



School Talk

WEEKLY UPDATE!

September 6, 2025

Inside This Edition:

- **Back to School Night is Next Week**
- **SAVE THE DATE: Multicultural Night**
- **MAP Grown Assessments**
- **Montessori Music Ensemble Sign-Up**
- **Picture Day is October 8th**
- **Thank You for Completing the Online Back-to-School Packet**
- **Behavioral Health Support: Navigating Crisis Together**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Keep In Touch**
- **PTA NEWSLETTER**

Friends - this is yet another **GENTLE REMINDER** to please not double park your cars on Highland during pick up and drop off and to **NOT**...for the sake of staff eardrums and spirits...block our neighbor's driveways either. We thank you kindly for your cooperation.

Back-to-School Night is Next Week

Back to School Night is a time for parents and caregivers to meet teachers, learn about the school environment, and understand classroom expectations and the academic year's goals. It serves as a vital opportunity for our teachers to communicate essential information, such as the curriculum, homework policies, and safety procedures. **MPSA's Back-to-School Night** will be **Thursday, September 11**. There will be three 30-minute sessions at 6PM, 6:30PM and 7PM. Please be on time as we will be sticking to the schedule and beginning each session on time. Be aware that there may not be enough parking spaces in the lot, so please account for the possibility of having to find street parking.

Important: This is an opportunity for parents, so we are asking that you **do not bring** your children. There will be crucial information passed along, and children tend to get restless and inadvertently cause distractions to others. If for some reason you cannot leave your child home, please consider bringing an activity that they can do quietly during the meeting. If they are bringing a device to occupy them, please bring headphones for them as well.

SAVE THE DATE: Multicultural Night

One of MPSA's most favorite community events is coming up! Mark your calendars for **Multicultural Night! Thursday, October 23rd**!

We invite all families to come to share each other's culture through art, music & dance, and food! Bring a dish representing your culture or heritage to contribute to our annual multicultural potluck. You are encouraged to come dressed in clothing representing your country/heritage or come-as-you-are. As the date approaches, we'll send out a sign up for food and for cultural displays.

It's always a fun time and we hope you'll join us!

MAP Growth Assessments

Arlington Public Schools is committed to supporting the strengths and needs of every student. To help us tailor our support, we administer universal screening assessments in reading and math. The results of these assessments provide staff with valuable information on how to best support and monitor students' individual needs.

Beginning Monday, **September 15th**, MPSA students in grades 1st -5th will participate in the NWEA [MAPS Growth Math & Reading assessments](#). Your child's teacher will provide you with a schedule shortly.

On your child's testing days, we ask that your child please be at school on time, and have had a good night's sleep and breakfast, either at home or here at school. iPads will remain at school during this time. Any questions? Contact testing coordinator Amreen Alvi at amreen.alvi@apsva.us.

Montessori Music Ensemble Sign-Up

All fourth and fifth graders are welcome to join music ensembles this year! Every student may sign up for Chorus and in addition, they may choose to join either Band or Orchestra. (*Only one instrumental music course can be chosen.*)

Below are the links for Chorus and for Instrumental Music sign-ups. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to make music together, and we look forward to a musical year ahead!

CHORUS Sign up: <https://forms.gle/SHWkDZBXvz4hSKHK7>

BAND & ORCHESTRA Sign up: <https://forms.gle/Edvihs2GqFWxJ1og9>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Chorus: amie.shakespeare@apsva.us

Band: john.findley@apsva.us

Orchestra: erik.kamenski@apsva.us

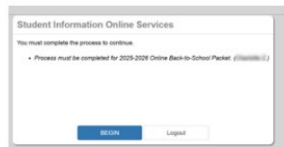
Picture Day is October 8th

Students will be taking their fall individual portraits on Wednesday, **October 8th**. Order forms and links will be sent out soon. Make up day will be November 19th.

Thank You for Completing the Online Back-to-School Packet!

