



ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY
EXPLORERS

Discovery Elementary
5241 N 36th Street
Arlington VA 22207
703.228.2685
<http://apsva.us/discovery>
<http://twitter.com/DiscoveryAPS>

Explorers learn, collaborate, and innovate with the world in mind.

Dear Discovery Families,

It's almost that magical time when our new school year begins!! We welcome back our returning Discovery Explorers and extend a warm welcome to our new families, especially our incoming Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families. We are thrilled to have over 90 new families joining us across all grade levels. We are planning many meet and greets and parent coffees so we can get to know our new families.

For our newest families, today marks the beginning of our relationship. A strong commitment to honest communication will result in our shared goal of creating an optimal learning environment for your student. Please reach out with questions and/or concerns.

For returning families, we are committed to growing our partnership. There are many new staff at Discovery and they look forward to forging new relationships. I am excited to welcome them into our family.

NEW THIS YEAR

Families will see their child's classroom teacher in ParentVue. The teacher name will be available in ParentVue on Friday, August, 19th at 12 noon. Please make sure you log in to ParentVue now. If you are unable to login, please contact the main office at 703-228-2685. Families will not receive an individual email with class placement. When you log in, please click on Schedule Tab not the Homeroom Tab. You will see your child's teacher's name there.

We recognize that in the past, families received an individual email with teacher placement. Using ParentVue is the new practice. We will send a SchoolTalk Friday morning with more details regarding grade level teams and teaming

Warmly,
Erin and Judy

We learn together as a team and encourage everyone to explore, dream, and discover while making a positive impact in our community.

Welcome New Staff

We have many new staff that you will get to know over this year. Please welcome them to the Discovery family. New this year, fourth and fifth grade teachers will be teaming. All fourth and fifth grade students will have two teachers.

School Hours

9AM-3:50PM. APS added nine minutes to the school day.

Early Release 9AM-1:30PM.

Discovery Door 1 will open at 8:45AM. Please plan to say goodbye to your Explorer on the Solar Plaza each morning.

Communication

Our teachers are responsive, please allow 24 hours for a reply. If you'd like to talk on the phone or meet on Teams, please set up a mutually agreed upon time.

We will send Discovery News via SchoolMessenger on Mondays. Please whitelist the email address apsschooltalk@apsva.us in your email system. Grade level teams will send weekly newsletters on Fridays.

Westover Library Read Alouds: Tuesday, August 16th 6:30-7:30PM

Please join us at the Westover Library when our Discovery teachers read their favorite stories. PJ's encouraged!!

Open House: Thursday, August 25th

Please notice the assigned time slots, divided by last name:

- M-Z: If your last name starts with letters M-Z, please attend from 8:30-9:00 AM.
- A-L: If your last name starts with the letters A-L, please attend from 9:00-9:30 AM.

Open House is an opportunity for students to practice walking into the school building and to their classrooms. Teachers will greet students and families in the classrooms. If you can't attend Open House, please know that our teachers will continue to build classroom community during the first several weeks of school.

Health Clinic

Provided Services

- Routine first-aid and sick-child care
- Emergency care
- Administration of medications: Virginia law requires that all medications, prescription or over-the-counter, given in school be accompanied by a medication authorization form.

- Hearing/vision screenings: for all Kindergarten and 3rd grade students, new students, and by request
- Coordination with teachers of accommodations relating to short-term (i.e. concussions, injuries) and chronic conditions
- Case management of students with complex health-care needs
- Coordination with special education staff and mental health/counseling staff
- Education on a variety of topics to students, staff, families, and staff
- Prevention measures and student contact tracing of communicable diseases

Helpful Links

- [School Health FAQ](#)
- [Medication Authorization Form](#)
- [Allergy Action Plan](#)
- [Asthma Action Plan](#)
- [Diabetes Management Plan](#)
- [Covid-19 Info](#)

Clinic Contact Info:

- Public Health Nurse: Melissa Wong; Email: mwong@arlingtonva.us
- School Health Aide: Ursula Chavez; Email: uchavez@arlingtonva.us

Contact the clinic if you have questions or if you'd like to discuss your child's health care needs.

Eco Action Team

We are excited for the return of our Eco-Action Team. We invite all students to join this leadership team. Eco-Action team members meet monthly to learn about sustainability topics and initiatives. We will share more information about Eco-Action in Discovery News.

Responsive Classroom

The Responsive Classroom (RC) approach consists of a set of well-designed practices intended to create safe, joyful, and engaging classrooms and school communities. The Responsive Classroom approach helps students develop their academic, social, and emotional skills in a learning environment that is developmentally responsive to their strengths and needs. Responsive Classroom teaches students a set of social and emotional competencies: cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control (C.A.R.E.S.), as well as a set of academic competencies: academic mindset, perseverance, learning strategies, and academic behaviors. We are also excited to reintroduce Classroom Buddies. We will match two classrooms for community building activities. For example, a fifth grade and first grade classroom may meet for storytime activities.

