

Nottingham Knightly News

September 23, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

Thanks to all of you who attended **Back to School Night** last week. I hope you found the event rewarding. Please reach out to our teachers if you need to speak further. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to connect with staff at our **Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 22 and 23**. You will hear more about sign-ups soon.

Safety Assembly: We will be having our first school "assembly" on **Friday, September 25**. Links to the meeting have been shared with teachers who will post them so students can join. **Pre-K through Second Grade will meet at 9:15AM and Third through Fifth Grade will meet at 9:45AM**. During the assembly we'll review important safety information including fire safety and earthquake preparedness. Students will view a video created by our 5th Grade Safety Patrols about our school-wide code of conduct: CARES (Cooperation, Assertiveness, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-Control) and what to do in case of an emergency. Our **School Resource Officer, Detective John Adams** will also join us to introduce himself and talk about what to do in the event of a lockdown at school. This will count as our lockdown drill. If you would like to opt-out your child, please let your classroom teacher know you will log off at that time. We look forward to having our first large virtual gathering of students!

Small Group Instruction: As teachers begin to transition to meeting in smaller, breakout groups in their Team meetings, here is a [resource video](#) here that may be beneficial to you and your child. Also, on this page of the tech support site, there are lots of [parent and student videos](#) that may help you and your child as we navigate this virtual portion of our year together.

Virtual Learning Kits: The virtual learning kits have arrived and are being assembled. Distribution pick-up will be held on **Thursday, October 1 from 2:30-4:00PM** and will follow the same drive through procedures.

Drive Through Procedures:

- a. Parent(s) will enter the school parking lot in their vehicle through a single clearly marked entrance (Ohio Street) on the date of distribution.
- b. Parent will write their **student's last name** on a sheet of paper and put it in their windshield for identification purposes
- c. Any items that families return to school will be taken from cars and placed in bins to detox for the designated amount of time and then sanitized and returned

- d. Parents and students should **wear masks** and **remain in their vehicle** during the exchange.
- e. Parent will exit onto Little Falls Road.

As a reminder, in October and November, we will host a series of virtual “coffee” to cover some topics in more depth. Coffees will be held via MS Teams from **8:00-8:45AM**. Dates for each “coffee” are as follows:

- **Thursday, October 15 Special Education**
- **Thursday, October 29 Conversation with Instructional Coaches** (assessment, instruction, gifted services)
- **Thursday, November 12 Social Emotional Support**

VERY IMPORTANT! Please take some time to complete the **Annual Online Verification Process (AOVP)**. This give us up-to-date and accurate information on every student in our school and helps us communicate with you about your child(ren).

Teachers will take attendance each day. As a reminder, we begin each day at 9:00 AM and conclude at 2:20 PM. Additionally, you are encouraged to email our **Attendance Line (attendance.ntm@groups.apsva.us)** when an absence is unexpected and prearranged notification was not possible. The following are generally considered excused absences: illness, quarantine of student, doctor or dentist appointments, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday, court appointments, inclement weather emergencies, connection issues while in virtual learning, and severe family emergencies. We need to note other absences as unexcused. Finally, we will contact families when a student has two absences or when absences, tardiness and early departures begin to accumulate.

We love our volunteers and still need a few room parents. If you are interested please email roomparentliaison@nespta.org.

Please reach out if you need anything at all. Be sure to visit our Nottingham PTA website for updates, [newsletters](#) and other information. Our next **PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00PM**.

Thanks,

Eileen

Reminders

Mark Jones, our school counselor, will be teaching counseling lessons to students in kindergarten through fifth grade, offering small group counseling, as well as short term individual counseling. To learn more about the school's counseling program and its resources, including its new **Virtual Calming Room** and upcoming parent solution focused reflecting teams facilitated by Mr. Jones, click this [link](#).

If you need assistance with any aspect of your **child's social emotional well-being**, support staff **daily office hours** are as follows:

- **Mark Jones, Counselor:** Monday - 10:00AM-3:30PM; Tuesday-Friday - 2:30PM-3:30PM
- **Maggie Ryan, School Social Worker:** Tuesday-Thursday - 2:30-3:30PM
- **Maggie Dassira, School Psychologist:** Tuesday/Wednesday - 2:30-3:30PM; Thursdays - 9:00-10:00AM
- **A Note from the Library**
- Hello, Nottingham Families. Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We know that this year will be different than most, but we are extremely excited and are looking forward to working with your students remotely.
- We are pleased to announce that we will offer virtual book checkout this fall. Yay! Students will be able to check out **3 print books** each week. Students in **grades 1-5** will request books by **placing a hold** in their library account. Holds need to be placed **by 1:00 PM on Wednesdays** (or earlier!) Once they place the holds, the librarians will check the books out to them. Please note, librarians will automatically select books for students in **PreK and K**. However, if parent/guardians wish to choose specific books for their students, you are more than welcome to place a hold on your student's account. We will be happy to fill those requests. **Book pick up** will take place on **Thursday afternoons 2:30-3:30 PM** at the front door of Nottingham. Finished books can be returned then as well.
- Please be careful as you make your way to and from school and while on school property, maintain social distancing and wear masks. Finished books can be returned then as well.
- For detailed instructions on how to access the library catalog and place a hold, please see the attached document. Instructions and **How-to Videos** are also located on the Library page of the Specials Canvas course for reference. If you have questions, please contact Nicole Gustafson nicole.gustafson@apsva.us or Regina Koehler regina.koehler@apsva.us. We will also host Library Office Hours on Teams to answer any questions you may have. Times and links are in the attached document.
- We anticipate that this new system will have some kinks that need to be worked out. Please be patient as we experiment to find out what works best. We would love your feedback on what goes well or what could use improvement. Happy reading!