

# Nottingham Knightly News

October 6, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

Our next **PTA meeting will be held tonight, Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00PM**. Use this zoom link to join the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88388244389>

We continue to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month** and I hope everyone is enjoying it. Our School Board liaison, **Dr. Kanninen**, will be reading to some third and fourth graders soon and we look forward to her visit.

Please remember to order your **complimentary t-shirt** from the NESPTA Spirit Wear Committee by following this link <https://www.customink.com/g/ccb0-00cb-fbqm>. Put your student/s name/s on the order form with your email. Only one shirt per current Nottingham student. Orders are due by **October 7th**. Shirts will be distributed on a Thursday during library pickup time. Please email [spiritwear@nespta.org](mailto:spiritwear@nespta.org) with any questions.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** will be held as scheduled on **October 22 and October 23**. Sign-up information is coming soon from your homeroom teacher.

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!

Due to technical difficulties during our **all-school safety assembly** on 9/25, we changed our format and now will be showing a video on **Knights at 9 on Friday, October 9**. Students will view a video created by our 5th Grade Safety Patrols about our school-wide code of conduct: C.A.R.E.S (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 lock-down at school. We look forward to conveying this important information! **If you'd like to opt- your students out of this informative video, simply do not log in to view Knights at 9 on Friday**. We understand the content is sensitive for some of our students.

**Project Headphones** will provide headphones to any student who needs one. Please let me know the number of headphones your family may need.

I want to acknowledge that I understand the challenge these uncertain times bring. I have had the chance to speak with many of you via telephone and email about the return to school and the hybrid/in person model. **Information from APS was shared or will be shared soon.** There are and will be many questions surrounding the logistics of the model. These include those around teacher selection, health and safety and transportation, etc. **I encourage you 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. Your questions have been shared with APS and the answers have been and will continue to be added to the FAQ.

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

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](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](mailto: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.