



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

March 12, 2021

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[Sending Children to School with Covid Symptoms](#)

During a normal school year, it is quite understandable that, sometimes, you have to make the determination between what is truly an illness vs. a side effect of a circumstance (like a runny nose from an allergy) and whether or not you should send your child to school that day. After all, you know your child the best. However, this is not a normal school year.

Per APS protocol, if any of the following symptoms or situations is occurring with your child, you should keep them home.

- Fever (100.4 or greater)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste/smell
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Runny Nose/Congestion
- Stomachache

- Diarrhea
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Headaches

If your child comes to school with any of the symptoms above, they will be sent to the Covid-19 isolation room and you will be called to come take them home immediately. If your child tells a teacher that they had these symptoms prior to coming to school OR tells staff that they were given a dose of pain/fever meds before coming to school, you will be called to come take your child home immediately.

We understand that to some, these may seem extremely stringent measures, however Covid-19 is a very serious virus and APS has these protocols in place to keep everyone safe. Plus, it is beneficial to you to err on the side of caution because keeping your child home for the day will be less of a hassle for you than if we have to isolate and send them home. If we send them home, your child will need to meet one of the following protocols before they are allowed to return to school:

- A notice from medical provider denoting an alternate diagnosis and authorization to return to school in person, and symptom-free for 24 hours
- Clearance from Arlington County Public Health to return to school in person after a positive COVID diagnosis.
- Clearance from APS and School Health to return to in person instruction and activities.

Also, please fill out the daily health screenings honestly. They are a key part of contact tracing efforts should we have any cases erupt in our school.

We are very happy to have our children back in school and want to make sure we do everything we can to keep our school open. We are depending on everyone's cooperation to achieve this – staff, students and parents. Thank you for your understanding and your help.

For more about the APS safety protocols and guidelines, click [here](#).

[Thank You for Our Tables/Making Sit Upons](#)

We'd like to thank all of the families who donated tables to the school so our children can eat lunch outdoors. Children got to enjoy eating lunch outdoors in the beautiful Spring-like weather this past week and it was lovely! Remember, if you would like a receipt for your donation, please send your purchase receipt to Katherine Mosquera (Patton) at katherine.patton@apsva.us

Sometime the children may enjoy eating lunch while sitting in the grass instead of a table. We encourage you to send your child to school with a small blanket or towel to sit on or perhaps craft one of these "sit upons" that they can keep in their backpacks. <https://www.momsminivan.com/situpon/>

[March is "Arts in School" Month](#)

March is annual **Arts in Schools** month. Don't limit your celebration of Arts to the school day, though. Celebrate **Arts in Schools at Home**. You'll have the best seats in the house!

This week MPSA *Arts in Schools at Home* highlights:

Story Time With Women in the Arts: Enjoy special NMWA@Home videos - created and curated by National Museum for Women in the Arts (NMWA) staff. Story Time with Women in the Arts features books for kids authored or illustrated by women.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1boWZ4URBmrKTBbieP61tU2DnMFd34AR>

Cenicienta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story: Austin-based Glass Half Full Theatre presents its award-winning “story within a story” using puppetry, Spanish, and English, and tackles cultural heritage, family, and the power of language. This gracious performance opportunity is hosted by Kennedy Center’s Education Department and most enjoyed by ages 5+.

Closed captioning, American Sign Language and audio descriptions are available during this virtual performance.

To watch ***Cenicienta***, click <http://www.kennedy-center.org/education>

The school order number is **2103022926**. This code allows the MPSA community access to the performance. The code may not be used outside our immediate community.

Tweet and tag your experience!

- @mpsarlington @APSArts @GHalfFullTheater @WomenInTheArts
- #artsNschoolsathome #KCEd #cenicienta #StayatHome

[Visit the *UPDATED* MPSA Library Page](#)

Families! We invite you to come visit the updated MPSA Library page! There you will find updated library procedures for both virtual and hybrid students; information on how to check out books (physical and e-books) and more! <https://montessori.apsva.us/welcome-to-the-mps-a-library/>

Also, please remember to turn in those overdue library books! Especially books from last year. Remember that MPSA does not charge late fines so you won’t have to pay a fee for returning a late book. We are still missing several books from last spring. Please check around your house for those books and return them to us so that others may enjoy them as well.

[Family Life Education Meeting for 5th Grade Parents](#)

Who? All interested 5th grade parents; Ms. Soliman, MPSA school nurse; Ms. Reeser, school counselor

What ? A parent meeting to share content and answer questions about an upcoming 5th grade lesson on the female and male reproductive systems. This is part of the Family Life Education curriculum for APS schools. If you would like to learn more about the objectives of the lesson, please attend the meeting.

When? Monday, March 15th from 9:00AM to 10:00PM

Where? Microsoft Teams:

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 571-451-2488,,314938351#](#) United States, Arlington

Phone Conference ID: 314 938 351#

Additional Information: Opt-out forms in several languages along with this same announcement will be posted in your child's Seesaw announcements. Ms. Hernandez will send an email to her class members. If you do not want your child to attend one of the lessons on 3/22, please send an email stating such to: diane.reeser@apsva.us

In the Spotlight: Instructional Assistant Ikea Gunn

Ms. Hernandez' Instructional Assistant, **Ikea Gunn**, received accolades from the founder of the new tutoring program, [EduTutorVA](#). The program, located at Barcroft Elementary, had several of their tutors struggling mightily with both Microsoft Teams and the SeeSaw platform. A member of the EduTutorVA Advisory Board was introduced to Ms. Gunn and she graciously and generously offered to provide a one-hour workshop to their tutors. Ms. Gunn introduced the tutors to an expanded use of Teams and many useful details with utilizing See Saw. Her support of the tutors will allow them to better support those children at Barcroft (and other APS schools added to the program in the future) and they were extremely grateful. Way to go, Ms. Gunn!

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, March 18: **PTA Principal's Coffee Chat about Gifted Learning**
- Monday, March 29-April 2: **Spring Break**

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/>