

Nottingham Knightly News

October 20, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

We are looking forward to seeing you this week for parent-teacher conferences. Sign-up information has been sent by **your homeroom teacher** and are available through [this link](#). Thanks for partnering with us.

This year, the **PTA's Reflections Contest** topic is "I matter because..." Your child can submit his or her original work inspired by the theme in art, literature, music, dance, and photography. There will be a submission bin outside the front door of Nottingham all week. You can find more information at <https://www.vapta.org/programs/arts-and-education/reflections-top>. The **deadline is this Friday, October 23**.

Costume Showcase: We'd love to see students' costumes for this year's Halloween and will be showcasing them on **Knights @ 9 on October 30**. If you'd like to take a picture of your Knight or a submit a short video wishing their classmates and teachers a happy Halloween (less than 10 seconds) we will incorporate them into a montage to be played that day. This will allow students in different classes and grades to see all the spooky, funny, or iconic costumes that we normally get to see during our parade. **Please email pictures to nicole.gustafson@apsva.us or upload your videos to google drive and share with Ms. Gustafson by 5pm on October 28.**

At **1:30-2:20PM on October 30**, all classes will enjoy a **virtual Halloween Party**. More information will come from our fabulous room parents!

IMPORTANT!! New Library Book Pickup Schedule: We are delighted that so many families have had an opportunity to check out books through our new virtual process. Starting this week, we will be adding an additional time for families. Library book pickup will now be available on **Thursdays 2:30-3:30PM and 5:30-6:30PM**.

The rest of the process will remain the same. We ask that you **place a hold** on your books **by 1:00 on Wednesdays**. Remember when searching in the catalog to select books with the **green IN flag**. Otherwise, those books are checked out to another patron and will not be available yet for checkout. It's always a good idea to check your account before coming to pick up books to make sure they have moved from the HOLDS page to the CHECKED OUT page. That way, you will know the books are checked out to your student and are ready for pickup.

Books from this year or last year may be returned at the Thursday pick up times OR may be placed in the red book return bin located in the lobby in front of the office. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Gustafson nicole.gustafson@apsva.us or Regina Koehler regina.koehler@apsva.us.

Transition to Hybrid Instruction

We are awaiting data for teacher and family preferences before detailed planning can begin for the transition to hybrid instruction. I've received numerous requests from you that students be allowed to remain with their current teacher when the hybrid model opens up. Our goal is to do just that. It just depends on a few factors -- whether the teacher is granted his or her preference; if a family decision contradicts with the teacher's actual final placement; and, if the teacher is needed at a different grade level. Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee a placement. I will say, however, that no classroom changes will be put into effect until we move to a different model. Attached are two pictures of a typical grade level classroom set up for the hybrid model. Also, here is a brief video with an example of a [hybrid classroom](#). Please work with your child(ren) to ensure they are ready for the following **daily requirements**:

- participate in **health screening** (bus stop, door of entry, parent vehicle)
- **wear masks** throughout the day (except when actively eating) including recess and PE
- maintain **social distancing** of at least six feet
- **follow entrance and exit protocols** (note: playground use will not be permitted before or after school)

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.

APS is seeking input on the proposed 2021-22 calendar until October 30. The current plan is to have the final calendar proposal go to the School Board for information at the November 17, 2020 meeting and go for approval at the December 3, 2020 meeting. This will allow a final calendar to be approved more than a month earlier than last year. The link follows: [2021-2022 Calendar Survey](#)

Please join Arlington Public Schools (APS) for Middle School Information Night on Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 at 7 p.m. The event will be virtual this year and families will be able to watch the event live on [Livestream](#) the night of the event. Families unable to watch the event live will be able to view the event recording after the event. Families of students entering middle school in the fall of 2021 will hear an overview about APS middle

schools, school options, application deadlines and procedures, school-based information sessions, available student resources, and more. The link to the updated Middle School Guidebook for Families will also be shared with families the night of the event. Following Middle School Information Night, each school will host a school-based virtual information to provide families the opportunity to meet the staff at the school, receive information about the school, and engage in a Q&A session. The dates and times for the school-based information sessions will be shared during the event. Families are encouraged to join the conversation about Middle School Information Night on Twitter by using the #MSInfoNight hashtag. Simultaneous American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish-language interpretation will be provided for the event. For additional information or questions about Middle School Information Night, please contact School & Community Relations at 703-228-6005.

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

Thanks,

Eileen

Reminders

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.

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](#).

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.

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-solicit-committee-members/>

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 (**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TOPICS**):

- **Thursday, October 29 Social Emotional Support**
- **Thursday, November 12 Conversation with Instructional Coaches**
(assessment, instruction, gifted services)

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.