



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

September 10, 2021

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A reminder that next **Thursday, September 16th** there will be no school in observance of Yom Kippur.

[Weekly Surveillance Testing Begins Next Friday](#)

The Covid-19 Weekly Surveillance Testing Program (<https://www.apsva.us/school-year-2021-22/health-safety-information/covid-19-testing/>) begins for MPSA next Friday, September 17. APS has partnered with ResourcePath, a private testing lab, to administer weekly tests to APS staff and students. The goal is to prevent outbreaks by testing frequently, therefore keeping everyone healthy and in school. You still have time to sign up. This page links to the consent form, application & instructions, and FAQs: <https://www.resourcepath.net/covid-19-testing-at-aps/weekly-surveillance-2> The application & instructions are available in 5 languages. You must fill out one application for each child you would like to have participate.

The weekly testing is completely free. Insurance information is only collected in the case a participant comes up positive and needs the more comprehensive PCR test. Due to a nationwide shortage of rapid

antigen tests, the weekly surveillance testing will now be administered as pooled testing. For an explanation of what pooled testing is, please watch this video. <https://youtu.be/bAFH6KmDOpo>

Our weekly testing days will be on Friday, from 2PM to 4PM. The collection of test specimens only takes minutes, so your child won't be taken away from their class too long. It will be a lower nasal swab (not the uncomfortable anterior nasal swab).

If you've opted in and change your mind about participating, you may e-mail info@resourcepath.net at anytime to rescind your child's participation.

Please Update Your Child's iPads

All iPads need to be updated to the latest iOS 14.7.1. This update takes about 40 minutes so it's best to do it at night, after the children are done using the iPad. Instructions can be found in this attached PDF.

Picture Day

MPSA's Picture Day is Wednesday, October 6 with Lifetouch photo studios. You can preorder your photos now at mylifetouch.com. Our picture day ID is EVTm8CDD7. If you prefer, you can download the order form [here](#) and have your child bring it in on the day of with a check or money order.

The pictures will take place before lunch and all safety measures per APS will be observed. Lifetouch also has their own safety protocols for photography sessions, which you can view [here](#).
<https://lifetouch.com/newpicturedayexperience/>

We will be asking for parent volunteers to help assist our students for picture day soon. If you are interested, please make sure you have filled out your volunteer application [here](https://www.apsva.us/volunteers-partnerships/volunteer-application-form/application-process/) as you will need to be approved to be considered.

Birthday Celebrations

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, APS is no longer allowed food to be shared in class, regardless of whether it is store bought or individually wrapped. Families who would like to have their child celebrated in class are welcome to send in small items, such as stickers or pencils, instead.

Volunteer Applications Update

All volunteer applications submitted to date have been processed. You should check your e-mail for a notice to complete the child safety training as required by APS. The e-mail is coming from Arlington Public Schools via SafeSchools, so please check your junk/spam folders. APS did do a mass delete of applications that were submitted prior to August 31 so if you have not received any e-mails requesting

you to complete training, your application was likely one of those deleted. Please reapply or e-mail Kia Haynes to see if you are in the system.

Please remember that having your application approved does not grant instant access to the school. All volunteers will need to be approved by an administrator before being allowed to enter the building.

Classroom Fees

Primary parents do not have to pay the \$65 snack fee this year as, due to Covid-19 safety, there will be no communal snack. You are welcome to send in a snack for your child if you would like them to eat snack.

All parents of children in all grades do need to pay the \$10 class fee. Please make check or money orders out to "Montessori Public School of Arlington" and be sure to write your child's name and teacher in the memo section.

Reminder: Annual Online Verification Process

The **APS Annual Online Verification Process (AOVP)** opened on August 23. All families should sign into ParentVue and complete the process as soon as possible. The purpose of this process is to ensure that we have all the latest and up-to-date information for your child. This includes emergency contact information, dismissal information and other important pieces we need to keep our students safe. Please check that we have the correct phone numbers and e-mails listed as this system is where we turn to when we need to contact families.

Note: We have noticed that some families are omitting listing phone numbers. If you do indeed have a phone (or a secondary phone number) we highly encourage you to list them as this is our resource for contacting you if there is an emergency with your child.

Instrumental Music Sign Up Deadline is TONIGHT

Upper Elementary Students: Register now for Band and Orchestra. Registration ends TONIGHT at midnight. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch may rent instruments from the school for a minimal fee.

String players (violin, viola, cello) and percussion players (snare drum and bells) will always be masked and maintain 3-foot distancing during instruction. Wind players (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and baritone) will be provided bell covers for their instruments from the county and must use them in order to play during indoor class time. While indoors, players will be at least 3 ft apart and only lower their mask while playing and then cover immediately after. When conditions outdoors allow, some wind instruction will take place outdoors for additional safety. Wind instrument students will be responsible for the bell cover and wash it each week and bring it to lessons. Students who lose the bell

cover will have to purchase a new one and only be allowed to pretend to play during indoor class time. These guidelines follow NAFME, VMEA guidelines as well as additional from APS.

Band sign up with **Mr. Glasner**: <https://forms.gle/hqcJfc5VyjJsc1sy7>

Orchestra sign up with **Mr. Kamenski**: <https://forms.gle/rKAHvGcdjnc6UCTc8>

Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, September 16 – **Yom Kippur** (NO SCHOOL/Offices closed)
- Wednesday, September 29 – **Early Release, 1:26PM**
- Wednesday, October 6 – **School Picture Day** (Individual Portraits)

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/>