The annual **Online Back-to-School Packet is live!** You are required to have this completed to have access to the features of ParentVUE like test scores and report cards. Please make sure you are not selecting “K-12 Online Registration”! This is for new families who do NOT have a child registered in APS. If you accidentally select it and get an error asking you to contact your child’s school, you can go delete the application yourself and fill out the correct form. Instructions in the pic below. Any questions can be answered by the office staff by calling 703-228-8871.

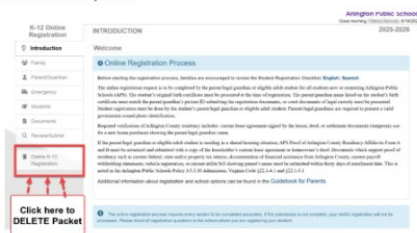
1. When you log into ParentVue you will see the screen below if you have not completed the Online Back to School Packet.



2. On the next screen click the link that says: Online Back-To-School Packet to complete the process. Once your packet has been submitted you will be able to access ParentVue.



NOTE: If parent accidentally selects the wrong packet, they can delete it and go back and select the correct packet



Behavioral Health Support: Navigating Crisis Together

Learn about Behavioral Health Services available in Arlington County!

Monday, September 15, 2025, at the Lubber Run Community Center from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/navigating-crisis-together-tickets-1527431742459>

Please join us for an interactive panel discussion and opportunity to learn about the variety of behavioral health crisis services offered to all ages across the lifespan from mental health crisis services providers:

- Community Regional Crisis Response (CR2)
- Regional Educational Assessment Crisis Services Habilitation (REACH)
- Regional Crisis Call Center (988)
- Arlington County's Community Services Board (CSB) Behavioral Health Crisis and
- Outpatient Services

Note: Registration for this event is recommended, not required. Parking is limited, early arrival encouraged. Thank You!

Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, September 11: **Back-to-School Night** (*Parents Only*), 6PM
- Tuesday, September 23: **Rosh Hashanah** (*NO SCHOOL*)
- Thursday, October 2: **Yom Kippur** (*NO SCHOOL*)
- Wednesday, October 8: **Picture Day**
- Friday, October 10: **Early Release** (*Parent-Teacher Conferences*)
- Monday, October 13: **NO SCHOOL** for Students
- Monday, October 20: **NO SCHOOL** (*Diwali*)
- Thursday, October 23: **Multicultural Night**

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
- MPSA Science on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/MPSA_Science
- Principal Genove on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CSGenove>
- Ms. Barbour's Art Class on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/heather.barbour2018/>
- Arlington Montessori PTA: <http://acmpta.com/>
- Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC): <http://www.arlingtonmontessori.org/>

SCROLL DOWN FOR THE PTA NEWSLETTER!

ACMPTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



September 6, 2025

What's Inside:

- **SAVE THE DATE: The 2nd Annual FALL FESTIVAL is COMING Nov 7th!**
- Baroody Enrichment is Coming! (Financial Aid Information Below)
- Easy Fundraiser = Gifting a Teacher a PTA Membership
- B2SN Babysitting by Yorktown Dance Team
- Don't Miss Out on an MPSA Hoodie!
- The Theme is "I Belong!"
- No Stuff, No Clutter Fundraising!
- Many Hands Make Light Work
- Snacks for Staff Meetings – Please Sign Up!
- Community Interest Share
- Keep In Touch

Join the ACMPTA for our first General Meeting right before Back-to-School Night! 5:30PM in the MPSA library!

SAVE THE DATE: The 2nd Annual FALL FESTIVAL is COMING Nov 7th!

The countdown clock has started! **Only 62 days** until our big **MPSA Fall Festival!** Join us for food, folks and fun on **Friday, November 7th** here at MPSA! Keep an eye on the PTA social media and here for more information!

Baroody Enrichment is Coming! (Financial Aid Information Below)

We are happy to have **Baroody Enrichment** back to provide quality afterschool activities for your children. This year we even have some PreK offerings! Registration starts **Monday, September 15th!** A flyer was sent home last week but you can read about the classes being offered by [clicking here](#).

