

# School Talk

## WEEKLY UPDATE!

February 11, 2022

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February is dedicated as **Black History Month**, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. This newsletter will feature a quote every week from a celebrated Black American. We invite you to do more research into the history of those we feature.

## [APS Celebrates Black History Month](#)

Throughout February, APS is celebrating Black History Month. This year, we are celebrating the history of our schools in a four-part video series, "Halls Hill," recognizing one of Arlington's oldest neighborhoods. Last week we showed you the walls built to segregate neighborhoods in Arlington. This week, [we're taking you in-depth with the history of Langston School](#).

## [Covid Corner](#)

### [Covid19 Antigen Home Test Kits Have Been Distributed](#)

Covid19 Antigen Home Test Kits were sent home with each child yesterday. Each kit includes two tests and is for home use should symptoms arise. If your child did not give the test kit to you directly, please check their backpack to keep the kit at home. If you do not wish to use them, please return the UNUSED kit with your child, and ask them to drop it off at the front office.

### [Registration Required for Weekly In-School Covid Surveillance Testing](#)

Over the past several weeks, APS has been working with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to address challenges with CIAN Diagnostics. VDH has advised APS to transition to a new provider, Aegis Solutions. Aegis will begin providing the weekly in-school COVID testing on Mon, Feb. 14. Families already opted in with CIAN received a text and email with a link to update their consent. [Families wishing to opt-in can also complete the form online](#).

### [Test-to-Stay Program Starts on Monday](#)

Reminder that free, proctored testing for eligible students identified as close contacts will be provided at Syphax on school days, starting Monday from 2:30-7 p.m. The VDH [Test-to-Stay program](#) helps keep students who are not up-to-date on their COVID vaccinations in school if they are identified as close contacts, as long as they are asymptomatic and test negative for five days following the exposure. Close contacts exposed on or after Mon, Feb. 14, 2022, will be eligible for the test-to-stay program; students exposed prior to that date are not eligible and should complete their 5-day quarantine. As a reminder, students who are up-to-date on their vaccinations are exempt from quarantine if they have no symptoms and wear a mask consistently. [Guidance is available online](#).

## [\\*NEW\\* MPSA Art Club with Ms. Barbour Starting Wednesday, February 23!](#)

Starting **Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, MPSA Art Teacher, **Ms. Barbour** is hosting a free after school program for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders interested in exploring art. This will take place Wednesdays until April 6<sup>th</sup> excluding Early Release Days. The club will meet from 3:45 – 4:45 PM. Please note: No late bus is available. Children attending Extended Day will be excused to Extended Day. Students must be picked up at Door 1 (by the main office) promptly at 4:45 PM. Space is limited 14 students. [Register here](#) to express your child's interest.

## Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Screener and Opt-Out Form

Arlington Public Schools (APS) has contracted with Panorama to conduct a Social-Emotional Universal Screener for our students in Grades 3-12. The purpose of this survey is to help APS identify, report, and address all student's social-emotional and academic needs. Students will be participating in this online survey once during a three-week window starting on March 21 through April 8 through schools will set specific dates for screening in each class.

Panorama's SEL Universal Screener is aligned with the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) five SEL competencies which include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. The SEL screener will allow students to reflect and report on their own skills and experiences, as well as their feelings of belonging, feelings about their school environment, and mood. These factors are critical to positive academic, social, and emotional success.

SEL screener data 1) will provide an increased understanding of individual, classroom, school, and district needs, 2) identify students who might require or benefit from additional interventions or supports, 3) monitor progress and growth over time, 4) provide data to inform SEL program decisions and tiered systems of support, 5) drive equity, and 6) inform universal SEL supports.

Screener data will only be accessible to teachers, administrators, and staff with legitimate educational interests. Results will be maintained in secure files and databases accessible only to these individuals. Parents and guardians will receive an individualized report regarding their student's screener results following each assessment window. School staff will be available to discuss results with families on planned support.

If you do not wish for your child to participate in the SEL screener, please complete form by **Mon, Feb. 14** by clicking on the following opt-out form which allows you to fill and submit electronically: <https://survey.k12insight.com/r/SEL>.

To learn more about the SEL Universal Screener, we invite you to visit APS SEL Universal Screener webpage at [Panorama's Social Emotional Learning Survey](#). If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your student's school counselor.

## APS Repost: Summer School and Activities Update

APS will hold our virtual Summer Activities Fair Wed, **Feb. 16**, providing families information about [Summer School](#) and the camps and enrichment activities available through Arlington Dept. of Parks and Recreation and other local providers. [Full details online](#)

 **Upcoming Dates**

- Thursday, February 17 – **Elementary Report Cards Issued**
- Monday, February 21 – **NO SCHOOL, Presidents' Day**

 **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](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/>