

Nottingham Knightly News

December 15, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

I wish you all a safe, healthy and restful holiday break. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we navigate virtual learning. After the break, look for updates from APS on return-to-school plans. Please continue to have your child wear his or her mask, social distance and ensure we are helping to keep each other healthy.

Our **Winter Extravaganza is this FRIDAY!** Please see the attached for additional information on the day. **Also attached is the parade route.** We will leave Nottingham at approximately 1:00PM.

Homework over the break!

- If you haven't already, establish a learning space for each child in your family that is free from distractions.
- Headphones are a great stocking stuffer!
- Gather and organize the learning kit materials that will be used during instruction. **Learning kit lists can be found below.**

Help Make the Holidays Happier for Some of Arlington's Most Vulnerable

Residents: 2020 has seen more Arlington households in financial crisis than ever before. You can help Arlington families impacted by COVID and economic hardship - donate to the [Department of Human Services' Secret Santa Program](#)! Gift cards are distributed to clients engaged in Department of Human Services safety net programs and other programs for low-income residents, including COVID-impacted households, children in foster care, people with disabilities, seniors with low incomes, teen parents, and families with low incomes.

This year, the Secret Santa Program can accept gift cards and checks by mail, or online donations via secure credit card payments, any time before December 18. [Learn more or make a donation here!](#)

<https://publicassistance.arlingtonva.us/secret-santa/>

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

Some upcoming dates:

- December 18, Friday Winter Extravaganza (all day)
- December 21-31 Winter Break
- January 18, Monday MLK Jr. Day – No School for Students

Please take a moment to visit the PTA website and read the PTA [newsletter](#). Thanks,

Eileen

Superintendent's Message

Dear APS Families,

As students complete their final week of school before the Winter Break, I want to remind you about changes to our meal services schedule, as well as next steps in planning for future hybrid/in-person learning transitions. Additionally, with snowfall in the forecast this week, I have provided updated information regarding our inclement weather procedures below.

Winter Break Meal Service

To ensure all families have access to healthy meals during the Winter Break we are modifying meal services as follows:

- **Friday, Dec. 18:** We will serve three days of meals for Friday, Saturday, and Monday at all current locations, including 22 school sites and 7 drop-off locations.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 22:** There will be no meals served on Monday, December 21. On Tuesday, Dec. 22, we will serve five days of meals for Tuesday – Saturday. Meals will be distributed at the following school locations: Barcroft, Barrett, Campbell, Drew, Gunston, Hoffman-Boston, Kenmore, Key, Randolph, Swanson, Wakefield, W-L and Yorktown.

Meals will be served on both days during the regular 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. service window. There will be no meal services provided during the week of December 28. We will resume regular meal service on Monday, January 4. This information will be communicated through School Talk and text reminders later this week as well. Thank you to our Food and Nutrition Services staff for their ongoing work to provide meals for students.

Updates on 2020-21 School Year and Hybrid/In-Person Learning Transitions

We will hold our final School Board meeting of the current calendar year this Thursday, December 17. During the meeting, I will present the 2020-21 School Year Monitoring

Report, including updates on COVID-19 health and safety metrics, instruction, results of the Level 3 family selection process, operations, and financial projections. I am continuing to work with administrators and staff to monitor the health metrics and operating conditions, and to finalize timing for Level 2 and Level 3 transitions to hybrid/in-person learning for families and students who have selected that instructional model.

Specific details and dates for future in-person learning transitions for students in Level 2 and Level 3 will be communicated to staff and families in early January. We continue to evaluate all metrics, and to focus on effective mitigation strategies to ensure the health and safety of staff and students.

Winter Weather Procedures

In the event of a change in our operating status due to weather, we will alert all staff and families by 6 p.m. the evening before, with any morning updates communicated by 5 a.m. **Distance Learning will continue for all students during inclement weather events providing there is no interruption in power or network connectivity. In the event schools and facilities need to close due to an inclement weather event, Level 1 students attending school in-person would temporarily revert to Distance Learning.** Distance Learning will follow the normal schedule during inclement weather, with asynchronous instruction on Mondays and synchronous instruction on Tuesday through Friday.

A major storm causing a power or network outage may require us to cancel distance learning and call an official "snow day." We will follow our inclement weather protocols on deciding if other school-based activities, such as meal services, in-person learning support or athletic practices can continue, and will keep you updated through School Talk messages, social media, text alerts, local media, and our website. [Click here to view our winter weather procedures](#) in full.

Additionally, as we head into the Winter Break, please note that this is the final Weekly Update message that I will be sending until the week of January 4. I look forward to providing additional updates and information as we head into a new calendar year.

I continue to appreciate your support and partnership in making this school year as successful as possible for all students. Stay safe, and I wish everyone a great break.