Family Engagement: Flexibility

Parent/Teacher Conference: Teachers will offer in-person or virtual options

Student Success Meetings: Teachers will offer in-person and virtual meetings

Back To School Night: In-person

Breakfast/Lunch

Breakfast- \$1.80

Lunch- \$3.10

Milk- \$0.80

We serve breakfast from 8:45-8:55AM. Please ensure your student arrives in time to eat breakfast on the Veranda and report to class by 9AM.

First Week Procedures

- To ensure a safe dismissal, families picking up in the car loop are asked to create a homemade sign with their students' last name. Families display signs on car dashboards at pick-up.
- All students in Kindergarten are asked to wear a lanyard with their Dismissal Procedure. Lanyards are available at Open House. If you are unable to come to Open House, you can pin the card on your child.

Discovery Elementary School

Teacher _____ Room _____

Grade _____

Name _____

_____ Extended Day Care After School

_____ Walk Home

_____ Car Pick Up

_____ Ride Bus # _____



Student's Bus Stop: _____

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Discovery encourages students to walk, bike, scoot, ride the school bus, or carpool with other families.

- School Hours: 9AM-3:50PM
- Doors open at 8:45AM
- Walkers and car riders enter at Door 1
- Bus riders enter at Door 6
- Students sit outside classrooms and wait for teachers to greet students.
- Instruction begins at 9AM.
- Dismissal begins at 3:50PM

- Dismissal sequence:
 - First-Walkers and Bikers
 - Second-Bus riders
 - Third-Car riders

Extended Day

Morning Care

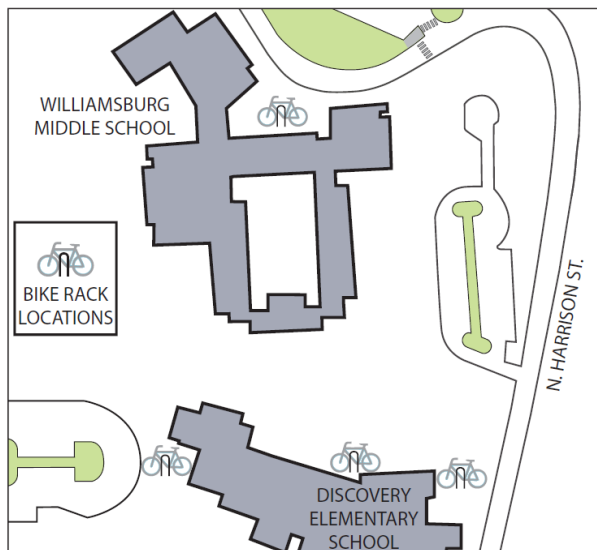
- Hours: 7-9AM
- Students enter at Door 1. Staff assists families with check-in procedures.
- Park in the car loop near Door 1.

After Care

- Hours: 3:50-6PM
- Students depart at Door 6. Staff assists with check-out procedures.
- Park in the bus loop near Door 6.

Students who Walk, Bike, & Scoot

- Discovery and Williamsburg have 4 bike racks (see map).
- Students secure bikes and scooters with locks and store helmets in the classrooms.
- Arrival: Students who walk, bike, and/or scoot enter at Door 1.
- Dismissal: Pre-K-Grade 2 students who walk, bike, and/or scoot depart from classroom exterior doors. Grades 3-5 students who walk, bike, and/or scoot depart from Door 1 or 6.



Students who ride the Bus

- APS will post bus routes in ParentVue the week before the first day of school.
- APS will launch: Where's My Bus app.
- Arrival: Students who ride the bus enter at Door 6.
- Dismissal: Students who ride the bus depart from Door 6.
- [APS Transportation](#)

Students who ride in Cars

- Students enter and exit cars in the unloading/loading (blue lanes) in the car loop.
- Please **DO NOT** use the bus loop, 36th Street, Harrison St., or Kensington St.

- Families traveling north on Harrison Street are encouraged to TURN LEFT onto Williamsburg Blvd, and then turn right onto Kensington to access the car loop.

Morning Drop-off Procedures

- Staff assist with morning drop off from 8:45-8:55AM.
- Cars enter the car loop single-file, and then use 2 lanes when approaching the unloading zone.
- Staff stand at the front and back of the unloading zone to guide cars into 2 rows and ensure cars stop before students exit.
- Put cars in park and students exit cars.
 - Cars in Lane 1 (closest to the school) unload onto the sidewalk.
 - Cars in Lane 2 unload from either door and students walk to the front of the unloading zone, and cross at the crosswalk.
 - Drivers remain in cars.
- No trunk/hatch use in the unloading zone. If a driver needs to unload items from the trunk/hatch, park in a visitor's spot.
- Staff signal for cars to leave the unloading zone when students have cleared the unloading zone.
- Drivers return to single-file and exit the car loop by turning left onto 36th St.

Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures

- Staff assist with pick up from 3:50-4:00PM and 1:30-1:40PM on Early Release days.
- Cars enter the car loop single-file, and then use 2 lanes when approaching the loading zone. The afternoon pick-up process is a DOUBLE line.
- Staff stand at the front and back of the loading zone to guide cars into 2 rows and ensure cars stop.
- Families will create home-made signs to display on their car dashboards with students' last name. Families display signs on dashboards at pick-up.
- Staff monitor car tags and assist students to cars.
- Put cars in park and students enter cars.
 - Cars in Lane 1 (closest to the school) will load from the sidewalk into the back seat on the driver's side.
 - When the staff member signals, students for cars in lane 2 will cross at the crosswalk at the front of the pick-up line and enter into the back seat on the passenger side.
 - Drivers remain in the cars.
- No trunk/hatch use in the loading zone. If a driver needs to load items from the trunk/hatch, park in a visitor's spot.
- Once cars are safely loaded, staff signal for cars to leave the loading zone.
- Drivers return to single-file and exit the car loop by turning left onto 36th St.

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Upcoming Events

August

16- Westover Library Read Aloud (Westover Library, 6:30-7:30PM)

18- Teachers Return

29- First Day of School (9AM) K-5th grade (including 4 and 5 year old Montessori students)

29- Parent First Day of School Coffee (Veranda, 9-9:45AM)

30- First Day of School Pre-K Montessori students (3 year olds)

September

2-5 Labor Day Holiday (No School)

8- Back to School Night and PTA Meeting

- PTA Meeting (Dining Commons, 5:45-6:25)
- BTSN First Session- 6:30-6:50PM
- BTSN Second Session- 7-7:20PM

7- Coffee Talk for PreK and Kinder Families with Erin & Judy (Blue Sky Studio, 9-9:45AM)

12- Author Nathan Hale - meets with 4th and 5th graders - more info below

15- Dot Day

14- Coffee Talk for First Grade Families with Erin & Judy (Blue Sky Studio, 9-9:45AM)

21- Coffee Talk for Second Grade Families with Erin & Judy (Blue Sky Studio, 9-9:45AM)

26- Rosh Hashanah (No School)

28- Coffee Talk for Third Grade Families with Erin & Judy (Blue Sky Studio, 9-9:45AM)

30- PTA Ice Cream Social (Veranda, 6-7:30PM)

October

7- Coffee Talk for Fourth Grade Families with Erin & Judy (Blue Sky Studio, 9-9:45AM)

11- PTA Meeting (Dining Commons, 7-8PM)

12- Coffee Talk for Fifth Grade Families with Erin & Judy (Blue Sky Studio, 9-9:45AM)

How did your Summer Reading go? Did you find joy?

- We hope everyone has been making the most of the summer and have also been finding time to read. Students should return their - **Finding Reading Joy** forms to their new homeroom teachers.
- If you do not have a form, students can write/draw a reflection or write out a list of what they did to engage with books and explore topics that brought them joy.

Author & illustrator Nathan Hale visits Mon. Sept. 12

- Nathan Visits Discovery's **4th and 5th graders** (& Williamsburg MS) Monday, Sept. 12th.
- Order his books by August 9th (ish) – get 20 % off – click [here](#)
- Students can self checkout print copies of Nathan Hale books from a cart in the school office all summer long. Office hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

- Students can also access Nathan Hale ebooks in MackinVIA. Go to MackinVIA.com on any device. Just put in Discovery Elementary – Arlington. It will then jump to the usual APS student login screen.

Dot Day Sept. 15

We will be celebrating [Dot Day](#) on September 15. How will you make your mark this school year?

News Team for 22-23 School Year

- 5th grade News Team members, if at the open house, please check in at the upper library doors. You can also show your parents the news studio.
- This year we will have three rotating teams. One team will be live on the air, one team will be prepping the news for the following week and one team will have a week off.
- We go live at 8:55, please strive to show up by 8:40 am.
- We will determine the teams after the first week of school. The first week we will rotate in new people each day. We will occasionally have training during lunch with individual teams.
- Ms. Annamreddy, Ms. Stoker and Mr. Re will each be leading a team.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mr. Re (News Team Sponsor)

john.re@apsva.us

Safety Patrol Training

There will be a Patrol training on Thursday, August 25, from 9:45-10:45, (after Open House). An email with additional information has been sent to all 2022-23 Patrol parents. Please let Mr. Duffy know if you did not receive this email or if your child cannot attend this training.

Mr. Duffy (Patrol Sponsor)

john.duffy@apsva.us