

Nottingham Knightly News

April 26, 2021

Dear Nottingham Families,

We are very excited about May Fest this Sunday. If you can, drop by virtually to join the fun! For more information, see the attached flyer:

[School Wide Mayfest Invitation.pdf](#)

Congratulations! **Nottingham had two Odyssey of the Mind teams.** The teams coordinated their problems and competed in a virtual environment for the virtual state tournament. **Both teams placed in their respective categories in the state tournament. Our 2nd and 3rd grade team** (Sebastian C.M., John A., John A., Sam B., Sam S., and Liam P.) **placed 1st** for Division 1 Problem 1 (Omer the Romer). **Our 4th and 5th grade team** (Kanav G., Michelle P., Jacob W., Jackson S., Nick R., and Hannah A.) **placed 2nd** for Division 1 Problem 4 (It's A Trap!). We are so excited for the students who worked so hard under the unusual circumstances to put together creative solutions to their problems.

You may have heard that our Knights raised over **\$150 for ASPAN** and we were featured on APS's Friday Five. Congratulations and thank you for your generosity.

The process continues until Monday, May 3 for families to select a learning model for the 2021-22 school year: full-time in-person school or full-time distance learning. Families are also asked to indicate their Transportation and Extended Day needs. According to the superintendent's message, based on preliminary results from the family selection process, an overwhelming number of families are choosing to return in person in the fall. This signals a major shift in families' comfort returning to the classroom, as vaccinations and health metrics progress. Previous communications stated that we are planning for both normal capacities as well as developing contingency plans should 3-foot distancing be recommended; however, **we want to be transparent that 3-foot distancing is not feasible in all classrooms at the capacities we are anticipating.** This update is based on the varying size of classrooms across schools and the results of the space and capacity planning just completed by Facilities. APS is committed to serving all students who want to be back in the classroom five days a week as safely as possible. To accommodate all students who want to attend in-person school in the fall:

- **APS will implement safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools,** including mask requirements for students and staff, air

quality measures, health screening, and COVID-19 response procedures. Distancing will not be possible in all classrooms.

- **APS is extending the Family Selection deadline to Mon, May 3**, in case families want to change their selection based on this new information. Families are able to change their selections in ParentVUE while the selection window is still open, once they have been accepted by the school. **We ask that you please complete the survey by 11:59 p.m. on Mon, May 3**. Completing this process ensures that we have the staffing and resources in place for the start of the 2021-22 school year.
- **APS has posted [updated FAQ](#)** that include this new information, as well as responses to questions about the K-12 Distance Learning Program, how the program is being developed, and how specialized services will be provided to students with disabilities. Please take a moment to review the information and send any additional questions you may have to Engage with APS, at **engage@apsva.us**.

If you received an email informing you that your child is eligible for Summer School and you are interested in having them participate, please fill out the Summer School interest form included in the email by Friday, April 30, at 2:00 PM. This must be filled out for students with ESY and IEPs as well.

As we wrap up our celebration of **Disability Awareness Month**, on Friday's Knights@9 I'll share a few examples of disabilities that manifest from genetic syndromes including [Downs' Syndrome](#), [Prader Willi](#) and [Cri-du-chat](#). Join us on Tuesday, May 4 for our PTA meeting. Representatives from the [APS Parent Resource Center](#) will share information about how we support students with disabilities in our schools.

Finally, I wanted to share with you two stories about disability awareness from our staff. First, Dina Lewin talks about hearing Temple Grandin speak about what it is like to have autism and shares her favorite book. Second, Mark Jones shares a recent Netflix find that highlights the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#).

Dina Lewin: Although not famous to everyone, I had the opportunity to see **Temple Grandin** speak in Baltimore years ago and was so impressed with her story. I did a little looking around on YouTube and found this kid-friendly [video](#) telling her story. I also found a read-aloud of [The Girl Who Thought In Pictures](#) which is a kid-friendly biography of her. One last thing - although long, [Thank You, Mr. Faulker](#) has always been a favorite book of mine.

Mark Jones: An uplifting way to learn more about the benefits of the **Inclusive Model and the power of a few to create social change is a movie called Crip Camp** (free on Netflix) that has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary. It is the story of a unique summer camp in New York in the 1970s that galvanized a group of disabled teens to come together and become lifelong leaders promoting social change, including pushing for the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section

504 of the Rehabilitation Act. [Here is a link to the trailer](#) (Note - it is not suitable for elementary students due to language and certain topics).

Nottingham's Mental Health Team's parent tip of the week:

If your child is expressing negative thoughts, perhaps try reframing negative thoughts into empowering statements. First, validate the child's feelings, then offer a different perspective. For example, a child may say, "I can't play football with my friends at recess. This is the worst. I hate school." Adults can validate the feeling and reframe. "It sounds like you miss playing football with your friends. That's frustrating. This is a great opportunity to learn a new game or hobby. I wonder what else you would really like?"

CALLING NEW KNIGHTS:

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.

Upcoming dates:

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| • May 2, Sunday | Mayfest (virtual) |
| • May 4, Tuesday | PTA Meeting, 7:00PM (Virtual) |
| • May 3-7 | Teacher Appreciation Week |
| • May 4- May 14 | PALS Testing, grades K-2 |
| • May 11-May 21 | DIBELS Testing, grades 3-5 |
| • May 17-June 11 | SOL Testing Window |
| • May 31, Monday | Memorial Day, No School |

Thanks,

Eileen

Reminders

Our **SOL schedule** is listed below. Please avoid appointments and absences on SOL testing dates. Virtual students will test with grade level and subject listed below. Virtual 5th graders will test on Tuesdays/Wednesdays. Please contact Megan with any questions (megan.lynch@apsva.us).

[SOLs by Grade Level](#)

3rd grade Reading May 25

3rd Math June 1

4th Reading June 4

4th Math June 11

5th Science June 9-10

5th grade Reading May 26-27

5th Math June 2-3

APS will begin providing **free testing for students and staff who are symptomatic**, or who have been exposed to COVID-19. Walk-up testing sites will be located at three schools, in addition to the case-by-case in-person testing already available in the hybrid model. APS is providing the free testing in partnership with [ResourcePath](#). Parental/guardian consent will be required in advance of student testing, and additional information will be shared with staff and families via School Talk later this week.

A few folks have asked about applying for **Extended Day** for next year. We continue to await information on how the program will be structured going forward. Please visit <https://www.apsva.us/extended-day/> to see the most current information about the program. This information could change, however.

Our staffing is always based on enrollment. If you, or your neighbors, have **plans to newly enroll (or re-enroll) at Nottingham for the 2021-22 school year, please encourage them to do that now!** See below for [registration information](#). This will mean we have the staffing that matches the needs of our students. If you are a current Nottingham family, please complete this [Intent to Return](#) form.

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.