

Nottingham Knightly News

September 15, 2020

Dear Nottingham Families,

Back to School Night is this **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00PM**. Please join us virtually for a welcome message, information about specials (art, music, PE, library) and then to hear from our fantastic teaching teams. We will conclude the evening with our first **PTA meeting at 8:15PM**. If you can't make it, we will be sure to post all the presentations to our website by Thursday. Links will be shared Wednesday morning. We welcome your **pre-submitted questions through [this link](#)**. In October and November, we will host a series of virtual "coffees" to cover some topics in more depth including assessment, gifted services, special education and social emotional support.

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

In lieu of drills that take place while in school, teachers will provide activities for students to complete at home for **Monday, September 21st**. The goal is to provide **fire safety awareness and evacuation planning for their home** at all grade levels. Please review the materials with your children. The curriculum used is from the National Fire Protection Association, and ShakeOut.org as recommended by Arlington Public Schools Emergency Manager. We will follow up this curriculum with our annual School Safety Assembly (virtually) on September 25th. We will address our school philosophy of CARES, introduce students to our school resource officer, John Adams, and talk about school-wide safety.

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!

Families with active **ParentVUE accounts** can now complete the **[Annual Online Verification Process \(AOVP\)](#)**. Please take time to complete the steps, so that we have up-to-date and accurate information on every student in our school.

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, 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.

Yesterday was our first asynchronous Monday and I hope it went well. We're looking forward to building more creative and engaging lessons in the next few weeks. Please

reach out if you need anything at all. Be sure to visit our Nottingham PTA website for updates, [newsletters](#) and other information.

Thanks,

Eileen