

Nottingham Knightly News

April 21, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

We hope you continue to be healthy and that you're adjusting to our new learning format. We appreciate the positive feedback and support. I want to express my appreciation for your patience as we adjust to the ever-changing situation, sort through the confusion, and partner with you to help support your children. It's by no means perfect and we could not sustain this effort without your understanding and support.

Some fun news! Our fabulous PE teachers have shared an opportunity for a **National Field Day on May 8, 2020**. Please check out the note from Ms. Pugh and Mr. Giusto below!

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. 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.

I have added to the FAQ section either by providing an update to last week's questions or by synthesizing and answering questions that came from our Virtual Parent Meeting. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out directly.

Elementary Option Deadline: APS has extended the timeline for Elementary Options and Primary Montessori Options by one week to ensure that all interested families have the opportunity to apply.

- April 20 (8am): Application window reopens
- April 27 (8pm): Application window closes
- May 6: Lottery
- May 13 (after 4pm): Notification to families
- May 22 (11:59pm): Families must accept/ decline spot

At the April 16 School Board Meeting, Interim Superintendent Cintia Johnson presented the revised proposed FY 2021 budget to fund operations for the 2020-21

school year. The revised budget reflects the [updated School Board direction](#) adopted in late March in response to the effect that the Coronavirus is having on the local economy. Additional documents and details pertaining to the budget are now [posted on BoardDocs](#) and the [Budget and Finance webpage](#) in preparation for the School Board's work session and public hearing on Tuesday, April 21. Additional documents include a revised proposed budget presentation, and spreadsheets providing details on central office department reductions, reductions to baseline increases, and revisions to the Minor Construction Major Maintenance (MC/MM) budget.

- Please note that the reduction of the Instructional Technology Coordinator (ITC) contract from 12 to 11 months has been removed and replaced with additional department reductions. Department reductions have increased from \$2.4 million to \$3.0 million to account for the \$600,000 ITC reduction no longer being taken.

Part of the latest episode of the *What's Up APS?* podcast takes an in-depth look at the APS continuous learning plan and addresses frequently asked questions. Join [Interim Superintendent Cintia Johnson](#); [Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Bridget Loft](#); [Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Arron Gregory](#); [Dr. Charles R. Drew first grade teacher Sydney Mann](#); and [Wakefield math teacher Laurell Wiersma](#) as they discuss how the plan was created, the approach APS is taking, and how teachers are implementing it with students. [Listen Now](#). If you have questions about APS operations during the closure or about the learning plans? Please email engage@apsva.us.

Here are some additional meal opportunities for families who need it:

Real Food for Kids: Chefs Feeding Families is now serving grab-and-go meals to students and families affected by the school shutdown from 4 locations.

- No ID or proof of need is required.
- Family members may pick up meals on behalf of their entire family – children do not need to be present.
- Meals will be served during the below-listed timeframes, ***while quantities last***.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

ACCA Child Development Center

7200 Columbia Pike #2

Annandale, VA 22003

Individual whole-grain crust pizzas with vegetable toppings, fresh fruit

Saturdays, 2:30 PM *while quantities last*

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

6531 Columbia Pike

Annandale, VA 22003

Individual whole-grain crust pizzas with vegetable toppings, fresh fruit

Sundays, 2:30 PM while quantities last

Bayou Bakery, Coffee Bar & Eatery

1515 North Courthouse Road

Arlington, VA 22201

New Orleans-style Rice and Beans, fresh fruit

Monday – Friday, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM while quantities last

Questions? Contact Mary Porter, mporter@realfoodforkids.org

Please continue to be well and let us know how you're all doing.

Thanks,

Eileen

From Ms. Pugh and Mr. Giusto

We're excited to announce that our school community will be participating in the

OPEN National Field Day event on **Friday, May 8th!**

Field Day is an important tradition at our school. It is a significant day for our students and our staff, and we feel that in these incredibly challenging times this national event is a unique way that we can stay connected as a community and support one another in a fun and meaningful way.

OPEN (Online Physical Education Network) is a national public service organization that provides curriculum and training support to more than 90,000 teachers in all 50 states. We will be using their resources and social media network to help us organize our school's participation in #NationalFieldDay.

All #NationalFieldDay events are designed to be done indoors or outdoors using common household items. You won't be asked to purchase any specialized equipment or supplies.

Here's how it will work:

- Our school is now registered as a participant in this event. Families can choose to register as well, **but it's not a requirement.**
- All info will be sent out on the **Physical Education Department Seesaw account** for each class.

- If you are having difficulty accessing it on Seesaw, The event website is www.openphysed.org/nationalfieldday.
- As a part of registration, we will receive Field Day Friday email updates each week with new resources that we will share with you.
- You can also find updates via social media using #NationalFieldDay.
- From May 3 thru 7, we will follow #NationalFieldDay and watch the Field Day Torch travel across the country in preparation for the main event.
- On May 8, our entire school will participate in events, complete an official score card, share photos and videos through twitter (@nottinghampe), and participate nationally on social media using #NationalFieldDay.
- After the event, your student can submit their scorecard via Physical Education Seesaw account, or you can email it to Mr. Giusto and Ms. Pugh.

