

Nottingham Knightly News

September 28, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

September 15-October 15 is **Hispanic Heritage Month**. Our superintendent, **Dr. Duran** was able to read "Abuelita's Secret" to our kindergartners and to Ms. Hubbard's class today. What a special treat! **Dr. Kanninen** will be reading to some classes later this month and some additional guest readers are being lined up as well.

I have received really great questions from several families around the ins and outs of the proposed phased **transition to hybrid plans** that have been shared by APS. The questions range from topics including the expectations during the asynchronous days and potential teacher changes, to safety protocols and student numbers in classrooms. We are in the very **beginning of the planning stage** for this transition. I know you will require more information about groupings, instructional and building operational details. I appreciate your patience as we gather and share updated information as quickly as is possible.

On Thursday, October 1, 2020 we will have a **drive-through materials distribution from 2:30PM – 4:00PM** so families can get their **APS Learning Kits**. Library books that were reserved for this week will be placed within the kits for each student. **There will be no walk-up library service this week!** The distribution will follow the same guidance as before. Families should write their last name (or if picking up for other families, last names) on a sheet of paper and place on their dashboard or taped to a passenger window. Enter Nottingham's parking lot via Ohio Street. Pull forward, and when stopped, pop your trunk. Items will be placed in the trunk. Please do not get out of your car and wear a mask if you roll down your window/ need to communicate to staff. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and for students to see all the great learning resources provided by APS. Please email Megan(megan.lynch@apsva.us) with any questions or if you need any assistance.

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.

Thank you to the **Nottingham PTA** for treating the staff and students to a new Nottingham t-shirt. We are very grateful for your support and appreciation! Be sure to

visit our Nottingham PTA website for updates, [newsletters](#) and other information. Our next **PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00PM.**

Thanks,

Eileen

Reminders

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](#).

If you need assistance with any aspect of your **child's social emotional well-being**, support staff **daily office hours** are as follows:

- **Mark Jones, Counselor:** Monday - 10:00AM-3:30PM; Tuesday-Friday - 2:30PM-3:30PM
- **Maggie Ryan, School Social Worker:** Tuesday-Thursday - 2:30-3:30PM
- **Maggie Dassira, School Psychologist:** Tuesday/Wednesday - 2:30-3:30PM; Thursdays - 9:00-10:00AM
- **A Note from the Library**
- Hello, Nottingham Families. Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We know that this year will be different than most, but we are extremely excited and are looking forward to working with your students remotely.
- We are pleased to announce that we will offer virtual book checkout this fall. Yay! Students will be able to check out **3 print books** each week. Students in **grades 1-5** will request books by **placing a hold** in their library account. Holds need to be placed **by 1:00 PM on Wednesdays** (or earlier!) Once they place the holds, the librarians will check the books out to them. Please note, librarians will automatically select books for students in **PreK and K**. However, if parent/guardians wish to choose specific books for their students, you are more than welcome to place a hold on your student's account. We will be happy to fill those requests. **Book pick up** will take place on **Thursday afternoons 2:30-3:30 PM** at the front door of Nottingham. Finished books can be returned then as well.
- Please be careful as you make your way to and from school and while on school property, maintain social distancing and wear masks. Finished books can be returned then as well.
- For detailed instructions on how to access the library catalog and place a hold, please see the attached document. Instructions and **How-to Videos** are also located on the Library page of the Specials Canvas course for reference. If you have

questions, please contact Nicole Gustafson nicole.gustafson@apsva.us or Regina Koehler regina.koehler@apsva.us. We will also host Library Office Hours on Teams to answer any questions you may have. Times and links are in the attached document.

- We anticipate that this new system will have some kinks that need to be worked out. Please be patient as we experiment to find out what works best. We would love your feedback on what goes well or what could use improvement. Happy reading!

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.

Small Group Instruction: As teachers begin to transition to meeting in smaller, breakout groups in their Team meetings, here is a [resource video](#) here that may be beneficial to you and your child. Also, on this page of the tech support site, there are lots of [parent and student videos](#) that may help you and your child as we navigate this virtual portion of our year together.

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:

- **Thursday, October 15 Special Education**
- **Thursday, October 29 Conversation with Instructional Coaches** (assessment, instruction, gifted services)
- **Thursday, November 12 Social Emotional Support**

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).