

Nottingham Knightly News

April 14, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

I hope you all enjoyed some down time last week and were creative with staycationing. I also hope that first and foremost, you and your families continue to be healthy. As you have seen, APS has released the [Continuous Learning Plan](#) (CLP) and if not already, you will receive a message from your classroom teacher describing how the grade level will be addressing the plan. Below you will find some frequently asked questions with responses. In addition, we are excited to invite you to a virtual parent meeting through MS Teams on **Thursday, April 16 from 6:00-7:00PM**. We will send log in information on Thursday. To help expedite the meeting, we are asking you to submit your questions through [this form](#) by 3:00PM on Thursday.

Please continue to visit the VDOE website's [FAQ questions page](#) for more information on related topics of interest during this difficult time. The VDOE has added another resource [VA Learns Anywhere](#) that has a lot of great information that guides our work for the remainder of the school year. Additionally, APS has created an email (instructionalactivities@apsva.us) where you can submit feedback and questions on the CLP. Finally, check out our [Nottingham Remote Learning](#) page to see your grade level plans, quarterly curriculum standards and other helpful resources.

As always, please continue to reach out with questions, celebrations and stories to share.

Thanks,

Eileen

From Our Student Support Staff

During spring break, we hope you took a break from schooling at home to enjoy some time together as a family. We know sheltering in place can be challenging and we are here to support you.

You may not feel like you have answers but it's important to encourage children to ask questions. Here are some tips for encouraging open conversation with your children:

- Pick a calm, undistracted time and gently ask how they're feeling.
- Talk to children in a clear, reasonable way about what's happening.
- Model calm behavior while providing information in a developmentally appropriate way.

- Provide reassurance, empathy, and encouragement in the face of uncertainty. For example, you could say, "I know things are different but we will get through it together".
- Remember that children who are having tantrums more than usual, being defiant, or acting out may actually be feeling anxious. Respond to outbursts in a calm, consistent, and comforting way.

These tips came from the Child Mind Institute at: www.childmind.org/coronavirus. More social and emotional resources can be found on the Counseling tab of the Nottingham website: <https://nottingham.apsva.us/counseling/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will APS provide synchronous learning?

No, we will not be providing synchronous lessons. We recognize that teachers and staff have additional responsibilities to their families while they shelter in place. To that end, while teachers are expected to actively engage with students and families, this engagement may not occur during regular school hours. Teachers will communicate with students and parents when they are available for regular office hours and when they expect to communicate directly with students.

Can I register a new student/kindergartner?

APS will begin a "conditional registration" process online for parents wishing to enroll their students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year beginning Wednesday, April 15th. Parents will complete a secure "Conditional Registration" process online. The [APS Student Registration Checklist](#) will help you gather the necessary documentation.

What about Extended Day?

The online registration process for 2020-21 Extended Day Program will open on April 1, as previously announced. Registration will begin April 1- 15 for families whose children were enrolled in Extended Day as of February 3, 2020. Children registered during this period will be guaranteed enrollment for the fall. On April 16 registration opens to all families. For more details on registration, please visit the [Extended Day Program webpage](#). If you have additional questions, please contact the Extended Day office at extended.day@apsva.us or 703-228-6069.

Why will there be no new content presented for the remainder of the year?

APS is focusing on practicing and mastering concepts students learned in the first three quarters of the school year. As part of our commitment to ensuring equity of access to new learning for all students, elementary teachers will introduce new, essential concepts students would have normally learned during the fourth quarter in September, 2020. Teachers will

revise pacing guidelines to ensure that the compacted curriculum will address essential learning from October, 2020, through June, 2021.

How can I find resources for PE, Art, Music, and Spanish?

Your classroom teachers have provided APS resources for PE, art, music and Spanish. Additionally, our Nottingham specials teachers are sharing activities and resources with you through the classroom teachers.

How will science, social studies be included in the plan?

Science and social studies will be infused through the language arts program. You will also find choice boards for science and social studies.

How will my child's gifted services be addressed?

