



Dear Parent/Guardian of Current Gr. 6-7 students at Gunston

APS is conducting a boundary adjustment process for Fall 2021 that is limited in scope, focusing on schools where enrollment currently exceeds capacity and/or enrollment was at or exceeded capacity for the prior two school years, and a nearby school has capacity to accommodate additional students.

This letter is intended for families of students currently in 6th or 7th grade who attend Gunston and reside in one of the planning units that is proposed for reassignment. A separate letter will be sent to students currently in grade 5.

APS is proposing to reassign the following [planning units](#) from Gunston Middle School to Jefferson Middle School: 46140, 48150, 48280, 48281, 48290. The change would be effective for the start of the 2022-23 school year. **The boundary proposal applies to all incoming 6th grade students (currently in 5th grade in 2021-22), and all new and future incoming middle school students.** Students attending Gunston who are currently in 6th or 7th grade can remain at Gunston through completion of 8th grade or attend their newly assigned neighborhood school (Jefferson) for the 2022-23 school year.

We are contacting you now for the following reasons:

- Inform you of the proposed changes;
- Share the upcoming engagement schedule that will provide an opportunity to learn more about the proposal and ask questions;
- Share the timeline for the School Board decision; and
- Ask you to complete a letter of intent form. An email with a link will be sent separately and paper copies are available in the Gunston main office.

The purpose of the letter of intent form is to confirm that you have received information about this proposed boundary adjustment and to indicate if you would plan to keep your current 6th or 7th grade student at Gunston for the 2022-23 school year or attend Jefferson (the newly assigned neighborhood school) beginning in the 2022-23 school year.

Grandfathering, New Students, Siblings, and Transportation

- **Grandfathering:** APS staff are proposing a grandfathering provision that allows students attending Gunston who are currently in 6th or 7th grade to remain at Gunston through completion of 8th grade or attend their newly assigned neighborhood school (Jefferson) beginning in the 2022-23 school year.
- **New Students:** Any student who resides in one of the affected planning units and enrolls in APS following June 17, 2022 would attend Jefferson Middle School
- **Siblings:** Younger siblings of current 6th and 7th grade students at Gunston, who reside in one of the planning units proposed for reassignment, are not eligible for grandfathering under this proposal and would attend Jefferson (newly assigned neighborhood school) when they matriculate to middle school.
- **Transportation:** APS transportation will be provided to the current 5th grade students as they matriculate to Jefferson at the start of the 2022-23 school year and will continue to be provided to 6th and 7th grade students in these planning units whether they remain at Gunston or choose to attend Jefferson (newly assigned neighborhood school). The current 6th and 7th grade students in these planning units who remain at Gunston would be provided transportation via [hub stops](#).

Community Engagement Schedule

Virtual Community Meeting Schedule		
	Date	Time
Session One	October 16, 2021	11:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.
Session Two	October 19, 2021	12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Session Three (Spanish Only, No English)	October 20, 2021	7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
Session Four	October 21, 2021	7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Virtual Community Meeting Information

- Links to these meetings are available online at <https://www.apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/>.
- The meetings will be recorded and posted online to view after the meeting ends.
- The same information will be presented at each virtual community meeting.
- Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Amharic, Arabic, Mongolian, and Spanish.

Virtual Office Hours Schedule	
Date	Time
October 26, 2021	7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
October 28, 2021	12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Virtual Office Hours Information

- The office hours will provide the community with the opportunity to ask questions and receive an immediate response during the session.
- The responses to some of the questions asked during the session may be posted online as an FAQ.
- Simultaneous interpretation will be available for both sessions in Spanish.

Boundary Process Timeline	
Date	Activity
October 15 – 31, 2021	Community Engagement
November 16, 2021	Superintendent’s Proposed Boundary Adjustments Presented to the School Board
November 30, 2021	School Board Public Hearing on Boundary Adjustments
December 2, 2021	School Board Action on the Superintendent’s Proposed Boundary Adjustments

Please visit the Fall 2021 Boundary Process webpage at www.apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process for details about the process. For additional information or questions, please email engage@apsva.us.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stengle
 Executive Director, Planning & Evaluation
 Arlington Public Schools