

# Nottingham Knightly News

October 13, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

We continue to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month** and I hope everyone is enjoying it. Our School Board liaison, **Dr. Kanninen**, read Sonia Sotomayor's book, "Turning Pages" to our third and fourth graders today. Ask your child(ren) about it! Thank you, Dr. Kanninen for joining us!

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** will be held as scheduled on **October 22 and October 23**. Sign-up information has been sent by **your homeroom teacher** and are available through [this link](#).

Our first **Special Education and 504 Plan** virtual coffee is scheduled for this **Thursday, October 15 from 8:00-8:45AM**. An invitation was sent to families who have students with an IEP or 504 Plan. A link will be sent to those same families later this week. If you'd like to attend but didn't receive the information, **please let Nora know** (nora.ellison@apsva.us) and she will add you to the list.

I will share information relative to teachers, classrooms, students, and all things virtual and hybrid as soon as we have the information. Thanks again for your continued patience and support. **I encourage you to continue to visit the APS Hybrid/In-person Model page** at

<https://www.apsva.us/school-year-2020-21/transition-to-hybrid-in-person-model/>. There you will find a very **helpful FAQ** which will help you answer any new questions.

Additionally, you may find the APS Covid-19 dashboard at

<https://www.apsva.us/school-year-2020-21/aps-covid-19-dashboard/>. The information in the dashboard serves as a guide relative to the return to school. Your questions have been shared with APS and the answers have been and will continue to be added to the FAQ.

**A work group has been created to primarily address the community concerns expressed to the School Board and Superintendent regarding the relationship and the operations that Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) have with APS.** The work of the Work Group will also serve to meet the requirement to review the memorandum of understanding with our local law enforcement and ensure opportunity for community input during the review per VA Code § 22.1-280.2:3.

<https://www.apsva.us/post/aps-and-school-resource-officers-work-group-seek-s-committee-members/>

**The Arlington Department of Human Services is putting on a virtual webinar series for parents about managing challenging behaviors in children – *Flip it! Transforming Challenging Behaviors*.** Please see the attached above for information on selecting dates and times.

[FLIP IT Series Flyer English.pdf](#)

[Flip It Series Flyer Spanish.pdf](#)

Every October, schools and organizations across the country join together to observe **National Bullying Prevention Month**. The goal is to encourage schools, communities and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying and put an end to hatred and racism by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying on all children of all ages. **Nottingham Knights** have been and will continue to participate in lessons designed **to help students to recognize, refuse and report bullying and cyberbullying**. For more information see <https://www.secondstep.org/bullying-prevention>. Bullying is unfair and one-sided and it happens when someone hurts, frightens, threatens, or leaves someone out, on PURPOSE. Students can report concerns to Mr. Jones through his canvas link and parents are encouraged to reach out to Mark via email at mark.jones2@apsva.us. More information about bully prevention can be found through our website on the counseling page [here](#).

A note from **ITC, Ron Crouse** regarding the use of APS student devices.

- **Please do not change the device name** on any APS student iPad. When the device is renamed, it creates issues with students being dropped from Team meetings. If you believe that your child's device has been renamed, please contact Mr. Crouse.
- **Please do not sign-in to any Apple ID account on the APS iPad**. The iPads are managed remotely by APS and when there is a personal Apple ID on the device, it conflicts with the policies and applications that are served through APS.

Please use this attachment for information about a **one-day free COVID-19 testing** location.

[1 Day Testing Site in Green Valley\\_Oct 17.pdf](#)

Be sure to visit our Nottingham PTA website for updates, [newsletters](#) and other information.

Thanks,

Eileen

# Reminders

Attention **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families**! Did you know that we continue to produce our fabulous news show, **Knights@9**? We encourage all 5<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in this great activity. Students can sign up by visiting the Specials Canvas Course, then Library Page, then 5th grade and the link to Knights@9. If you have any questions, reach out to [nicole.gustafson@apsva.us](mailto:nicole.gustafson@apsva.us). We hope to see your knight featured soon!

**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](mailto:nicole.gustafson@apsva.us) or Regina Koehler [regina.koehler@apsva.us](mailto: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!

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.

In October and November, we will host a series of virtual “coffees” 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).

A note on **Beginning of Year (BOY) assessments**. As we conduct pre- assessments and BOY assessments virtually, please encourage your knight to show us what s/he truly knows when taking assessments. Allowing him or her to struggle through more difficult problems or tasks gives our teachers an accurate depiction of current skills and abilities. This helps us create and tailor instruction that meets each child where s/he is as we move forward. Thanks for your help on this one.