



Arlington Traditional School
1030 N McKinley Road
Arlington, VA. 22205



National Blue Ribbon School 2019, 2012, 2004
Governor's School Award of Educational Excellence 2018
Virginia Board of Education Highest Achievement Award 2024

August 9, 2024

Dear ATS Families,

Welcome returning and new ATS Stars to the 2024-2025 school year! We hope your summers have been filled with great books, good deeds, and fascinating adventures. We are excited to watch you **bloom** this year. On August 19th, all ATS staff members will be returning to 1030 N. McKinley Road to prepare for your arrival. As we all eagerly await the start of the new year, here are a few reminders from us about your first day of school. We look forward to seeing all ATS Stars during our open house on August 22nd.

Preparing for going back to school

Now is a good time to start adjusting your schedule and getting your child ready for school. Here are some helpful tips from us to prepare for a successful return to school:

- **PRACTICE!** Start waking up on school time and practice routines for getting out of the house on time. Stick to these same routines *all* year.
- Get students used to eating lunch in 30 minutes and make sure packed lunch is prepared in a way similar to how it is done at home.
- **TALK!** For students going to school for the first time or new to ATS, talk with them about what their morning and afternoon is going to look like including where the bus stop is and who will be picking them up. (First day of school books are great for aiding in these conversations!)
- **SPEAK** with your child about dismissal time. Will they go home on the bus? Parent Pick-up? Extended day?
- **SMILE!** Put on a brave, calm, and confident face for your ATS Stars...even if you are nervous too!

Do not forget your completed reading challenge packet on the first day! We'll be capturing special polaroid photos of all ATS Stars with completed reading challenges throughout the first day with our first ever Reading Challenge completion photo frame

Teacher Assignments

Teacher assignments will go live on ParentVue on Tuesday, August 20th at 6 PM. We will notify the community when assignments are live via ParentSquare.

Open House - August 22, 2024

Please see the **attached flyer** for our open house schedule on the 24th. Each grade level has been assigned a different slot. Please be mindful to stick to the time slot assigned to your child's grade.

First Day of School:

The first day of school is Monday, August 26th for MIPA and Kindergarten-5th graders and Tuesday, August 27th for VPI (Pre-K). The school day is from 7:50 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. daily. Doors open at 7:35.

On the first day of school, all students should proceed directly to their assigned classrooms. Your child will be greeted at the school doors and guided directly to class. Please prepare your child for this transition. Parents and guardians will not be permitted to walk students into the building to class.

Transportation

Transportation information will be available in ParentVue the week of August 19th. They will not be mailing information. Please be sure to verify information is correct before the first day of school. Updated bus routes for SY24-25 will be available next week.

Online Verification

Families are to complete the traditional first day packet online through ParentVue. You can login to ParentVue at: <https://www.apsva.us/family-access-center/>.

Lunch Information

Elementary Meal Prices: Breakfast \$2.25, Lunch \$3.35

To apply for free or reduced lunch click [here](#).

Click To Set Up [MySchoolBucks](#):

- Make payments to child's meal account 24x7, 365 days a year
- View cafeteria purchases
- Track meal account balances
- Set-up low-balance email reminders
- Schedule recurring payment

Parent Square

Please be on the lookout for information from APS for how to enroll in ParentSquare.

ParentSquare is APS' new and updated communication tool. [Here is the link to APS' launching of Parent Square.](#)

Arrival (Non-Bus Students)

Please utilize our parent pickup zone located on N. McKinley Rd. From 7:30-8:00 AM daily. Cars are not allowed in the bus circle until 8 AM daily as we need to ensure all buses are able to pull up and drop students off as close to the school as possible. If you would like to walk your child up to school, please be mindful of where you park as we are working on ensuring we do not block driveways or park illegally in the morning.

Dismissal:

PreK students will be dismissed at the front of the school using the door leading out from Room 303 (Ms. Friedman's room).

K-3 Grade students will meet their parents on the recess blacktop.

4th & 5th Grade students will get picked up at Door A10.

All older siblings will go to their youngest siblings' station.

(For example: A 4th grader with a 2nd grade sibling would head to the recess blacktop.)

Student iPads:

If your student brought their iPad home for the summer, please be sure to plug it in so it can charge and send the iPad, cord, and power plug back to school on the first day. All students will be bringing home the Acceptable Use Policy form for parents and students to sign and return to their classroom teacher.

Summer Reading Challenge Slides for Back to School:

We have seen lots of ATS students at the various summer reading events. We hope you are all working to complete the challenge of reading 50 books and doing 10 good deeds. Share a picture or two of your ATS student working on their Reading Challenge. Be creative and incorporate the reading challenge theme - Read and Bloom. These pictures will be used for the welcome back to school slideshow on the hallway tvs at ATS. Send your pictures to Marie Hone, our ITC, at marie.hone@apsva.us by August 14. We are looking forward to seeing how our students are *Reading and Blooming*.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday, August 22: OPEN HOUSE
- Saturday, August 24 - Kindergarten & New ATS Families Meet and Greet at ATS (Flyer)
- Monday, August 26: First Day of School for MIPA and Kindergarten - 5th Grade
- Tuesday, August 27: First day of School VPI (Pre-K)
- Friday, August 30: Labor Day Holiday Weekend, No School
- Monday, September 2: Labor Day Holiday Observed, No School
- Thursday, September 12: Back to School Night (Details to follow)
- Thursday, September 21: International Day of Peace

Sincerely,

Sam Podbelski & Inga Schoenbrun