

Nottingham Knightly News

January 22, 2021

Dear Nottingham Families,

We celebrate second-grader Maggie K., who was honored at the School Board meeting last night as the second-place recipient of the MLK Jr. Literary and Visual Arts Contest. Congratulations, Maggie!

Please see the January 18 email from the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning for information on the concurrent model for grades 3-5. Based on that message, students in grade 3-5 will participate in the **concurrent instructional model**, similar to the model adopted for secondary students. In the concurrent model, teachers will instruct both groups of students – those attending school in person, and those participating online – simultaneously. To accommodate training for this model and other professional learning for elementary teachers and staff, **Friday, February 5 will be an early release day for all elementary students**. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we work to navigate these changes.

We will communicate any changes to teacher assignments two weeks prior to student return dates, once they are announced. Again, it is our ultimate goal to limit changes to our classroom groups and to keep learners with their current teachers. I apologize in advance if this does not work for every student.

Be sure to visit our Nottingham PTA website for updates, [newsletters](#) and other information. Our next **PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00PM**. More information on the zoom link to follow.

Some upcoming dates:

- February 2, Tuesday PTA Meeting – Presenter, Mark Jones
- February 5, Friday **Early early release (11:25AM)**
- February 12, Friday Virtual Dance Party
- February 15, Monday President's Day – No School for Students
- February 22, Monday Nottingham School Information Session
- February 25, Thursday Early Release – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- February 26, Friday Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thanks,

Eileen

Reminders

Kindergarten Information Night will be held virtually on **Monday, January 25 at 7:00PM**. If you, or a neighbor, have a rising kindergartner, be sure to join us.

Our **Nottingham School Information Session for Kindergarten and New Families will be held on Monday, February 22 at 9:00AM** (virtually). Please encourage our new families to attend. We welcome anyone who would like to hear more about our typical instructional program to attend. We will not address return to school questions at this time.

Winter Weather Procedures. In the event of a change in our operating status due to weather, APS 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. It is possible that a major storm causing a power or network outage may require us to cancel distance learning and call an official "snow day." APS 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.

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 **schooptions@apsva.us**. Additional information and important dates, as well as links to watch the Middle and High School Information Night recordings, are **[available online](#)**.

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.