We will continue to send you weekly updates on this fun and festive event. We appreciate your cooperation and are hopeful that your entire family will use it as a fun and meaningful way to be physically active together and with our entire school community.

Stay well,

Ms. Pugh and Mr. Giusto

From Our Student Support Staff

Your children may be worrying about the safety of your family, struggling with thoughts and feelings about the stories and images coming from coverage of COVID-19, and the uncertainty of not knowing when they can return to those routines that provided them comfort. Here are some tips to continue creating a safe physical and emotional environment at home.

- **Validate Emotions** – It is important to acknowledge how they are feeling and to let children know all feelings are OK.
- **Help with Self-Regulation** – These activities can include mindfulness, breathing exercises, exercise, and yoga (some examples include: [GoNoodle](#), [MindYeti](#), & [Pathway2Success](#))
- **Re-establish A Routine** – Developing a routine your children and family can help reduce distress during these stressful days.
- **Practice Self-Care** – Practice good rest/sleep, healthy eating, and exercise. What can bring you calm? Bring you joy? Find one practical activity to do each day.
- **Provide Reassurance** – As you talk to your children, remember to provide reassurance and a sense of hope that the actions you and your family are taking will help to “flatten the curve,” resulting in the ending of the outbreak much faster.

These tips came from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network at:

<https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/supportingchildren-covid-fa>

[ctsheet.pdf](#). More social and emotional resources can be found on the Counseling tab of the Nottingham website: <https://nottingham.apsva.us/counseling/>.

For our 5th Grade Families

I have been in touch with Renee Harber, Principal at Swanson and Bryan Boykin, Principal at Williamsburg. Rising 6th graders at both schools will be scheduled on one of three 6th grade teams. The teams will provide students a smaller, sheltered environment to aid in the adjustment to the middle school model. The team model provides 5 core teachers. As well, a grade level administrator and counselor will transition with students through their three years. They find this positively supports students' academic and social adjustment throughout the middle school years. They understand that our 5th grade orientation visits were canceled with the closure of schools. Depending upon facility availability and operations, they still plan to hold three summer orientation sessions in July and August. They also plan to hold the Open House the Thursday (TBD) prior to the opening of school this fall. They are not addressing placement questions (Math) at this time, as they are awaiting further guidance from the Department of Teaching and Learning. I encourage you to visit the respective school websites more information on the school and all its bells and whistles. Finally, both Williamsburg and Swanson recognize the anxiety that the middle school transition can present, especially given our present circumstances. Please reach out as needed with anything you may need.

Swanson:

- Renee Harber, Principal
- Rana Luthra, Director of Counseling
- Swanson website: <https://swanson.apsva.us/>

Williamsburg:

- Bryan Boykin, Principal
- Dr. Latisha Ellis, 6th Grade Assistant Principal
- Gretchen Brenckle, 6th Grade Counselor
- Williamsburg website: <https://williamsburg.apsva.us/>

Frequently Asked Questions

APS maintains a FAQ page in addition to the questions listed here. Please visit the APS [COVID-19](#) page for more information.

Will APS provide synchronous learning? Why has APS chosen this route, when other schools systems have different plans?

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.

Update: The Virginia Department of Education has given each school district the freedom to develop its own continuous learning plan. You will note that each of our surrounding districts' plans are distinctly different from one another. APS' plan is based on the fact that we are fortunate that our 3rd through 12th graders have their own devices, which allows us to deliver learning opportunities to them in a streamlined and efficient manner. Another facet of the plan is that we need to provide families and teachers flexibility during this time while they implement distance learning and support students. To that end, there is no synchronous direct instruction, and students should not be required to be present at specific times for instruction with teachers. Teachers may opt to create videos of lessons that can be pushed out virtually and viewed by students at any time. Asynchronous teaching allows students to complete tasks each day, and the flexibility to do it on a schedule that suits the home/family.

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.

Update: Additional information about the **2020-2021 school year** will be available soon. Please stay tuned.

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?

Per directives from VDOE, APS has chosen to focus 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.

Update: Parents who wish to pick up packets for grades K-2 can do so at grab and go meal locations.

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.

Update: Middle schools are working with curriculum specialists to address the transition to middle school. We will look at courses that are sequential -- one example is math. We will ensure content from the end of Grade 5 is addressed at the beginning of their 6th grade year. So many of the standards connect vertically, so teachers are well equipped to do this. They will also utilize formative assessments to see what students know and what needs to be taught. I'm in touch with Renee Harber at Swanson and with Bryan Boykin at Williamsburg about transitions and they are still planning on summer orientations when they are able. They will also continue to participate in transition meetings for students with IEPs and 504s.

New Questions

What does Nottingham do differently than other schools in APS?

All APS schools are using the same plan. Teachers were able to use different platforms including google classroom, canvas, seesaw and MS Teams. The standards being addressed come from central office and are the same across schools. I've checked in with my principal colleagues to ensure that we are in alignment and with some variability in delivery, the content is the same and synchronous learning is not occurring. The cross-district collaboration is going on which will be integral as students go to the next grade level

How will you transition students to the next grade level with regards to classroom community building, missed instruction during the 4th quarter, teacher assignments and placement assessments?

