

Your School Board



Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair



L-R: Reid Goldstein, James Lander,
Tannia Talento

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Residents who wish to meet with a Board member may do so on a walk-in basis during Open Office Hours on Monday from 5-7 p.m. on days when school is in session. School Board members can also meet by appointment with small groups of individuals to discuss issues or positions. If Monday is a holiday, Open Office Hours are held the following Tuesday from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

School Board Meetings:

Arlington School Board meeting dates, times, agendas and other information are available online at apsva.us/schoolboard.

APS Seeks Highly-Qualified Teachers

The 2017 APS Recruitment Fair will take place on Sat, March 25 from 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. at Wakefield High School. Applicants should bring their résumés and a copy of their teaching licenses/certificates or proof of license eligibility. Interviews will be granted to candidates who are eligible for or hold a Virginia teaching license. A recruitment specialist will review all résumés at the fair. No advance registration is necessary. For more information, visit: www.apsva.us/jobs



“Engage with APS” Launched to Support Community Engagement

Last month, APS introduced a new “Engage with APS” section of the website, making it easier to find information about current community engagement opportunities and to provide feedback. Community input and coordinated collaboration is a vital part of the process as APS continues to grow and make decisions that will positively shape the future for our students.

You can find “Engage with APS” in the top menu of the APS website, and as the first link under “Quick Links” on all school homepages.

This new section includes:

- A list of current opportunities for engagement
- Links to separate web pages with more detailed information about each process

- A consolidated calendar of all meetings and events related to the engagement processes
- An online form allowing you to give feedback targeted to specific topics.

Other ways to “Engage with APS”

APS will be using the hashtag #EngageAPS on social media to flag news or upcoming activities related to the engagement processes. Use the hashtag #EngageAPS to ask questions and share opinions as well.

Community members can also email engage@apsva.us or contact APS directly at 703-228-6310 to ask a question or leave a message.



March is “Arts in the Schools” Month

March is Arts in the Schools Month and Arlington Public Schools invites the community to join in the celebration. Arts in the Schools Month was started in 1961 as an annual event to emphasize the value of arts education and to encourage support for quality school arts programs.

Throughout March, APS will hold a number of concerts, arts festivals, workshops, recitals, poetry readings and plays. A complete list of events is available in the Arts in the Schools Month brochure, or visit the Arts Events Calendar online at:

apsva.us/artseducation

For more information, please contact Allison Gilbert in the Arts Education Office at 703-228-6299 or follow us on Twitter @APSArts and use the hashtag #APSArtsInspires.

#APSArtsHappy

#APSArtsInspires

Just a few of this month’s events include:

- March 7: H-B Woodlawn Instrumental Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- March 9: Yorktown One Person Show Marathon, 5 p.m.
- March 10: Abingdon Arts Integration Day, 8-9:30 a.m.
- March 21: Honors Concert: Jr Band, Orchestra, Elementary Chorus and Middle School Chorus at Kenmore, 7 p.m.
- March 31: Thomas Jefferson Theatre Presents: Legally Blonde Jr., 6 p.m.

APS Senior Citizens Cards are available and provide free admission to all APS events. Call 703-228-6005 to request your free Senior Citizen Card.

Follow the APS Arts Education Office on Twitter @APSArts and use the hashtag #APSArtsHappy to share photos of student performances.



Follow us @APSArts

Mark Your Calendars

MARCH



Summer School Registration Begins



Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
Early Release for Elementary Students



Elementary/Middle Parent-Teacher Conferences
No School for Elementary and Middle School Students



Public Hearing
on Superintendent’s Proposed Budget
School Board Meeting Room 7:30 p.m.

APRIL



Spring Break Through Apr. 14



Grade Preparation Day
No School



Last Day to apply to countywide elementary schools or any other elementary school.



Public Hearing
on School Board Proposed Budget
School Board Meeting Room 7:30 p.m.

To view the complete calendar, visit: apsva.us/calendar

Wakefield High School to Participate in the College Board's AP Capstone Program

Diploma Program Focuses on Skills Crucial for College Success

Wakefield has been selected as one of approximately 1,000 schools worldwide to implement the new AP Capstone, an innovative diploma program that allows students to develop the skills that matter most for college success: research, collaboration, and communication. The program consists of two courses taken in sequence: AP Seminar and AP Research. Wakefield will start AP Seminar in the fall of 2017.

