



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

September 24, 2021

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Reminder: Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Pick Up Procedures

Drop Off & Pick Up: Children can be dropped off by **8:30AM** if they want breakfast. If not, we ask that children aren't dropped off until **8:40AM**. All walkers and car riders are to be dropped off at **Door #5 on Highland Street**. Walkers should walk up to the door where they will be greeted by staff. Car riders should pull up to the curb (with the school on the right side of your car) and unload there. If you need to unbuckle your child from a car seat, we ask that you find parking or pull forward, past the telephone pole, into the **Hug Zone** (directly in front of the Primary playground fence) and do so. This is to prevent a delay in the flow of traffic.

Pick up is in the same spot for both walkers and car riders. Please follow the same procedures. **Dismissal is 3:41PM**. Children not picked up by 4PM will be taken to the office and parents will be called.

🦋 Introducing Our School Social Worker, Ms. Joseph

Hello MPSA Families! I just wanted to take some time to introduce, and re-introduce, myself as the school social worker this year! My name is Shannon Joseph. I was with Montessori last year, but with it being virtual it was a little difficult to connect with students, staff, and families, but I am excited to be in the building this year!

I am here to help with student referrals, behavioral concerns, connections or referrals to the community such as grocery assistance, rental and housing assistance, McKinney-Veto students, clothing vouchers, and a little bit more! I also participate in SPED meetings and provide classroom observations and student interventions, per teacher's request. I am available for 1:1 check-ins with students who may need extra support, also as requested by teachers, staff, or parents.

I am currently splitting my time between Montessori and another school, but my days at the Montessori are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel to call (571) 357-0657 or email Shannon.joseph@apsva.us

Thank you and I am excited to work with you and your student this year! 😊

-Shannon Joseph



🦋 Covid-19 Updates

[Parent Quick Guide for Covid-19](#)

If you are required to have your child take a Covid-19 test to return to school, APS will now take test results from **any provider-attended** PCR test. (No self-test kit results will be accepted.) APS offers free testing for our students and staff at Kenmore Middle School by ResourcePath. Make an appointment [here](#) or use their walk-in service available from 3:30PM to 7PM M-F.

Send your child's negative results to our school's Public Health nurse at ssoliman@arlingtonva.us and our school's clinic aide at jbooth-mericle@arlingtonva.us. They will have to read the results and clear your child before they can return to school.

Read more about: [Health Screening](#), [Contact Tracing \(Quarantine & Isolation\)](#)

If you would like to opt in your child for **weekly asymptomatic Covid-19 testing** with ResourcePath, done at MPSA on Fridays, you may still do so. The opt in form is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Mongolian](#), [Arabic](#), [Amharic](#). Instructions on how to fill out the application in available in all 5 languages [here](#). The application and consent form must be filled out online. Please do not send it to the school as this testing is performed by ResourcePath and not APS. *Results will only be shared if your child test positive for Covid-19.*

The list updates weekly so if you sign up this week, your child will have their first test on October 1. Confirmation of sign up will be sent by Kia Haynes prior to your child's test. If you have signed your child up but wish to opt them out, please e-mail info@resourcepath.net and please CC kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us as well to ensure we don't take your child to be tested.

Music Notes

Welcome to MPSA! Over the next couple months, George Washington University graduate students Karah Peña (left) and Carlie Smith (right) will work with MPSA Primary and Lower Elementary students. While here, Ms. Peña and Smith will curate lessons integrating Montessori practices and curriculum with Museum Education resources.

More about Karah Peña and Carlie Smith:

Hello! I am **Karah**, a Museum Education graduate student at George Washington University! I am originally from Texas, where I received my Bachelor of Science in geology to study dinosaurs. After graduation, I led tours in a cavern where I fell in love with teaching in informal settings, eventually leading me to a World War II aircraft carrier. I love being able to turn any environment into a classroom. When I am not in a museum, you can usually find me hiking and camping.

Carlie Smith is a graduate student at George Washington University who is currently pursuing her Master of Arts in Teaching in Museum Education. She was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana and attended undergraduate at the University of Mississippi where she received her Bachelor of Science in Integrated Marketing Communications in May of 2020. While at UM she worked at the University Museum which sparked her interest in museum education. Carlie has an ongoing love for the arts and over the years has taken on hobbies of painting, ceramics, and stained glass. She is excited to volunteer at a Montessori school and looks forward to the opportunity to engage with kids in museum centered learning activities.



Bus Evacuation Drill

Safety is of the greatest importance for students riding an APS school bus. To prepare for an emergency, it is important to discuss and practice evacuation maneuvers on every APS school bus. This Monday, **September 27**, Transportation Services will conduct a **Back-Door Evacuation** for MPSA where students will practice exiting the bus in a quick but orderly fashion through the emergency back door.

MPSA Reading Room Volunteers Wanted

The MPSA Reading Room would like several volunteers to help our reading resource teachers prepare materials for the new Upper Elementary vocabulary program. You will be cutting out cards and materials from cardstock (with the help of paper cutters).

All volunteers need to be fully vaccinated and have passed the volunteer screening process.

Sign up [here](#). There are many time slots available and you can sign up for more than one if you wish.

Any questions about the work, please e-mail Kirsten Fletcher at kirsten.fletcher@apsva.us

Any questions about the volunteer process, please e-mail Kia Haynes at kia.stevensonhaynes@apsva.us

PTA Enrichment Closes Sunday

ACMPTA has partnered with **Baroody Camps** to offer a variety of **after school enrichment** classes open to all MPSA students attending in-person. [Click here](#) to view the courses offered for this fall. Except for students currently enrolled in Extended Day, all children, including students who are typically bus riders, must be picked up promptly at **4:45 PM** at Door 1 by the Main Office. Late bus transportation is NOT available. Students in Extended Day will be excused to this program.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, September 29 – **Early Release, 1:26PM**
- Wednesday, October 6 – **School Picture Day** (Individual Portraits)
- Thursday, October 7 – **3rd Graders to Outdoor Lab**
- Friday, October 8 – **5th Graders to Outdoor Lab**
- Monday, October 11 – **NO SCHOOL for students** (Office open)
- Thursday, October 21 – **Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences** (Virtual)
- Friday, October 22 – **NO SCHOOL for students/Parent Teacher Conferences** (Virtual)

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/>