

Arlington Public Schools seeks feedback from families and community members

Arlington Public Schools seeks feedback via a survey from families and community members about the district and its schools. Results from the 2020 Family and Community Survey will be used by schools in developing School Improvement Plans and help schools and the district improve communication with families and community members. The survey is available on the front page of the district website, www.asd.wednet.edu.

The survey will only take a few minutes to complete. Families with more than one child in the district should complete a survey for each child. The survey will be available through June 8.

We are united against this health threat

Dear Arlington Community,

During the last several months, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to sail through uncharted waters. The winds have been strong and unpredictable. We have been confronted with many unknowns and at times, we even feel like we are being knocked off course. Yet, our creative energy and spirit is not stifled. Together, we are rising to meet the challenges of this global health crisis. Arlington Public Schools implemented specific responses to take care of our students, families and each other. Some of these include:



- Health Screening and Safety Protocols -to protect staff who are coming on site to perform essential duties
- Meal Distributions – to support the daily nutritional needs of our students
- FREE Childcare- for school-age children of first responders, healthcare providers, pharmacy workers and grocery workers
- Distance Learning – to provide for and support continuous learning

Even though the physical classroom doors are closed, our goals to increase learning, provide for a safe and caring environment, allocate our resources wisely, and engage our families and community in this important work still continue.

Addressing and responding to these needs during this time require a joint effort and would not be possible without our amazing students, staff, parents and community partners. I am so proud to be sailing through these uncharted waters together!

We will stay strong, stay well, and stay united against this health threat.

Hope is alive and well in Arlington!

Thank you!

Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

Complete your 2020 Census today!

Arlington Public Schools is partnering with the 2020 Census to ensure every child is counted. This count impacts the federal funds that communities receive for special education, classroom technology, teacher training, after-school programs, school lunch assistance, and more. The U.S. Census Bureau takes a census of the population every 10 years. Respond today by going to census.gov.



Community members can receive School Messenger notifications during emergencies

Would you like to be alerted of school-related emergencies that might impact the community? During emergencies and other incidents, Arlington Public Schools sends notifications like phone calls, emails and text messages to our families. If an emergency has the potential to impact the community, these notifications are expanded to include community members.

If you don't have a child in Arlington Public Schools and would like to receive these free notifications, please visit School Messenger at the following website address: <https://asp.schoolmessenger.com/arlingtonsd16/subscriber/>

You can specify whether you want to receive phone calls, emails, text messages or all three. You will need to log in periodically to keep your account active.

Meal distribution during school closure

Arlington Public Schools (APS) closed its school buildings on March 16 pursuant to the governor's order. Part of the governor's order included a mandate that public schools throughout the state continue to provide nutrition services to all students. The order applied to all children requesting a meal, regardless of whether or not they were students enrolled in our district and without regard for their ability to pay.

APS began serving free meals to kids at Presidents Elementary and Arlington High School on March 16 and served 1,697 meals in its first week. Since that time, the program has grown to include 23 sites across the district, stretching from Oso to Sisco Heights to Bryant and points in between. As of May 5, we've served over 72,000 meals to children. Meals are served on a grab-and-go basis and both breakfast and lunch are provided Monday through Friday at all sites.

APS also partners with the Arlington Community Food Bank to distribute "Meals 'til Monday" each Friday for children. Meals 'til Monday provides five meals for kids to cover weekends until children can return to a district-operated meal site on Monday.

Over 90 school district paraeducators, bus drivers, kitchen staff and administrative staff work daily to help our community's children access nutritious meals. The district-operated meal distribution program is slated to end on June 19. We are living in times that demand flexibility, so we will respond to community needs as resources are made available by the state of Washington.



Capital Levy Planning Underway

In February 2020, Arlington School District voters approved a Capital Levy to fund construction of classrooms at Arlington High School and make security and utility efficiency improvements across the district. While the current COVID-19 crisis has changed the short term nature of providing public education, we are confident that students and staff will return to our buildings in the future. The

relevance of the projects funded by the Capital Levy remains.

District staff are working to make those projects a reality. Planning began in April to begin projects this summer. First up are carpet replacement at Kent Prairie Elementary, construction of secured entryways at Kent Prairie and Eagle Creek Elementary Schools, and installation of security cameras at Arlington High School, Post Middle School, and Haller Middle School. McGranahan Architects and Owyen Consulting (project management) are working with the district with the goal of completing these projects before the anticipated start of school in September 2020.

Arlington Public Schools is grateful for the voters' trust in the February election. The improvements will add much needed instructional space and make our school buildings more secure so they will be ready when students return.

Questions about the 2020 Capital Levy projects can be directed to Brian Lewis, Executive Director of Operations, 360-618-6238, blewis@asd.wednet.edu.

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Presidents Elementary class was engaged in online learning before outbreak

Fifth-grade students in Danene Severson's class at Presidents Elementary were engaged in online learning before the COVID-19 outbreak shut down schools in Washington state.

The students participated in a YouTube video on March 10 through the National Geographic Explorer Classroom Program. The program connects classes from all over the world. The March 10 program featured journalist Jennifer Kingsley and followed her journey from 2015 to 2018 through the Arctic, which focused on Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Canada, Alaska and Eastern Russia.

This online learning helps supplement what students are learning in the classroom. In Ms. Severson's class, they've been studying the Vikings and the Arctic.

During the broadcast, students from Ms. Severson's class and students in other locations were able to ask questions of Kingsley about her journey, which was focused on cross cultural understanding. Delaine Henderson from Ms. Severson's class

asked Ms. Kingsley what the most unusual food was that she ate during her journey. Her answer was fermented walrus! Another question that was asked of Kingsley was how she liked to learn about the world.

"It was an "Un-Google-able" journey," said Kingsley. "You can learn so much online but what else is out there?"

This was the second online broadcast Ms. Severson's class participated in since the start of 2020. They also participated in a broadcast with NASA in January.

"This online learning helps students see how life is different in other parts of the country and the world," said Severson. "It really shows them something that they normally wouldn't be able to see inside the classroom."

The National Geographic Explorer Classroom is live every day at 11 a.m. PST.

Fifth grade students in Danene Severson's class at Presidents Elementary pose during a live National Geographic Explorer Classroom YouTube broadcast. The students participated in the broadcast on March 10, before schools were closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.



Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Mr. Eric DeJong
Executive Director, Human Resources
315 N French Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223
360.618.6212
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SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

Mr. Dave McKellar
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