

## Your School Board



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Citizens 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 [www.apsva.us/schoolboard](http://www.apsva.us/schoolboard).

## Watch APS on YouTube!

Have you checked out Arlington Public Schools on YouTube? Episodes of *APS Snapshots*, *Green Scene* and *#digitalAPS* are available on the APS channels, as are school-produced videos and even school concerts and plays. APS and AETV are on YouTube at:

[www.yt.com/APSVAVideo](http://www.yt.com/APSVAVideo)  
and  
[www.yt.com/AETVAPS](http://www.yt.com/AETVAPS)



## Personalized Learning for Every Student

APS is entering the third year of working toward our goal of using technology to assist teachers with personalizing learning for every student. Personalized learning is a vital component of the APS Strategic Plan for 2011-17, in which the community has set a goal to “create vital and engaging technology-rich learning environments” that provide “personalized learning experiences for all learners, regardless of background, language or disabilities.” This year, iPads will be issued to all second and sixth grade students, and laptop computers will be issued to all ninth grade students. Students who received devices last year (now in grades 3, 7 and 10) will continue to use those same devices. By 2017, each student in grades 2-12 will have access to a personalized digital learning device.

### Family Resources

Over the past two months, APS partnered with Discovery Education® to host a series of Parent Information Nights for families of elementary school students. At each event, staff

shared examples of how learning is transformed through thoughtful and strategic integration of technology into instructional practices. Families had the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities that support blended learning and visit digital learning stations that model best instructional practices. Family and community involvement is an essential element of the successful transition to personalized digital learning in our classrooms.

### Digital Citizenship

This fall, all students have also received instruction on digital citizenship and internet safety. APS teachers developed a curriculum for students at all grades, beginning in kindergarten, to help them learn how to be responsible, ethical and safe citizens online. The curriculum has been adapted from the work of Common Sense Media, which is a free resource that families can use at home to extend and reinforce the learning which occurs at school.

APS has also developed a Personalized Learning Device Handbook to address



parent and staff questions regarding the personalized learning initiative. The handbook provides an overview of the vision and goals for the initiative, instructions and policies on the acceptable use of technology, guidance on digital citizenship and internet safety, and answers to frequently asked questions. For more information about the personalized digital learning initiative, please visit [www.apsva.us/digitallearning](http://www.apsva.us/digitallearning) and tune into the AETV video series, *#digitalAPS: Exploring Instructional Frontiers*, at [www.apsva.us/digitalaps](http://www.apsva.us/digitalaps).

## Working to Keep Kids Healthy

The APS Food and Nutrition Services Office has rolled out two new initiatives for the 2015-16 school year.

### Food Services New Breakfast/Lunch Menu Website

The new website makes it easier to view breakfast and lunch menu options, review nutritional information, and prepay the MySchoolBucks accounts online.

The website is [apsva.nutrislice.com](http://apsva.nutrislice.com), and is also available on the APS Mobile App, where new navigation provides a simple-to-use platform to view breakfast and lunch menu options by school.

Unique features include:

- Photos of every menu item
- Detailed nutritional information
- Carbohydrate counts
- Online ratings for families to provide feedback on each menu item
- Breakfast and lunch options that include ingredients for many common food allergies

A filter in the upper right-hand corner of the menu page allows families to filter out menu items based on the dietary restrictions of their child.

### Grab and Go Breakfasts

To make it more convenient for students to eat breakfast every day, all cafeterias have added “grab and go” breakfast options to the morning menu. In addition to the posted breakfast, students can choose from one of three healthy options:

- Cereal/Muffin/Fruit/Juice/Milk
- Waffle/Fruit/Juice/Milk
- Banana or Zucchini Bread/Fruit/Juice/Milk

The screenshot shows the APS Food Services menu website interface. At the top, there's a header with the APS logo and 'Arlington Public Schools'. Below that, there are tabs for 'Discovery' and 'Lunch'. A notice states: 'All Menus Are Subject to Change. We do our best to provide our customers with all of our planned options, however, occasionally weather, crops, and supplies can change this. We will post menu updates via Twitter.' There are buttons for 'Show special diets info' and 'View carb counts'. The main content area shows a calendar for 'October 2015' with columns for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Under the 'Taco Salad' item, there's a detailed nutritional information table:

12 oz	Serving Size
367	Calories
18 g	Fat
5 g	Saturated Fat
39 mg	Cholesterol
985 mg	Sodium
36 g	Total Carbs
8 g	Fiber
18 g	Protein
21760 IU	Vitamin A
342 mg	Calcium
15.8 mg	Vitamin C

## Winter Concert Schedule

December is less than a month away and that means winter concerts are fast approaching. Here is a list of a few of the concerts offered throughout APS.

- Dec. 2 – H-B Woodlawn Instrumental Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 4 – Swanson Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8 – W-L Orchestra, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 – ASFS Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 16 – Claremont Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 14 – Jamestown Winter Concert, 7 p.m.

To see more, visit [www.apsva.us/calendars](http://www.apsva.us/calendars).

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



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



## NewsBRIEFS

### School Security Grant

As part of an ongoing effort to enhance safety and security in schools, APS received a \$38,992 school security grant from the state of Virginia. The funds will be used to provide increased security at Swanson and Williamsburg middle schools through the installation of cameras and a video server, and a desktop station at Swanson that will allow monitoring of the cameras and access to stored video. Once installation is complete, the cameras will also be accessible by the Arlington County Emergency Communications Center.

