



January 2015

Dear APS Families:

Welcome back from winter break. Now that January is upon us, Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County want to remind families to make plans for inclement weather.

Here's some important information to help families in the coming months.

How to Learn about School Closings, Delays or Other Changes: Decisions to close school or delay school opening are made after consulting local agencies. When there is no change in operations, the APS Web and Hotline say that the status for APS is unchanged. Decisions are usually announced and posted no later than 5 a.m. Check for changes in APS operations at:

- APS School Talk (*email, phone and text messages*)
- Arlington Alert (go to www.arlingtonalert.com to sign up)
- Online at www.apsva.us
- APS Hotline: 1-866-322-4277 (*for messages in English & Spanish*)
- APS TV (AETV) - Channel 70/FiOS Channel 41; Arlington County – Channel 25/FiOS Channel 40
- Social Media: www.facebook.com/ArlingtonPublicSchools; www.twitter.com/APSVirginia
- The APS Mobile App (Download it from iTunes or Google Play)
- All Local TV and Radio Stations

APS Snow Learning Page: If inclement weather forces schools to close for an extended period of time, one resource available to parents is the APS Snow Learning Page, which can help parents and students “weather” the time at home. The page includes ideas and online resources that provide learning opportunities for students. Also included is a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Visit www.apsva.us/snowlearningpage for more information.

Childcare Issues: We understand that it can be inconvenient to arrange childcare at the last minute. We urge families to make alternative plans now for the care of their children when school schedules change. Consider making arrangements with a reliable teen or stay-at-home adult in your neighborhood, or work together with other parents to support each other by forming cooperative childcare groups. We also urge you to explore options available with your neighbors and members of your school's PTA.

Snow and Ice Web Page: Residents can track the County's efforts to clear streets of snow, use the “Report a Snow Issue” online e-form, and learn how to best prepare for winter weather at www.arlingtonva.us, search “snow”.

Snow Removal Phases: When winter weather is forecast, Arlington's plows and salt trucks are ready to go. To better share information about snow operations and removal, the County developed a snow removal “phase” system. The current phase will be posted on the County website and social media channels. Learn more about snow removal phases on the Snow and Ice Central web page. To receive snow removal updates, follow Arlington County Department of Environmental Services at www.facebook.com/ArlingtonDES or www.twitter.com/ArlingtonDES.

Snow Removal Ordinance: Arlington County's ordinance requires property owners to clear sidewalks within certain timeframes. To learn more, including information on exemptions, go to www.arlingtonva.us, search “snow.”

We hope you find this information useful and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Pat Murphy
Superintendent

Barbara Donnellan
County Manager