



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

October 16, 2020

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[Last Week to Choose Hybrid or Virtual](#)

The deadline for families to confirm their choice for school instruction is Wednesday, October 21, 2020. Families must make their choice for either hybrid or full time virtual by then, *or else your child will automatically be assigned as a **hybrid student***. Teachers will be reaching out to the families of students in their classrooms who have not yet made a choice. Please respond to your teacher.

1. Log onto **ParentVue**. Instructions to do so can be found [here](#).
2. Click on your child's profile in the upper left hand corner.
3. Click on "**Student Info**" in the menu on the left.
4. Click "**Edit Information**"
5. Scroll down the page until you reach the section titled "**Other Information**".
6. Look for "**Instructional Delivery Method for 20-21**" and, using the drop down menu, make your selection.
7. Scroll down to "**Transportation Choice for 20-21**" and choose your method of transportation for your child.

8. Scroll all the way to the bottom and click **“Save Changes”**.
9. If you made changes, you will see a message at the top of the page that reads **“Changes submitted on DATE, TIME, are still waiting approval.”** The registrar will review and approve the changes.
10. If you didn’t make any changes, you will not see a message.
11. You can also send an **e-mail** to [Ingrid](#), [Karina](#), [Katherine](#) or [Kia](#) in the main office and ask them to input your choice for you. *Be sure to write the first and last name of your child, their teacher and clearly state whether you prefer virtual or hybrid for them.*

Parents: Recording of Teams Meetings

When the desire to take a keepsake screenshot of your child’s class meeting is irresistible, please be mindful that the same guidelines for staff in regards to recording also applies to parents. From page 9 of the [Elementary Parent Guide to Distance Learning](#): **“The recording of the lessons can take place as long as there is no personally identifiable information or student records disclosed.”** This means that you **cannot** take a picture or recording of any other child’s face or any child’s work except **your own**.

The families who have not opted out of being filmed (and willingly keep their cameras on) have the expectation that only the teacher will be recording the class and that the recording will only be available on APS protected servers. Let’s please be respectful of that trust.

If your intention to record the class is so you can access a lesson at a later time, please just ask your teachers how to access to the recording they made of the lesson.

Thank you in advance for being cooperative on this matter.

Primary Kit Pick Up #2

We are ready to distribute the second set of materials for our Primary Montessori students (age 3 through Kindergarten) this **Monday, October 19**. Your child’s teacher should have notified you, but as a reminder:

From 10AM to 12PM:

- Ms. Mendolia & Ms. O’Donnell at the Main Door (Door #1)
- Ms. Kalkus & Ms. Morgan at the Car Rider/Walker Door (Door #5)

From 1:30PM to 3:30PM

- Ms. Novak at the Main Door (Door #1)
- Ms. Bruno & Ms. Kain at the Car Rider/Walker Door (Door #5)

Please pull up to the curb and **remain in your cars**. Open the trunk and the teachers will place the materials in your car.

5th Grade Parents: Middle School Info Night is 10/26

Join 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.

A Message from the Counselor

During Hispanic Heritage month, I would like to thank all of our Latino/a/x families for the many contributions you have made that have made our country a better place. I celebrate with you the riches of the Hispanic culture.

Please view this slide show in celebration of **Hispanic Heritage Month** created by MPSA Bilingual Family Coordinator Henry Cardenas.

I would also like to acknowledge that October is **LGBT History** month and give a shout out to Rodney Wilson and all the people who have been a champion for gay rights. At MPSA we celebrate diversity and believe in the dignity of every human being. We want all our students to cherish their identity and to have their individual identities respected. If you would like to know more about the APS policy for equal educational opportunity and non-discrimination for our LGBTQ students, you can click on the following link to the specific

policy: [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/AZ3NM3602DD4/\\$file/J-2%20Student%20Equal%20Educational%20Opportunities-Nondiscrimination.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/AZ3NM3602DD4/$file/J-2%20Student%20Equal%20Educational%20Opportunities-Nondiscrimination.pdf)

If you have a concern about the social or emotional health of your child, please write to me at diane.reeser@apsva.us.

Fostering Solidarity in Youth

In speaking of solidarity, **Maria Montessori** has this to say: *"... 'I can never insist enough upon the importance of the study of history in all its details, for the education of the child to the idea of universal solidarity.' Thus, when it comes to the study of humanity, our aim must always be to make this profound realization of universal solidarity blossom in our children"* (Grazzini 112, AMI trainer and lecturer).

Maria Montessori saw the necessity of promoting solidarity as integral in educating for peace. While each month of the calendar year designates certain cultures and causes as reminders to celebrate, each and every day provides us with opportunities to: recall history, celebrate diversity, identify and call out discrimination, work towards understanding and find common ground in our humanity, to the end of living peacefully on this one planet that we share.

Ideas and resources to foster solidarity in youth:

- Learn to recognize discrimination and how to challenge it (<https://www.tolerance.org>)
- Use world events as opportunities for discussion in the classroom and around the dinner table <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/tips-teach-explain-racism-to-children>
- Encourage children who do not experience a disadvantage to be an ally <https://www.welcomingschools.org/pages/sticking-up-for-each-other-the-power-of-allies/>
- Read non-fiction and fiction about marginalized people to provide a more well-rounded perspective on history to nourish empathy <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/>
- Responsible citizenship: Compassion=empathy in action, <https://ideas.ted.com/activism-isnt-just-for-adults-and-teens-we-need-to-teach-younger-kids-to-be-activists-too/>

Thank You from the MPSA Library

Thank you to everyone who has returned their library books from the spring. Many of these books are currently on hold by other students who have been waiting patiently to have their turn to read them. We still have quite a few books missing so we are asking again for families to please check your child's account to see if they have any overdue books listed and, if so, please help them find them and return them to school. **We are not charging fines for overdue books so please do not worry about having to pay a fee.**

If you do find **MPSA library books**, they can be returned to school during the same times as library book pickup: Monday through Wednesday (9AM to 12PM & 1PM to 3:45PM) and Thursday (all day from 9AM to 3:45PM). There is no library book pick up or return on Fridays or school holidays.

Library Book Pick Up Notices: Parents, notices to pick up your child's library book will now come from MPSA Library staff instead of your child's teacher. This is a reminder to not come to school to pick up a book until you receive this reminder.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, 10/19 – **Primary Kit Pick Up #2**
- Tuesday, 10/20 – **PTA Reflections Entries Due**
- Thursday, 10/22 – **Early Release for Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- Friday, 10/23 – **No School for Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- Monday, 10/26 – **Middle School Info Night, 7PM**
- Tuesday, 10/27 – **Asynchronous Day for MPSA Students**
- Wednesday, 10/28 – **Asynchronous Day for MPSA Students**
- Thursday, 10/29 – **Coffee Chat with Principal Genove, 9:30AM**

 **Keep in Touch**

- MPSA on APS: <https://montessori.apsva.us/>
- MPSA on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MPSArlington>
- MPSA Library on Twitter: https://twitter.com/MPSA_Library
- Principal Genove on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGenove>
- Arlington Montessori PTA: <http://acmpta.com/>
- Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC): <http://www.arlingtonmontessori.org/>