

“What’s in a Name?” or When APS School Names Are Changing

As the Arlington School Board has approved new school names, there have been some questions about what building should be called what name and when. All school names have been adopted for use beginning in September for the 2019-20 school year. Here are some points to help clarify:

- Washington-Lee High School:
The new name – Washington-Liberty – will go into effect for the 2019-20 school year. The current name is still Washington-Lee, and that is what the Class of 2019 diplomas will say. Signage for the building and the website (including the pool, school teams and fields) will change over the summer. Until the end of the current school year, everyone should continue to refer to W-L as Washington-Lee.
- Alice West Fleet Elementary School
Back in 2017, the School Board decided that the school being built next to Thomas Jefferson Middle School would be called the Alice West Fleet Elementary School. In September 2019, the majority of the students currently enrolled at Henry will move to the Fleet school location and, at that time, the school will become known as the Alice West Fleet Elementary School. Until then, everyone at the Henry school is still part of the Patrick Henry Elementary School. The new school name will not become effective until next fall. In the meantime, the name is only used to talk about the construction project.
- The Heights Building
This is the name of the new building being built on Wilson Boulevard. The H-B Woodlawn and Stratford programs will move to the Heights Building next fall. However, the name of H-B Woodlawn will remain the same. The Stratford Program may change after a naming process, but regardless of any new name for the program, that program will also be known by its program name, and the Heights Building will only be used to indicate the program’s location.
- Dorothy Hamm Middle School
This is Arlington’s new sixth middle school that will open in September 2019. The school will open in the original Stratford building that currently houses the H-B Woodlawn and Stratford programs. Next fall when the two programs currently at the Stratford location move out and the new middle school program opens, that building will then be called the Dorothy Hamm Middle School. Until then, the building on Vacation Lane should continue to be called either the Stratford building or by the names of the programs currently located there. In preparation for the new school, the new name will only be used by Principal Ellen Smith, Facilities, Finance and HR when planning for the staffing and logistics for the opening of the new school in September 2019.

- Montessori Public School of Arlington
This is the name of the standalone countywide program that will open next fall in the current Henry building. The school will be a program, meaning that student grades will be reported as part of their neighborhood school scores (as is the process used for H-B Woodlawn student scores and diplomas). That is not the case right now, so the new name should not be used until the new program opens as a standalone countywide program in September 2019. Until then, the program is simply the Montessori program at Drew Model School.
- Drew Model School
This is the name of the school that currently houses the preschool, lower and upper elementary Montessori classes as well as PreK – 5 classes that offer a STEAM-focused instructional program through the graded elementary curriculum. The name recommended by the naming committee later this spring, that will be approved by the School Board, will be the new name for Drew Model School beginning in September 2019. The new name will continue to honor Dr. Charles Drew, but will change to represent the change of the school, from a hybrid countywide/neighborhood school, to solely a neighborhood school. The new name will go into effect in September 2019.

Please feel free to share this information with all staff and members of your community who may have questions. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Department of School & Community Relations at 703-228-6005 or use the “Contact Us” link at the top of the APS website at www.apsva.us.