renew membership in NNPS for the upcoming school year.

**DUE JULY 15, 2020 - 2020 UPDATE SURVEY**

### [EVALUATE PROGRESS AND RENEW NNPS MEMBERSHIP](#)

Scroll down to the correct fillable *UPDATE* for school, district, organization, or state.

4. **Get some rest over the summer** so to come back refreshed and ready for an important year of partnership building!

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## **T.I.P.S FREE Offer Still Available!**

**Over 600 Interactive Homework Activities for Students  
Who Do Not Have Computers and Internet Access at Home**

NNPS made TIPS activities for the elementary and middle grades (reading/ELA, math, and science, K-8) available to members AT NO COST.

The COVID-19 period has been so swift and confusing that we have decided to continue FREE TIPS through the 20-21 school year.

You can **obtain the FREE TIPS materials ([Click Here](#))**. Use the special **[Free TIPS Order Form](#)**. NNPS will send TIPS activities to you electronically for the subject(s) and grade level(s) that you will use in your district or schools. NNPS will conduct a webinar on how to use TIPS in schools that open in the fall (as part of teachers' classroom teaching and homework assignments) OR where remote learning continues by teachers who distribute "paper packets" of learning activities for students without access to computers and Internet at home. Information will be provided to those who request the Free TIPS materials.

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## **PLAN AHEAD for the 2020-21 School Year NNPS Leadership Institute (LI) – October 22-23, 2020**

Due to COVID-19's limits on face-to-face meetings, NNPS will conduct its fall Leadership Institute via ZOOM. Although we are sad not to meet you in Baltimore this year, we are excited about designing a new approach for professional development for district, organization, and state leaders.

### **The good news:**

- **No travel necessary.**
- **One registration** (\$400, reduced rate for NNPS members) **will cover YOU and your co-leaders at no extra cost.**
- **Leaders will earn an NNPS Certificate for Team Training and a**

letter of Professional Development Hours, as in the past.

- “Meet” the NNPS staff and leaders from across the country, while social distancing.

**COMING SOON.** Watch for a new brochure and registration form for the Leadership Institute, October 23-24. We will post it on the NNPS website and will send an E-Alert to district, organization, and state leaders. Stay tuned.

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## **NNPS SAMPLER: SUMMER LEARNING, NOT SUMMER LOSS**



Students *and* teachers have always looked forward to a well-deserved break from school over the summer. However, this summer, we all will continue mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing to prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

NNPS has been particularly concerned about students who do not have computers or Internet Access at home, and have been using paper packets to guide their learning from home. These students may have suffered learning loss and it wasn't summer yet! Now, along comes summer—another challenge for student learning.

Studies show that students who do not read, write, or use math for two months suffer *summer reading loss*. By contrast, students who read during the summer, retain more school skills and need less remedial instruction in the fall. This challenge—more serious this year—calls for some good ideas and activities.

One of NNPS's 18 *Samplers* is *Summer Learning, Not Summer Loss—It's a Partnership*. This *Sampler* reviews research on summer learning loss and features 10 good ideas from NNPS schools. Here are 2 activities from that incorporate reading for fun *and* social distancing.

**Celebrating Reading (Summer Reading Program).** The partnership team at Maplebrook Elementary School in Naperville, Illinois, gave a book bag to each student before school closed for summer vacation. Each bag included a book, bookmark, coupon from a local bookstore, suggested reading list, magnet, and a beach ball. The action team also included ice cream coupons from one of the school's business partners—a way to have some tasty fun while reading!

*Comment for the COVID-summer:* Your school may work with a community partner to fill book bags for students. In addition to grade level books, maybe include a mask and a 6-foot paper ruler to show the right space for social distancing.

**Holiday Scholars.** The ATP and teachers at Barrow Elementary School in Athens, Georgia created packets of activities for *Holiday Scholars*. Students were provided books to keep in their home libraries and a log to record minutes reading. Each student was assigned a “buddy” from the school—teachers, administrators, or support staff—who wrote to the students a few times during vacation. Students who returned their work and the log signed by a parent celebrated the end of summer with a pizza lunch, an assembly, and a certificate.

*Comment for the COVID-summer:* Your school may find an innovative way to

partner with a food chain for family coupons. Include a short Fact Sheet for parents to encourage students reading and log of reading minutes. Assign students a buddy for the summer who will write encouraging notes to remind them to keep reading. Maybe the local TV station would be interested in sharing stories on TV of students' reading during the summer.