### New School Buses

In September, Arlington Public Schools rolled out three new MV-1 special-needs buses. Each vehicle accommodates up to two wheelchair-bound students and/or three other students and an attendant. The buses can reach students in locations that the larger school buses cannot, and can transport students comfortably and safely for longer distances.



## 2015-16 School Year Off to an Impressive Start

The 2015-16 school year started off well, with news that Arlington Public Schools continues to outpace other Virginia school divisions based on SOL scores, SAT/ACT scores and the On-Time Graduation Rate.

### APS Exceeds State Passing Rates on SOL Scores

The APS passing rates exceeded the state passing rates in 27 of 28 assessments, across all grade levels and subjects. For the first time since 2011, all APS schools are fully accredited by the State of Virginia. In addition, significant progress has been made in eliminating the achievement gap. Scores for Students with Disabilities and Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in Grade 3 Reading increased by 10 percentage points. Reading scores for Black students in Grades 3, 5, and 8 increased more than 10 percentage points, while scores in Grade 5 increased 15 percentage points above the State average. Scores for Hispanic students in Grade 3 Reading increased by 5 percentage points and Algebra I scores for LEP students increased 15 percentage points.

### SAT/ACT Scores

Arlington's average combined SAT scores continued to rise in 2015, rising 27 points higher than in 2014. These scores are also 147 points higher than the 2015 average score for Virginia

students and 190 points higher than the national SAT average. Overall, in the last five years, APS SAT scores increased by 18 points in reading, 16 points in writing, and 18 points in math.

In addition, APS had a 26% increase in the number of ACT test takers in 2015, with Arlington graduates also outperforming their peers across Virginia and nationwide on the ACT by large margins.

### 2015 National Blue Ribbon School



Patrick Henry Elementary School was named a 2015 Blue Ribbon School by the US Dept. of Education (USED) for meeting the criteria of Exemplary High Performing Schools which are among the highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Henry is one of 335 public and private schools across the nation (out of over 98,000) and one of only seven public schools in Virginia to be recognized by the USED.

### Graduation Rates Increase While the Dropout Rate Continues to Decrease

The On-Time Graduation Rate for Arlington's Class of 2015 increased to 92.8% for all APS students, up 8.1 percentage points from 84.5% in 2009. Arlington's On-Time Graduation Rate is 2.3 percentage points higher than Virginia's rate of 90.5. The 2015 On-Time Graduation Rate for students who have been enrolled in one of the three comprehensive high schools for all of their high school careers in Arlington is a combined overall average of 98.5%.

The dropout rate for the Class of 2015 is 4.2%, up slightly from 3.8% in 2014 but an overall decline in dropouts from the 11.9% rate in 2009. Arlington's Dropout Rate is 1.0 percentage point lower than Virginia's rate of 5.2%.

In 2015, 68.5% of the on-time graduates earned an advanced or IB diploma, an increase of 7.3 percentage points since 2009. In addition, the percentage of Arlington graduates earning an advanced diploma was 17 percentage points higher than the state average. Results from this year's APS Senior Survey indicate that 91% of this year's graduates intend to go to a college (74% to a 4-year school, 18.8% to a 2-year school) representing an increase from 87% in 2014.

## APS Capital Improvement Planning Update

### MORE Seats for Students

Over the past several months, APS staff, School Board members, families, students, and other interested stakeholders have had the opportunity to discuss and evaluate different capacity options for our students. Here is an update on the work this fall.

### Community Facilities Study

The Arlington County Board and the Arlington School Board launched a year-long community facilities planning effort regarding the community's requirements for additional school, fire station, vehicle storage sites and other facility needs in the context of Arlington's and the region's projected economic and demographic growth.

Last month, the Community Facilities Study Committee presented an update on its work to develop recommendations for a new siting process for future County or School facilities or expansions. The siting process is intended to improve upon current practices and help to make siting decisions efficiently, effectively

and with ample community input. The Study Committee will present additional recommendations in its Final Report, which is scheduled to be presented to both Boards at a Joint Work Session on November 10. More information is available on the Arlington County website at [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us).

### South Arlington Working Group

In June, the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG) was formed to assist the School Board in determining the site for a new 725-seat neighborhood elementary school by December 2015, for completion by September 2019. The group is working with APS staff to evaluate site options for the new school, and has narrowed down the initial list of site recommendations. A final report is due later this year.

### FY 2016-25 Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan

The Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP) for



FY2016-25 provides a comprehensive look at student enrollment and building capacity within Arlington Public Schools. The intent of this document is to provide APS staff with data for making decisions about APS facilities and programs. Specific information about each school is provided, as well as an overall look at enrollment/capacity issues throughout the county.

To review the AFSAP and stay up-to-date, visit [www.apsva.us/moreseats](http://www.apsva.us/moreseats).

Follow Us! For all the latest news and information, follow APS on social media:



## Mark Your Calendars

### NOVEMBER



Timeframe to apply to secondary program options  
**-Through Jan. 22**



**Professional Learning Day**  
No School for Students



**Veteran's Day**  
No School for Students



**Thanksgiving Break**  
No School for Students  
**-Through Nov. 27**

### DECEMBER



**Winter Break**  
No School for Students  
**-Through Dec. 31**

### JANUARY



**Winter Break**  
No School for Students

To view the complete calendar, visit:  
[www.apsva.us/calendar](http://www.apsva.us/calendar)