

Nottingham Knightly News

February 23, 2021

Dear Nottingham Families,

Our partnership has become more important than ever and I am humbled to work with such a great community. As we transition, I expect we'll hit some obstacles and challenges. I promise you that we will be just fine in a week or two. Thank you again for your continued patience, trust and commitment to making the transition back to school a smooth one.

We had a nice turn out for our School Information Session. Feel free to share [this link](#) with any families who may have missed it.

We continue to celebrate **Black History Month** through classroom lessons, activities and guest readers! School Board Member Barbara Kanninen, Nottingham School Board Liaison, Dr. Francisco Durán, APS Superintendent, Dr. Jeannette Allen, APS Asst. Superintendent for Administrative Services, and Lori Silver, APS Supervisor for English/Language Arts have joined us by reading books to our students. We've been having a great time!

Welcome to our new **School Health Nurse! Juliette Jackson** has joined our Nottingham community. The School Health team has been busy preparing for the return of students. If you are planning to have medication for your student at school, please call 703-228-8329 to schedule an appointment time to drop off the medication and to review the signed physician order. Physician order forms for medications and other important information about COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://health.arlingtonva.us/public-health/school-health/>

Our school social worker, Maggie Ryan, has shared some resources for families. Please take a look.

[Lasagna Love Flyers.pdf](#)

[Arlington CTA 2021 Flyer FINAL.pdf](#)

I've added a section to the Knightly News called "**Return to School Details**". Please check there for reminder information about the return to school.

Currently, our **in-person classrooms are full**, and we will not be able to accommodate any additional parent requests for changes from virtual to hybrid/concurrent.

In today's [announcement](#), **Superintendent Durán** talks about the following key points:

- Student Health Symptom Screener, including tutorials in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [COVID Response and Testing](#)
- School Resource Officers
- Transportation Updates, including informative videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [APS Mask Policy](#)*

*Each child will be given two masks from APS. Please have your children **practice wearing a mask** for longer periods of time. Additionally, APS has provided a number of [great resources](#) to help students adjust to wearing masks at school.

I know you have questions about the hybrid and concurrent learning platforms. Here are a few video and article links that may be of interest, but note these are just examples:

- [Concurrent Instruction at Brookfield Elementary](#)
- [How Colvin Run Set Up Classrooms for Concurrent Instruction](#)
- [Concurrent Instruction: Facilitating engaging learning opportunities from start to finish](#)
- [How to Simplify Hybrid Learning](#)
- [More teachers are asked to double up, instructing kids at school and at home simultaneously](#)

Some upcoming dates:

- February 25, Thursday Early Release – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- February 26, Friday Parent-Teacher Conferences
- March 2, Tuesday PK-2 Students Return, PTA Meeting, 7:00PM
- March 5, Friday Grades 3-5 no school
- March 9, Tuesday 3-5 Students Return
- March 29-April 2 Spring Break
- April 5, Monday Synchronous Distance Learning Day, PK-5

Please join us on **March 2 at 7:00PM for our next PTA meeting.**

Thanks,

Eileen

[Return to School Details](#)

We are currently working on finishing details to the master schedule, class lists and room assignments. **Later this week, you will receive a letter** from me with your classroom teacher and room assignment, entry pathway, supply information and lots more! These letters will be posted in Parent Vue and personalized for each student. **School hours remain 9:00AM-2:20PM.**

You may hear about some new staff members (some you know from extended day) who will be joining us to support our return to school. We are pleased to welcome **Mischa Joligard, Gloria Mojica, Abir Esmeel, Jen Dalley, Ian Sheffy, Sydney Bryant and Alicia Martinez.**

Superintendent Durán shared an update with the community last week. Please review it at your leisure. Key points include camera use, schedules and transportation details.

Students in grades PK-1:

- PK and grade 1 will attend on Tuesdays/Wednesdays (beginning March 2)
- Kindergarten will attend on Thursdays/Fridays (beginning March 4)
- New teacher assignments will be updated in Parent Vue as soon as possible
- PK will use the concurrent model
- Kindergarten and grade 1 will use the hybrid model

Students in grades 2-5: Your child's homeroom teacher will not change. As of today, all teachers are planning to return in person. All classes in grades 2-5 at Nottingham will use the concurrent model.

