



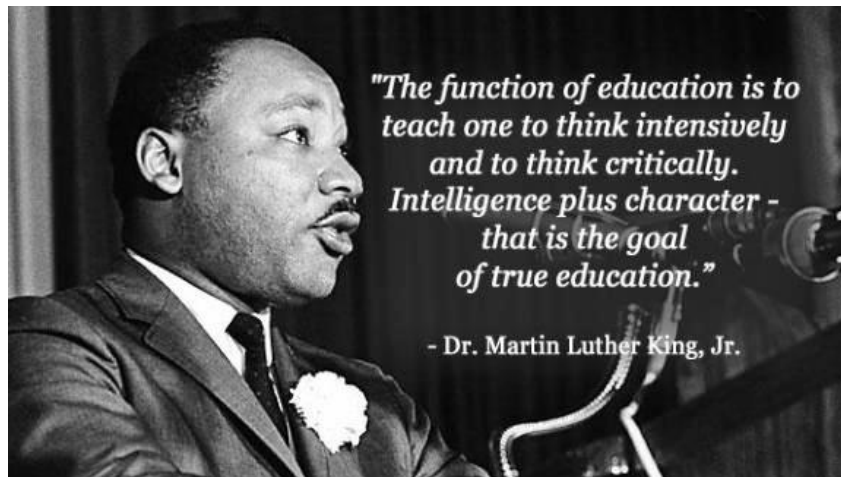
School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

January 14, 2022

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There will be no school on Monday, January 17, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Thank You from Our Principals

Ms. Genove & Ms. Nashid send a heartfelt thank you to the community for all the appreciation you've shown them this past week in honor of Virginia Principal Appreciation Week. The notes, e-mails, cards, and gifts touched their hearts and made their first week back after Winter break special.

New APS Quarantine & Isolation Guidelines

COVID Response – NEW Guidance Regarding Quarantine and Isolation – Effective **Monday, January 17**, APS will adopt the [CDC's revised guidance](#) on quarantine and isolation, as follows:

APS will **reduce the quarantine period for students and staff to five days**. Students who are exempt from quarantine (e.g., those with up-to-date vaccinations, are asymptomatic and are able to wear a mask) will be excluded and verified by Contact Tracers before being able to return to school. (Note: Quarantine keeps someone who was in close contact with COVID-19 away from others. [View full definition.](#))

APS will **reduce the isolation period for staff to five days**. (Note: Isolation keeps those who test positive for COVID-19 away from others, even in their own home. [View full definition.](#))

APS will **maintain current 10-day isolation period for students** with COVID-19; this is per CDC guidance that the reduced timeframe be implemented for students *only* with consistent physical distancing and mask protocols in place at all times, including during meals. Since we cannot maintain distancing consistently, per CDC, APS will maintain 10 days isolation for students with COVID-19.

Requirements to Return After Isolation: Please note the requirements for students to return:

Complete 10 days of isolation from symptom onset or since testing positive (day test administered), whichever is first; AND

Be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication; AND

Submit the End-of-Isolation Letter issued by Arlington County Public Health Division to the student's school of record.

Please [view our webpage outlining the quarantine and return guidance](#) for students who are identified as close contacts through school-related exposures.

Don't Put the Community at Risk

Waiting for test results? Keep your child at home. Several of our classroom closures this week could have been avoided if families had followed proper protocol. Regardless of whether your child is symptomatic or not, if you have taken them to have a test, please wait for the results before sending them to school. If you knowingly send your child to school while awaiting the results of their Covid-19 test, then you are purposely putting the community at risk. *For example*, if you tested your child on Monday and you send your child to school while you wait for the results, which typically takes 72 hours,

and the test is positive, then you have exposed a classroom of children, as well as staff, to Covid-19 for 3 days.

Do not withhold positive test results. All positive Covid-19 test results are reported to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). All APS schools have Public Health Nurses (PHN) in their clinics, and they are given notification of these results by the VDH. There may be a delay in notification due to the backlog of paperwork, but the results will eventually make it to the school. Sending your child to school knowing they have a positive test is purposely putting the community at risk and will also spur the quarantining of an entire classroom.

Quarantine for the complete time. Regardless of your personal belief that your child isn't contagious anymore, do not send them to school if their quarantine period is not over. We must follow APS guidelines and, if it is discovered your child has not completed isolation, we will not let your child attend class. An exclusion list with the name of the child and their quarantine time frame is sent out daily to all staff. Students who ride the bus when they haven't completed isolation could potentially cause other students to have to quarantine depending on seat proximity and length of the ride.

We understand that having children at home can be difficult for some families, but that is not a reason to put the health and wellness of other children and our staff at risk.

Middle School Information Nights

5th grade families, you can find all the links to the information nights for all the APS schools and programs [here](#). Please keep an eye out for a School Talk with more information for you and your rising 6th grader coming soon.

Weekly Covid-19 Testing

If you'd like to have your child participate in the weekly surveillance testing at MPSA, or if you are staff member who'd like to participate, please sign up.

The link to sign up for **STUDENTS** is [here](#). The link to sign up for **APS STAFF** is [here](#).

Read more information about testing [here](#).

Note: Our testing day and time has been changed to Mondays from 12PM to 2PM.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, January 17 – **Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday – NO SCHOOL for Students/Staff**
- Monday, January 31 – **Grade Preparation Day – NO SCHOOL for 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
- Principal Genove on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGenove>
- Arlington Montessori PTA: <http://acmpta.com/>
- Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC): <http://www.arlingtonmontessori.org/>