Our Resource Teacher for the Gifted, Ryan Van Valen continues to collaborate with our classroom teachers to provide extensions and enrichment for students. Daily, students in grades 3-5 may have a "think deeply", Caesar's English, critical and creative thinking tasks, Jacob's Ladder or other advanced resources used routinely. In grades K-2 choice boards will be available soon. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Ryan, ryan.vanvalen@apsva.us via email.

Where can I find 4th quarter curriculum standards if I want to address them with my own child at home?

We have posted the curriculum standards for each quarter by grade level on the [Nottingham Remote Learning](#) page.

What technology will be used during the closure?

Seesaw, Canvas, or Google Classroom: Teachers will provide learning activities and resources for their students through one of these systems.

Microsoft Teams Meetings: Teachers, students, and parents will be able to interact virtually. Teams Meetings provide a secure way for teachers to check in with students, provide instruction and guidance on learning activities, and communicate with parents.

Zoom is not an APS approved platform: The free service tier offered by Zoom has no assurance of student data privacy, and it is unclear whether their standard terms of service meets the requirements of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). APS has confirmed FERPA compliance with the Microsoft Teams Meetings. We have consulted with other school systems in the area, and they have all taken similar positions. While it is clear that vendors such as Zoom are extending these offers with the best of intentions, it is best to use the APS-approved tools that have been vetted for student use.

How will the transition to middle school be addressed for my 5th grader?

We are in touch with Williamsburg and Swanson regarding the transition to middle school. As opportunities for different activities become available, we will share them with fifth grade families. Betsy Churchill and Janna Tranfa (thank you both so much!) sent an email with lots of ways we plan to keep students engaged in our traditional fifth grade events including the slideshow, baby pictures, class theme and the service project. Ideas are flowing about how we will honor our fifth-grade class in person as soon as we are able.

Reminders

If you are looking for a way to help the Arlington community, please consider food, cleaning supplies, toilet paper or monetary donations to [AFAC](#), which is supporting many families during this time. You can donate in person or online and they are looking for additional support.

Should you have more questions or need additional assistance, visit the APS Coronavirus page at <https://www.apsva.us/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/> or <https://www.apsva.us/engage/> or email APS at engage@apsva.us.

For some more fun, follow us on Twitter. the handle [@KnightsAtHome](#) and [#DaysandKnights](#) to share what you're doing.

APS expanded Grab-and-Go meal sites to five locations to better reach families. Meals will be set up outside the building for distribution from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday-Friday, at: Kenmore, Randolph, Barrett, Campbell, and Drew. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. As of April 13, Key and Hoffman-Boston will also be meal distribution sites.

Be sure to tune in **each day at 9:00 AM on the air or online @ABC7News, for Outside the Classroom**, with **Washington-Liberty Environmental Systems teacher, ABC-7 on your side meteorologist, and McKinley parent Ryan Miller**. This week's theme is Relationships. If you have a homegrown clever idea to share you can be on the air, here is the information on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/apsvirginia/status/1241811503449362437?s=21>

Want to learn something new or pass some time with a good book, but don't know where to start? You can [live chat with a librarian](#) and get more information about the [eCollection](#).

The following provides information regarding **Extended Day registration** for next year. The online registration process for 2020-21 Extended Day Program will open on April 1, as previously announced. Registration will begin April 1- 15 for families whose children were

enrolled in Extended Day as of February 3, 2020. Children registered during this period will be guaranteed enrollment for the fall. On April 16 registration opens to all families. For more details on registration, please visit the [Extended Day Program webpage](#). If you have additional questions, please contact the Extended Day office at extended.day@apsva.us or 703-228-6069.

Relative to our community, the [Arlington Solid Waste Bureau](#) is encouraging residents to be mindful of the quantity of waste we are throwing away so as not to overwhelm the collection system. Although all regular weekly curbside collection services are currently available, collection resources are beginning to show signs of strain.

APS launched its triennial APSGo! Travel Survey of families, students and staff. The survey was last conducted in 2016 and a lot has changed since then—we have new schools and others have moved, scooters are everywhere, and drop-off lines are longer. Information from the APSGo! survey helps us identify transportation challenges and work toward safe solutions. Look for an APS School Talk message on Monday inviting you to participate in this important survey. More information about APSGo! [is available online](#).