- Grade 2 will report on Thursdays/Fridays (beginning March 2)
- Grade 3 will report on Tuesdays/Wednesdays (beginning March 9)
- Grade 4 will report on Thursdays/Fridays (beginning March 11)
- Grade 5 will report **either on** Tuesdays/Wednesdays **or** Thursdays/Fridays (beginning March 9)

For more information on the different learning models, please [click here](#).

Reminders

Our teachers have received one or, in many cases, both doses of the vaccine. Some staff are experiencing significant side effects. We are doing our best to make sure classes are covered and will communicate when there is a change to the daily schedule. Thanks for your patience.

IMPORTANT! The PTA is an important player in what happens at Nottingham and we are searching for a team to lead the 2021-22 school year. We are currently searching for

people to fill the roles of President, Vice Presidents (External/Fundraising, Internal/Volunteer, and Communications), and Treasurer. It is an excellent opportunity to meet new people, be part of a great team and laugh. No experience required. Contact the PTA Nominating Committee at nominatingcommittee@nespta.org or reach out directly to Stacy Rosenthal, Lauren Rascoe, or Angela Na!

Families are now able to register kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year by using the **Online Registration Process**. Families unable to complete the registration process online are able to register by using the **Student Registration Document Drop Off Process**. Families can determine their neighborhood school by using the **Boundary (Attendance Area) Locator** and are encouraged to register before the end of the current school year to help schools prepare and plan for incoming kindergarten students. Families interested in attending an option school or program are currently able to apply online until Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 4 p.m. The process for applying to pre-K and elementary option schools and programs is available on the **school options webpage**. As a reminder, all families will need to apply for the option schools or programs they are interested in every year to be included in the lottery because waitlists reset annually after the lottery occurs. Families interested in applying to a pre-K or elementary option school or program should complete an application through the **online application portal**. The following is the pre-K and elementary option schools and programs application process timeline:

- **April 15, 2021:** The application for pre-K and elementary option schools and programs closes.
- **April 22, 2021:** Lotteries for all elementary option schools and programs will be held by the APS Welcome Center.
- **April 23, 2021:** Lotteries for all pre-K programs will be held by the APS Welcome Center.
- **April 30, 2021:** Families will be notified of their acceptance or placement on the waitlist.
- **May 14, 2021:** Families must confirm or decline attendance to an option school or program.

For additional information or questions about the registration process or pre-K and elementary option schools and programs, please contact the APS Welcome Center at 703-228-8000 or **schooloptions@apsva.us**.

The Preschool Application process is OPEN! From February 1 until April 15, be sure to apply to APS Montessori, VPI (Virginia Preschool Initiative) or CPP (Community Peer Pre-K) Programs! VPI (Virginia Preschool Initiative) is a free full day Pre-K program located at several Arlington County elementary schools. Students in the VPI program participate in engaging, language rich and developmentally appropriate learning experiences which build their foundational academic and

social-emotional skills and assists in preparing students for Kindergarten. **Primary Montessori** is a full-day multi-age preschool program located in many Arlington County elementary schools. Students in the Primary Montessori classroom range in age from 3-5 and participate in a learning environment that emphasizes respect for others, peace and creativity. Students work independently and cooperatively in a prepared environment which enables students to work at their own pace. **The Community Peer Program** is an inclusive Pre-K program located in a few Arlington County elementary schools. This program offers students with and without disabilities a high quality, engaging and interactive preschool experience. The CPP program is designed to provide students with and without disabilities the opportunity to learn together and grow in all developmental areas. **Where to apply:** For application assistance please contact the Welcome Center or contact your local neighborhood school. You can call our Welcome Center at 703-228-8000 or 703-228-8665. Here is the link to apply online: <https://apsva.schoolmint.net/signin> and for questions email us at earlychildhood@apsva.us.

Looking for summer enrichment for your child? **William & Mary's Summer Enrichment Program** is an academically challenging program with an emphasis on inquiry-based learning for students. The program is not meant to replace the regular school curriculum; rather, it recognizes the importance of allowing able children to explore additional specialized areas of science, mathematics, humanities, and the arts. [Click for More Information](#). Summer 2021 SEP registration is now open for high ability students in grades 2-12. William & Mary's Center for Gifted Education is excited to offer 2 weeks of virtual opportunities with courses available in the morning and afternoon each week. We have virtual courses available in the areas of **robotics, civics, STEM, coding, writing, social science, and many more**. Please see our [Summer 2021](#) brochure for more information.

Directories are here! Please stop by and grab your Nottingham PTA Directory from the **bin in the front of the school**.

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.

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.