



APS School Talk



Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Dear Virtual Learning Program Families,

As we prepare to start the second week of school, we want to apologize for the challenges students encountered accessing their classes in the Virtual Learning Program (VLP) last week. The goal of the VLP is to provide students with a full distance learning option that supports their academic success and social-emotional well-being, and we remain committed to the success of this program and the students enrolled in it. We understand that this was a frustrating and unacceptable start to the school year for our VLP families and are working to ensure that these issues, related to staffing, scheduling, technical support and communication, are addressed as quickly as possible. We are also committed to ensuring that VLP students will have permanent teachers assigned to their classes as soon as possible.

We have made some immediate staffing adjustments and are allocating additional resources and supports to strengthen the program. Moving forward, Amy Jackson, Supervisor of Educational Technology & Programs, will lead the program until a new administrator is appointed. Ms. Jackson has experience leading a virtual school and will be supported by retired APS principals with expertise in logistics, special education services and communication. Yvonne Dangerfield, VLP Assistant Administrator, will continue to address issues related to the delivery of instruction, and Ron Crouse, VLP Instructional Technology Coordinator (ITC), will continue to support staff and families with instructional technology problem-solving.

At this time, some secondary students may still have an incomplete schedule. Staff are in the process of finalizing student schedules, and students will be notified when their classes will begin. As students are assigned to classes, the Microsoft Teams links to these classes will be available on their Canvas homepage. Students with "Amy Jackson" listed as their assigned teacher for a specific course should see this information updated by Friday, September 10. In the meantime, they should use that period to work on assignments for other classes.

VLP families who desire to transition their students to in-person instruction can complete the [Request to Transition to In-Person Program Form](#) online. Once the request has been submitted, a staff member will contact families to confirm their request has been received. Please be advised that the timeframe to complete the transition process could take up to two weeks. [Additional information on the transition process is available online.](#)

APS is coordinating a **virtual VLP Town Hall for tomorrow evening, Wed, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m.**, to discuss the plan moving forward and to answer questions from families. Details will be

communicated with students and families tomorrow. Families are encouraged to visit the [VLP Daily Updates](#) webpage and follow the VLP Twitter account ([@APSVLP](#)) for the latest information. Students are also encouraged to check their emails daily for VLP information and updates. For additional information or questions, please contact 703-228-2471 or vlp@apsva.us.

Sincerely,

Bridget Loft

Chief Academic Officer

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