



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 12, 2021

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APS Celebrates Black History Month

Throughout the month of February, APS will celebrate **Black History Month**. The focus of this year is Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the paramount role these institutions play in educating the African American community. Each week will have a theme related to this year's focus.

This week's theme is: **HBCUs in the DC Region and the History of the Divine Nine Fraternities & Sororities**. Click this [link](#) to read about the many HBCUs here in the Washington, DC area. Click this [link](#) to read the history behind the 9 Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLO) that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council. For more about APS' celebration of Black History Month and to listen to a message from Superintendent Dr. Duran, visit [this page](#).

School Re-Opening Information

As you've heard, MPSA will be re-opening in the HYBRID instructional model on March 2. Please read the information below in its entirety.

Start Dates: Primary (PreK-K) and Lower Elementary (1st-3rd) will begin hybrid in-person instruction on March 2. Upper Elementary (4th & 5th) will begin hybrid in person instruction on March 9.

Hybrid/Virtual Status: The children whose families chose hybrid in the late Fall survey are the students who will be attending in person. If you chose virtual for your child, ***we cannot at this time change your child into the hybrid model.*** We must observe a specific number of children and staff per class in order to be within CDC guidelines for COVID-19 safety.

New Classroom Assignments: Welcome letters introducing you to your classroom teacher will be sent home the week of February 22. Virtual students whose teachers will be switching to in-person teaching will also receive a welcome letter with their new virtual classroom assignment. The new classroom assignments begin on Monday, March 1st.

Transportation: If you chose to use APS transportation but have since decided to drive your child, ***please e-mail the office ASAP to let us know.*** Every seat on the bus is accounted for so it is important for us to know if any seats are freeing up.

Please tune in to the **Principal's Coffee Chat** hosted by the PTA on **February 18** to hear more about the re-opening and to get your questions answered. We ask that you send your questions in to info@acmpta.com prior to the meeting. The meeting takes place on **Zoom, 9:30AM, Meeting ID 399 269 8481/Password: 504941**

The Montessori K-8 Vision – How to Engage in the Process

As you may now know, APS is continuing to develop the PreK-Adult **Instructional Programs and Pathways (IPP)** framework (www.apsva.us/engage/ipp). The IPP is a framework for making decisions around instructional visioning that will inform APS planning initiatives, including the annual budget, Capital Improvement Plan, boundary processes, etc. The School Board meeting on February 4 included a monitoring report on the IPP that included a suggestion to make the Montessori Public School of Arlington a K through 8th grade program.

We invite you to attend a [Virtual Community Meeting](#) on the IPP visioning process on February 17th from 7-8:30PM. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish, Amharic, Arabic and Mongolian. Recordings will be posted online, and a community questionnaire will be available the week of Feb. 15. To view past meetings and notes, or to read more about the IPP process, please visit this page.

Principal Genove will talk about the process at the PTA Coffee Chat on the 18th.

Library Update

We have gotten permission to extend our library book pick up time by 1 hour. **So now you will be able to pick up books until 3:30.** As always, the exact dates you can come retrieve your books will be included in the pick up notice we e-mail to you.

Returning Books: Books can be returned any time **Tuesday-Friday from 8:30AM to 12PM & 1PM to 3:30PM.** Ring the bell at the main entrance and let the office staff know you are there to return books. Open the door and place the books in the wooden return bin in the vestibule. There are a lot of overdue library books out there, including some from last Spring! Please find time to return them soon so that

others may check them out and enjoy them. Remember – we are not charging fines for overdue books, no matter how late they are returned.

And in case you missed it, here's the video of Principal and Ms. Genove getting splashed with a bucket of cold water! <https://vimeo.com/509917757>

Please Pick Up Your Child's Art/Music Kit ASAP

If you have not had a chance to pick up a 1-5th grade music & art kit, your student's bag is waiting for you in the vestibule at MPSA. **If your student is remaining virtual for the year, it is especially important to pick up your kit before students return to the building.** We want all MPSA students to have the tools they need for each lesson. **Any kits not picked up by next Friday the 19th will be removed from the vestibule and will only be available for pick up by appointment.**

Naturally, students will want to explore the contents of the kit. This is absolutely fine and inherently artful in nature—we love and promote curiosity! However, it is important to remember that the items in the kit are tools, not toys. If you find that your child is using a material in a potentially harmful way, feel free to set it aside until the next Art or Music class. All LEM students know that, when handling the kit, they must remember three things: Clean hands. No food. Keep it safe in the bag. Also, please keep in mind that there are no refills or restocking of the art supplies that have been provided, so children should save those materials for art class and not for leisure use.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, February 15 – **Presidents' Day, NO SCHOOL**
- Thursday, February 18 – **Principal's Coffee Chat, 9:30AM**
- Monday, February 22 – **Welcome Letters Get Sent Home**
- Thursday, February 25 – **Early Release for Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Friday, February 26 – **NO SCHOOL for Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Tuesday, March 2 – **First Day for PreK through 3rd Grade Hybrid Students**
- Tuesday, March 9 – **First Day for 4th & 5th Grade Hybrid Students**

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/>