We will follow the same process for groupings that we have used in the past. Teachers will meet with the math and reading coaches, special education teacher, RTG, EL teacher, counselor and administrators to determine the appropriate groupings for students based on a variety of factors. We will also hold our rising grade level orientations virtually later in the spring. At the start of every school year, teachers use assessments to determine

student academic levels in math and reading. They will continue this practice at the start of next year.

As a responsive classroom school, in tandem with best practice for good teaching, establishing community becomes even more important when we are able to return. Teachers will work collaboratively to determine a steady balance of establishing very necessary routines and a classroom community with the need to address teaching standards that were missed in the 4th quarter. Vertical planning, along with creative groupings and strong instruction, will allow time for both.

As part of our commitment to ensuring equity of access to new learning for all students, elementary teachers and secondary teachers of sequential* courses will introduce new, essential concepts students would have normally learned during the fourth quarter in September 2020. DTL will revise pacing guidelines to ensure that the compacted curriculum will address essential learning from October 2020 through June 2021. We are a competent, diverse school division that is accustomed to students enrolling and coming with a range of strengths and needs. We are well-positioned to meet all students where they are, and helping them make progress towards their goals.

What plans are being put in place for next school year should this pandemic continue so that our kids can actually advance with new concepts in this new world?

APS takes direction from Governor Northam, the state superintendent, Dr. Lane as well as others at the federal level. We will do what we need to do should we find ourselves continuing the closure into next school year, or if we find ourselves back at school and then must work remotely again.

What can I expect from my child's teacher for the remainder of the year (contact, materials, virtual learning platforms, communication)?

APS is committed to ensuring that our students continue learning while schools are closed, we also 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.

Teachers are available to support all our students. Weekly check-ins with individual students may include primarily emails and office hours. Should you need anything in addition to these communications, please reach out to your teacher(s) directly. MS Teams will be the platform for weekly virtual meetings with the students. Students with special need will receive additional communication from special education and/or EL staff.

All teachers may provide materials through a variety of means. A Pre-K packet, including a calendar of activities and materials, focused on social emotional learning, literacy, math,

and motor skills will be available to all families through ParentVUE. Grades K-2 will primarily use the APS Continuous Learning Plan, focused on literacy and numeracy, in ParentVUE and grades 3-5, again focused on literacy and numeracy, are using Google Classroom and Canvas. All students have access to Dreambox, Reading A to Z, and Seesaw. We also have access to SOL Pass through our Remote Learning Page. Teachers will provide guidance and support on learning, but no assignments will be graded. Teachers will provide feedback based on questions from students/parents about how to guide their independent work. This may include recommendations for intervention, or recommendation to extend/enrich learning. They may also inform parents, with the most current data available, about the current academic levels for each student. APS is working with the state to get more information on the implementation of Virtual Virginia courses for Elementary students. In the meantime, see the WETA VA TV for daily instruction.

Will there be Virtual Parent Meetings in the future, and if so, how will I hear about it?

The primary communication with parents will be continued weekly communications in the Knightly News. We will also send School Talk correspondence with important information. If you are not receiving either of these communications, let us know so we can add you to the distribution list. We will likely hold another Virtual Parent Meeting in May and it will be publicized in the same manner as our meeting last week. Weeklies will include an ongoing FAQ and additional questions will be added as appropriate.

Parents who have questions, concerns or praise should start with the classroom teacher. Eileen and Megan are easy to reach via email eileen.gardner@apsva.us or megan.lynch@apsva.us and we will call you back ASAP. Technology support can be accessed by emailing NTMTech@apsva.us and Ron Crouse, our ITC, will respond. Finally, general APS feedback can be provided through engage@apsva.us and it will be directed to the appropriate person or department.

Will we be able to pick anything up from the school that was left behind?

As soon as we are given clearance, we will develop an appropriate process to allow people in to the building. We'd also like to hold some type of community event to include all our families and staff that will allow us to reunite.

Are any efforts being made to include usernames and passwords for activities accessed through links from the packets?

The links in the K-2 calendars in ParentVUE are live and open for anyone to view. The calendar should have live links and they are set so you shouldn't need a password. Other passwords can be found on our Remote Learning page or were provided by your classroom teachers. If you need help with classroom logins and passwords, let the teacher know. If you are having other difficulties, reach out to NTMTech@apsva.us.

Has there been any discussion at APS regarding summer school (cancellation, virtual only, etc.)?

Summer school depends on whether or not we are able to return to school. Many options are being considered. Eligibility remains the same. We will keep you updated.

Has APS looked into purchasing devices for those in K-2 should continuous learning need to continue?

APS has explored and will continue to look at the possibility of purchasing iPads and MiFi's for students who do not have technology and WIFI access. The Dept. of Information Services went student by student to determine the possibility of providing devices and WIFI for students in grades K-2nd and this was not feasible. In addition, younger students have not had the opportunity to work with these applications with their teachers while they were in school. If school closures continue longer than expected, APS will provide a new Continuous Learning Plan with additional technology supports for students.

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, Key, Hoffman-Boston 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.

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](#).