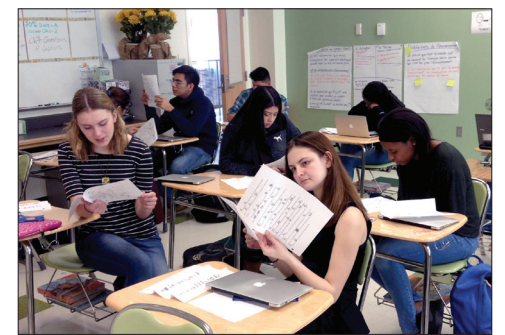


"We are excited to provide this opportunity for Wakefield students that will further develop their research and writing skills at the AP level. This program will help prepare students for college and to earn the Capstone Diploma," said Wakefield Principal Dr. Chris Willmore. "Students taking these courses will complete activities that focus on research, collaboration, and academic writing. These skills will transfer to college and career successes."

AP Capstone is a College Board program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills necessary for college success and teaches them how to make logical, evidence-based decisions. Developed in direct response to feedback from higher

education faculty and college admission officers, AP Capstone complements the in-depth, subject-specific study of other Advanced Placement courses and exams. Students build on skills developed in the AP Seminar course by learning how to understand research methodology; employ ethical research practices; and collect, analyze, and synthesize information to build, present, and defend an argument.

According to Willmore, staff felt that the AP Seminar and Research courses naturally fit with the school's philosophies of rigor and personal responsibility and ensuring that all students access a rigorous program of learning. "These courses work well with our existing Senior Project but would add an additional level of rigor



for students looking for challenges in writing and research. Additionally, the Capstone Diploma was developed by college deans as a way to foster the skills that students matriculating at competitive colleges need to engage rigorous university coursework."

National Social Work Month in March

Celebrated each March, National Social Work Month is an opportunity for us to highlight the important contributions APS social workers make to our community. The theme for this year is "Social Workers Stand Up!" Many of our schools are thanking their social workers through cards, artwork,

personal notes, and other recognitions. You can join the campaign to express your appreciation by tweeting your thanks using our hashtag [#APSSocialWorkers](https://twitter.com/APSSocialWorkers).



FY18 Budget Information and Community Engagement Opportunities

At the end of February, the Superintendent presented his Proposed FY 2018 Budget. The FY18 budget focuses on five pillars of the Whole Child that support learning, both academically and in ways that inspire students' individual growth and future success.

- The first pillar is challenging all students academically and preparing them for college and career.
- The second pillar is personalized learning and support for all students.
- The third pillar is actively engaging students in learning, in school and the community.
- The fourth pillar is a team of people who support student safety.

- The fifth pillar is providing opportunities to practice a healthy lifestyle.

FY18 Budget Public Hearings

- March 23
- April 20

The School Board will present its FY18 Budget to the Arlington County Board in April, and is scheduled to adopt the final FY18 budget on May 4.

For more information on the FY18 budget, visit apsva.us/budget. Tweet your questions about the FY18 budget using the hashtag [#APSBudget](https://twitter.com/APSBudget).

APS to Update Policy on Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs

At the School Board's direction, APS is beginning the process of updating SB Policy 25-2.2, Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs. The policy was last completely reviewed and revised in 2001-02.

The goal of this review and revision process is to provide clarity for families about school options; align the structure of the policy and procedures with best practices; and allow for flexibility in making adjustments in the future to address capacity.

The proposed revisions to the policy are being shared with the community for discussion and feedback. The goal is to complete the process of reviewing and finalizing it later this spring.

Community conversations are underway, and APS will gather feedback on final revisions to the policy at community forums schedule for March 30 and April 4. Details on these meetings will be posted online at apsva.us/engage.

More information, including a current draft of the policy revisions, can be found online at apsvs.us/engage.

Summer School Registration Open

Registration for Summer School is underway. Most classes run from July 10 – August 11. Program fees are due at the time of registration and are generally non-refundable except under very limited circumstances.

Registration forms are included in the summer school catalog, available at schools, and also online at apsva.us/summerschool. APS students should register at the schools they are attending during the 2016-17 school year.



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[@APSVirginia](https://www.google.com/maps/@38.8775, -77.0700, 15z)

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A YEAR OF PROGRESS ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

2015-16 ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

1,351
GRADUATES IN THE CLASS OF 2016

97% GRADUATION RATE
for students in the three comprehensive high schools for all of their APS high school career

2009 12%
2016 5%
DROPOUT RATE REDUCED BY **52%** since 2009

93% PLAN TO ATTEND*
a 2 or 4 year college

Scholarships

APS Graduates were awarded **\$32M** IN SCHOLARSHIPS

APS AMONG TOP SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE U.S.

APS ranked in **TOP 3%** in the Nation

APS ranked **#59** in the U.S.

APS ranked in **TOP 6%** in the Nation