



# School Talk

## WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 19, 2021

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**Families** – We have so many kits and school supplies that have not been picked up. If your child is going to be with us in hybrid, we will give their kits to their teachers. **However, if your child is remaining virtual it is very important that you come get your materials ASAP.** We need to clear the vestibule and hallways completely before students return. You may come get your child's materials **Tuesday** through **Friday** from **9AM to 11:45AM** and **1:15 to 3:30PM**. *\*Regular pick up times have been adjusted to avoid times when staff will be entering/leaving the building for work/lunch. These times will change again when school reopens.*

### **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: **Influential HBCU Graduates**. Click this [link](#) to read about some of the most influential people we know of today who attended an HBCU, to include **Chadwick Boseman, Stacey Abrams** & Vice President **Kamala Harris**. For more about APS' celebration of Black History Month and to listen to a message from Superintendent Dr. Duran, visit [this page](#).

### Please Share With Your Children

For those whose children will be attending school in the hybrid model, we invite you to share these pictures of the safety measures that will be in place when they return to school. Please talk to them about social distancing, not sharing materials and wearing their masks. This does not have to be a scary conversation! We encourage families to use these pictures to discuss what school will look like when they return and to give children the opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Reeser, as well as your children's hybrid teacher, will likely have this conversation as well. To view these pictures (in their full size), [click here](#).

Here are a couple as a preview:



### The Virginia SOLs & In-Person Testing

The **Standards of Learning (SOL)** assessments have not been waived and are required by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to be delivered in person at school. The reasons for in person assessment are typically for test security reasons, or a standardized assessment process must be maintained in order to maintain the reliability and validity of the will need to come into school to be tested. **Therefore the Spring Non-Writing SOL tests will be administered to students in Grades 3-5 between May 17 and June 11 in our school building per State and Federal Guidelines** (subject to change). All History/Social Studies classes (e.g. VA Studies) will take performance-based assessments, scored using the State rubric.

To support students' health and safety, APS will ensure safety and security procedures are in place and social distancing is observed. Please see the document [APS Assessment Guidelines: 2020-21](#) on the APS website for more information about how APS is addressing assessments this year. We understand that families may have concerns about their student coming into the building to participate in assessments

even though there are many safety protocols in place and valuable student data can be collected. Parents who do not wish for their student to participate in state and/or federally mandated assessments due to COVID-19 concerns should contact **Ms. Nashid** ([yolanda.nashid@apsva.us](mailto:yolanda.nashid@apsva.us)) to discuss scheduling options or request information on opting out for this school year. There will be no penalty for students who are not assessed, but parents will need to submit the APS Parent Refusal Form for the appropriate assessment which can be obtained from us or on the [APS Assessment Covid webpage](#).

Questions regarding assessment administration or requirements may be addressed to [Betty.Mills@apsva.us](mailto:Betty.Mills@apsva.us), Assistant Director of Assessment.

### **The Montessori K-8 Vision – Last Week to Engage**

As you may now know, APS is continuing to develop the PreK-Adult **Instructional Programs and Pathways (IPP)** framework ([www.apsva.us/engage/ipp](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> grade program.

Next week is the LAST week to engage in this process and have your voices heard. Below are ways to participate. If you are in support of MPSA becoming a K-8 school, we highly encourage you to join in the conversation.

#### **Virtual Open Office Hours for Community Members on the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways (IPP)**

- These open office hour will provide community members the opportunity to ask questions about specific suggestions from instructional leaders that were shared in the Feb. 4 IPP Monitoring report. The date and time below include a hyperlink to the meeting. Visit <https://www.apsva.us/engage/ipp/> to learn more.

#### **February 22- 7:30-8:30 – Virtual Open Office Hour**

- **7:30-8:00- Suggestion to consider making Montessori a PreK-8 school**
- 8:00-8:30- Suggestion to consider reopening Kenmore Arts & Communication Technology Program to middle school students countywide

#### **February 24- 7:30-8:30 – Virtual Open Office Hour**

- 7:30-8:00- Suggestion to consider using one floor of the Ed Center for a virtual learning program for students at the secondary level
- 8:00-8:30- Suggestion to consider co-locating Academic Academy at the Langston Site

#### **Community Questionnaire (For Staff, Families, Students)- Open Through Feb. 28**

- [Click here for English & Spanish](#)
- Amharic, Arabic and Mongolian available in PDF at <https://www.apsva.us/engage/ipp/>

### Upcoming Dates

- Monday, February 22 – **Welcome Letters Get Sent Home**
- Wednesday, February 24 – [Montessori Information Night](#), 7PM
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Hybrid Students**
- Tuesday, March 9 – **First Day for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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](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/>