



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

May 14, 2021

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The last day to purchase yearbooks for the 2020-2021 school year closes at 11:59PM on **Saturday, May 16th**. Do not miss your chance to own a piece of history! Click [here](#) to purchase.

[MPSA is No Place for Hate® – Sign the Pledge](#)

No Place for Hate® (NPFH) is a school climate improvement framework for preK-12 schools looking to build inclusive and safe communities where all students can feel comfortable and thrive. MPSA is working on our certification as a part of that program and to achieve that goal, we will need to have all our students and staff sign a pledge as a part of this program. The Pledge reads as follows:

"I promise to do my best to treat everyone fairly. I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone – even if they are not like me. If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell a teacher. Everyone should be able to feel safe and happy in school. I want our school to be No Place for Hate®."

We ask that you encourage your children to sign this pledge. It is not a legally binding document, but rather a way to give your child the power to take ownership of their promise to abide by the words of the pledge. We also encourage staff and welcome parents to sign the pledge as well.

View and sign the electronic pledge by clicking [here](#).

As part of the work to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in our school community as we are working toward becoming a certified **No Place for Hate**® school, the NPFH committee, along with the MPSA **Deep Equity & Inclusion (DEI)** committee has developed a school wide read aloud activity. The committee chose two books, one for the primary classrooms and one for lower elementary and upper elementary classrooms, that teachers will read along with their students and engage in conversations surrounding the topics of the books afterwards.

The books are [All Are Welcome](#) by, to be read by the Primary Montessori students, and [Intersection Allies](#), to be read by both Lower and Upper Elementary Montessori.

[Get Your Child's iPads Ready for SOL Testing](#)

Please make sure your child's iPad is **updated** to iOS [14.4.0](#), [14.4.1](#) or [14.4.2](#). Make sure the [Pearsons Test Nav 8](#) app is installed.

Screen Time Setting: Some families have been taking advantage of the parental controls available in the iPad's Screen Time setting. Using these controls is fine most of the school year, but they interfere with the device's ability to take the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. During the SOL testing window, these controls must be removed. To ensure all students can test, we have removed these settings from the student's iPads through the remainder of the school year. Families may re-enable these controls after the last day of school.

Remember that **ALL** children taking the SOLs need to come to school with their iPads **FULLY CHARGED** and they may bring their headphones if they wish.

The full SOL testing schedule can be found below under "Upcoming Dates".

[Instrumental Music Recruitment Meeting Info](#)

Join MPSA band instructor, **Randy Glasner**, to learn about band and orchestra offerings for the 2021-2022 school year. **For current 3rd and 4th graders only.** (Band & Orchestra is only for 4th and 5th grade students.) Tuesday, **May 18th** at **7PM** on Microsoft Teams. Click [here](#) to join.

[Picking Up Children Early/Dismissal Changes](#)

If you need to pick up your child from school early, or you need to change your child's dismissal protocol, **please call the main office** at **703-228-8871**. This way you ensure that all parties will be notified. If you are requesting that your child go home with someone other than yourself, please be sure to list that person in ParentVue as an emergency contact and give permission to have your child released to them.

Spring Cleaning? Keep an Eye Out for Library Books!

Families! While doing your **Spring cleaning**, please keep an eye out for **overdue library books!** We still have several books out from last year, and quite a few overdue from this year as well. **Remember, MPSA does not charge fines for overdue books!** We will be happy just to have them returned to us.

- **If your child is in person**, they can return books by placing them in the return bin in the hallway.
- **If your child is virtual**, you can return books to the return bin located just inside the main doors **Tuesday through Friday**, from **9:30AM to 2PM** and **3PM to 3:45PM**. Ring the bell and let them know you are there to return books and they will let you in. **If your child is virtual but coming in for SOLs, this is the perfect opportunity to return those books!*

Also, a reminder for parents helping their children to put books on hold: **Children can only check out 1 book of a series at a time** to allow their classmates to also enjoy the series. It is also for this reason that we ask students to not put more than 1 or 2 books from a series on hold. When a book is put on hold it cannot be checked out to other students.

Finally, please do not forget our **FOOD DRIVE** is still going on. There are food collection bins located directly next to the book return bins. Please consider donating food! All items will be going to the **Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)**.

Urgent Gardening Request from the ACMPTA

Carlin Springs Elementary School is disassembling their heritage garden and has offered other schools the opportunity to harvest the plants from it. Some of the plants they have include bergamot (bee balm), Joe Pye weed, columbine, Sonia, purple coneflower, New England aster, prickly pear cactus, wild petunia, fireworks goldenrod, sundrops, blazing star liatris, butterfly weed, tall goldenrod and native wildflowers. These would make an amazing addition to our MPSA gardens/beds/grounds.

We are looking for volunteers to go to Carlin Springs this coming **Monday, May 17th** for their **3PM** work day to harvest some plants and flowers for MPSA. Volunteers would need to bring their own tools, pots and soil to help with transplanting. If anyone is able to do this, please contact our ACMPTA Outdoor Spaces coordinator, **Sara Upchurch** at gardening@acmpta.com. Thank you in advance!

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, May 17 - **Virtual Students Only** 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade **Reading**
- Tuesday, May 18 - **Hybrid T/W Students Only** 3rd Grade **Reading**
- Tuesday, May 18 – **Instrumental Music Recruiting Meeting**, 7PM
- Wednesday, May 19 - **Hybrid T/W Students Only** 3rd Grade **Math**
- Thursday, May 20 - **Hybrid Thurs/Fri Students Only** 3rd Grade **Reading**
- Friday, May 21 - **Hybrid Thurs/Fri Students Only** 3rd Grade **Math**
- Monday, May 24 - **Virtual Students Only** 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade **Math**
- Tuesday, May 25 - **Hybrid T/W Students Only** 4th Grade **Reading**
- Wednesday, May 26 - **Hybrid T/W Students Only** 5th Grade **Reading**

- Monday, May 31 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Memorial Day)
- Tuesday, June 1 - **Hybrid T/W Students Only** 4th Grade **Math**
- Wednesday, June 2 - **Hybrid T/W Students Only** 5th Grade **Math**
- Monday, June 7 - **Virtual 5th Graders Only Science** (3rd and 4th graders DO NOT take a Science SOL)
- Tuesday, June 8 - **Hybrid T/W Students Only** 5th Grade **Science**

 **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/>