Dr. Francisco Durán

Superintendent

Arlington Public Schools

Learning Kit Materials

Kindergarten

PE Kit (ball, jump rope, chalk)

ELA Kit (foam letters, magnet letters, mirror, letter cards)

Math/Science Kit (2 white boards- one with lines one without, dry erase markers, stacking blocks, ruler, geometric shapes, counting dots, playing cards)

Composition Books

Letters and Numbers: HWT

Post-it notes

Science Fusion

Music Kit K-2- egg shaker

Art kit: there is modeling clay, watercolor paints, construction paper

1st Grade

ELA Kit (foam letters, magnet letters, mirror)

Math/Science Kit (2 white boards- one with lines one without, dry erase markers, stacking blocks, ruler, geometric shapes, counting dots, playing cards)

Post-it notes

Handwriting Without Tears

Science Fusion

Music Kit K-2- egg shaker

Art kit: there is modeling clay, watercolor paints, construction paper

2nd Grade

ELA Kit (foam letters, magnet letters, mirror)

Math/Science Kit (2 white boards- one with lines one without, dry erase markers, stacking blocks, ruler, geometric shapes, counting dots, playing cards)

Post-it notes

Print With Me: Handwriting Without Tears

Science Fusion

Music Kit K-2- egg shaker

Art kit: there is modeling clay, watercolor paints, construction paper

3rd Grade

Math/Science Kit (2 white boards, one with lines one without, dry erase markers, base ten blocks, ruler)

Post-it notes

Red and Blue Pen

Highlighter

Cursive: Writing Without Tears

Science Fusion

Art kit: there is modeling clay, watercolor paints, construction paper

Music kit: egg shaker, recorder, and hand drum

4th Grade

Math/Science Kit (2 white boards, one with lines one without, dry erase markers, base ten blocks, ruler)

Highlighter

Post-it notes

Science Fusion

Art kit: there is modeling clay, watercolor paints, construction paper

Music kit: egg shaker, recorder, and hand drum

5th Grade

Math/Science Kit (2 white boards, one with lines one without, dry erase markers, base ten blocks, ruler)

Post-it notes

Science Fusion

Art kit: there is modeling clay, watercolor paints, construction paper

Music kit: egg shaker, recorder, and hand drum

Reminders

Curious about how your child is doing in music, art, or PE? Check out their SeeSaw or Canvas accounts to see teacher feedback on assignments or reach out to your child's teacher directly. To learn more, watch this video with information about how to view the comments.

Mental Health resources for students/families to know when schools are closed for Winter break:

<https://careercenter.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/11/Holiday-Resources-for-Families.pdf> (English)

<https://careercenter.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/11/Holiday-Resources-for-Families-Spanish-Version.pdf> (Spanish)

If you're interested in learning about the **boundary process** the adjusted boundary recommendation will be presented at the start of the **Public Hearing tonight (12/1) at 7:30 p.m.** Additional details, including information about interpretation services at the public hearing is [available online](#). The public hearing can be [viewed live online](#) and on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41. The School Board will take action on Thu., Dec. 3, on elementary school boundaries for the 2021-22 school year. The Virtual School Board meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and can be [viewed live online](#) and on Comcast Xfinity Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FiOS Channel 41. Information about how to share input at this meeting is available on the [School Board webpage](#). You can learn more about the boundary process by visiting the [aspva webpage](#).

A few weeks back, some teachers sent notices to parents inviting them to create a **Parent Seesaw Account** - with such an account, parents can see their child's work, assignments, portfolio entries, and teacher feedback for all of their child's Seesaw classes. Last week, Mr. Crouse sent an email to all families who have not yet signed up for a parent access account. In the email will be a unique link for your child so that you can directly create your account. Please do not share your link as it is assigned specifically to your child. There is no obligation for you to create an account, but we want to ensure that you are aware of the opportunity.

Here is a [video](#) showing how you and your child can see student feedback in a Seesaw account. You can also see this feedback when you are logged into your parent Seesaw account.

<https://vimeo.com/486108181/c479c0ecc0>

The application process for **option schools and programs for middle and high school students opened this week**. Families interested in applying for a secondary option school or program can apply through the [online application portal](#). Families can submit their application anytime during the application window. If families need assistance with completing applications, they should contact the APS Welcome Center at 703-228-8000 or schooloptions@apsva.us. Additional information and important dates, as well as links to watch the Middle and High School Information Night recordings, are [available online](#).

Based on the **APS Dashboard** and the APS Hybrid/In-Person Model page for additional information. This is a fluid situation and things are frequently being updated. I encourage you to continue to visit the [APS Hybrid/In-person Model page](#) There you will find a very **helpful FAQ** which will help you answer any new questions.

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.