Need financial aid? Apply for the financial aid lottery beginning **Monday, September 8th!** All applicants will be considered but awarded by blind lottery. Read more about how financial aid works [here](#).

Enrichment will begin Monday, October 6th.

B2SN Babysitting by Yorktown Dance Team

Parents' Night Out with YHS Dance Team
APS Elementary School Back to School Night

Thursday, Sep 11, 2025, 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM

Yorktown High School

5200 Yorktown Blvd, Arlington, VA 22207

Looking for that impossible to find babysitter so that you can attend your child's Elementary Back to School Night? LOOK NO FURTHER! The Yorktown Dancers are looking forward to spending an evening with your kids - playing games and sports, crafting, having a dance party and watching movies! They will have their choice of activities and are sure to have a good time! Pizza and snacks are included.

Children must be potty trained.

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.squadup.com/hosts/5350629/events>

Easy Fundraiser = Gifting a Teacher a PTA Membership

We just opened up the application period for teacher grants! Teachers can make a request for material to enrich your children's education! A requirement to apply is that every applicant must be a PTA member. **We are asking you to consider purchasing a membership for a teacher!** We have about 50 instructors who are eligible to request a grant. **Click here to sign up.** List who the membership is for and we will notify them of your gift. In the chance that someone has already purchased a membership for your teacher, we will pass it along to one of the teachers that is in need of membership. A sponsored membership is \$15.

If you don't have one, please do sign up, too! This is the easiest fundraiser ever! An individual membership is **\$15**, and a family membership (2 adults) is **\$25**. Also, consider purchasing a membership for your child's teacher so they can apply for a grant!

Don't Miss Out on an MPSA Hoodie!

We are taking orders for our lush pullover hoodie! **Sizes Youth XS to Adult 4X!** These are popular and so comfy in the cooler months! Don't miss out!

Hoodie sales will continue until October 3rd and then the order will be placed. We do have some hoodies in stock so you may get yours earlier.

We have other swag available, too!

[Order swag here!](#)

The Theme is “I Belong!”



The annual **PTA Reflections Art Competition** is now open! This year's theme is **“I Belong!”**. Information about the different categories can be found [here](#). There you will also find video tutorials by local artists on how to create your best art via mixed media, photography, art (clay), movie making and more!

Deadline to turn in entries is **Monday, November 3rd**. Application form is forthcoming! Any questions? E-mail reflections@acmpta.com.

We look forward to seeing the art you create!

No Stuff, No Clutter Fundraising!



Feeling generous? We have opened our **NO STUFF Fundraiser!** The PTA promises to **NOT** ask your children to sell a thing if we can make our fundraising goal of **\$5000** from this fundraiser! We are asking each family to consider a donation of **\$75** this year – but we will be grateful for whatever amount you decide to donate! We are a 501c3, so your donation is **tax deductible!** [Click here!](#)

We are at 15.5% of our goal of \$5000. Won't you help out?

Many Hands Make Light Work!

[Please fill out this interest survey](#) and see if there is a role for you in our PTA! Own or work for a business that would like to donate charitable funds, goods or services? [Fill it out, too!](#)

Snacks for Staff Meetings – Please Sign Up!

MPSA instructional staff must meet at least once a month for after schoolwork & collaboration meetings. The ACMPTA would like to revive the tradition where our families would provide snacks for the teachers to have during these meetings. We are looking for at least 4 families to donate snacks to the cause. *Examples of snacks: Granola bars, fruit snacks, nuts, cheese & crackers, cookies, etc. We will also be asking for fresh fruit/vegetables as well.*

Snacks can be dropped off as early as the day before to the Kia in the main office. The PTA will provide paper products.

Sign up here!

Keep In Touch

- PTA Website: <https://www.acmpta.com/>
- PTA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACMPTA>
- Private PTA Forum on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1614926128674543>
- PTA Twitter: <https://x.com/ArlCoMontessori>
- PTA Listserv: ACMPTA+subscribe@groups.io
- Montessori Caregivers Group (Parent-lead Private Forum):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1419402838207257>