See the full *Sampler* on [Summer Learning](#) or use your access code [mem20NNPS](#) to view this and all 18 NNPS *Samplers and add your COVID-19 twist as you adapt an activity to your school's needs.*

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## NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

- NNPS Director, Dr. Joyce Epstein's discussion of outreach to students and families when students are learning at home was published in the American Sociological Association's magazine: [CONTEXTS](#). See the full text.
- Experts at Johns Hopkins University, including Dean of the School of Education, are calling for K-12 schools to reopen in the fall to halt the health and educational inequalities among students when schools are closed. After ensuring safety for COVID-19, they suggest that opening school will help improve students' health, nutrition, and learning. See their discussion at: [JHU Call for K-12 Schools to Reopen in the Fall](#)
- In April, NNPS partners in Scotland ("CONNECT") surveyed parents when schools closed due to COVID-19. They asked: "How are you doing?" They received surveys from over 1500 families in 29 out of 32 communities. They found: 59% of parents felt they had the information and advice they needed to support their children. Others were not sure how to proceed. Many had concerns about their children's learning; health and well-being, lack of friendship and social interaction; lack of equipment; and lack of communications from schools. Parents were more confident about guiding their child's health and well-being, and less confident about guiding reading and math. See the full report from Scottish parents at: [Scotland CONNECT Parent Survey Report](#).
- NNPS Organizational Partner at Francis Marion University's Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty (COE) is conducting its annual Summer Institute online. You may attend. See 15+ webinars presented by nationally recognized educators—FREE on live Zoom. Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director, NNPS is one of the speakers on engaging families with low incomes as partners in children's education. See the full agenda and registration options at [COE Annual Summer Institute](#).
- In the Netherlands, Peter de Vries—an expert in the field of parental involvement—wrote a book for secondary school teachers. Joyce Epstein wrote the foreword to the book. *Ouderbetrokkenheid* (the book's title) means "parental involvement" in Dutch, click [here](#). See more about [Parental Involvement Projects in the Netherlands](#). Select English as the language to see this information.
- Johns Hopkins University's School of Education has a COVID-19 site that includes the NNPS postings and other items of interest at [COVID-19](#)

[Education Resources](#) site.

- NNPS partner, Ohio State Family Engagement Center, posts a series of useful Digital Newsletters with discussions and school activities on school and family communications and support for teachers, families, and students at [Ohio State Family Engagement Center](#).
- If you missed them, see: [Archive of the NNPS Monthly E-Briefs](#).

**NNPS is on Facebook and Twitter.** We welcome your posts! NNPS Facebook is a networking tool for our members! Share your district, organization, and/or school newsletters. Send photos of the partnership activities that you conduct with a short sentence description and your name and affiliation to Rachel Chappell at [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu) or **tag us on Facebook and Twitter**.

LIKE US on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/partnershipschools>

Follow us on Twitter at: [https://twitter.com/NNPS\\_JHU](https://twitter.com/NNPS_JHU)

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## DONATE TO NNPS

Please make a tax-deductible donation to NNPS—a non-profit educational organization. Your donation supports unique NNPS projects: Annual books of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, Annual Evaluations, and our excellent website.

Here's what to do: Click the **Donate** link. Then, click on "**OTHER**" in the Johns Hopkins School of Education DESIGNATION box. **Specify: National Network of Partnership Schools.**

### [Donate!](#)

NNPS appreciates your support. The University and NNPS will send official acknowledgements of your donation for tax purposes. Thank you very much!



## NNPS Members- Only Access Code: **mem20NNPS**

The **MEMBERS ONLY** section of the NNPS website provides active members with special benefits. **Members-Only Access Code is mem20NNPS.** Explore many years' books of *Promising Partnership Practices* and all 18 *NNPS Samplers* in the section *Success Stories*.

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## A Year of Horror and Hope

**COVID-19**—a wicked, uncontrolled virus—upset the school year and will continue to affect our lives for the foreseeable future. We are hopeful that the hard work of staying home and learning at home will bring students back to school safely in the fall. The horror of COVID also revealed the critical importance of school and family partnerships, which must continue to improve and frame the work that schools do to increase all students' success in school.

**Police brutality**—a wicked, too-common horror especially affecting Black Lives—woke the nation about imperative changes in policing and the judicial system needed now and forever. This includes known inequalities in education and other aspects of society that demand attention and action—once and for all—to ensure a better future for all students and citizens. We are hopeful that this agenda will remain clear. We have learned it is actionable. NNPS will continue to conduct all of its work to help educators reach the goal of equity in education and in school, family, and community partnerships. High-quality education is the best way to ensure that students will take their place in leading and living in a better society.

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## VACATION TIME!

As we complete this unusual school year, E-Brief will go on vacation in July as NNPS works on the new book of *Promising Partnership Practices 2020*. Look for the August E-Brief in your Inbox.

**In Partnership,**  
*Stay home! Stay safe! Stay well!*

**Brenda, Rachel, Joyce, Steve, and  
Marsha**

