

# 2016-2017 Guide to Claremont Immersion School

Just about everything families need to know about our school



**CLAREMONT**  
Immersion School

4700 S. Chesterfield Road,  
Arlington, VA 22206

[www.claremont.apsva.us](http://www.claremont.apsva.us)

# Welcome To Claremont!

**W**elcome to Claremont Immersion School! This guide is designed to help families know about the many opportunities to be involved in your child's education and how our school works. Our students benefit when we are able to collaborate and share the many resources of our diverse community with them. Being involved in your child's education looks different for each family. We honor and recognize the contributions of all of the members of our school community.

Consider this guide a "menu of options" for your participation. We hope that by knowing what is on the menu, you will be able to select ways to be part of the school community that match your interest and availability. We also welcome new ideas and look forward to new menu selections as the year goes forward!

Please attend Back to School Night and your child's fall and spring Parent-Teacher Conferences. These are the most important school events that we will host all year and your participation is critical to our success with your child.

Our dual-language school offers a world-class education because of the people involved. I would like to thank our knowledgeable and dedicated teachers and staff and our generous and talented family community for making Claremont Immersion School a wonderful learning place for students.

*—Jessica Panfil, Principal, Claremont Immersion School*

**T**he Claremont Parent Teacher Association (PTA) welcomes new and returning families to our community! The Claremont PTA is a group of parents, teachers and staff working together to support and strengthen our children's experience at Claremont Immersion School. We help provide programs that enrich our children's school experience by engaging dedicated parents with a diverse set of skills to assist the community in many ways. Throughout the year, we organize various events and activities that bring the community together.

With your help, we also raise funds to provide educational programs, teacher grants, improved classroom technology, and more. We hope you will consider joining us, attending our monthly meetings, and taking part in our many efforts. And, please consider volunteering your time because volunteers make things happen at Claremont! Wishing you and your children a successful and enjoyable year.

*—Jorge Figueredo, President, Claremont Immersion School PTA*



# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## Essential Contact Information

### Claremont Immersion School

Mailing Address ..... 4700 S. Chesterfield Road,  
 ..... Arlington, VA 22206

Phone ..... (703) 228-2500

Fax ..... (703) 820-4264

Attendance Line ..... (703) 228-2526

Clinic ..... (703) 228-2505

Counseling ..... (703) 228-2506

Extended Day Program ..... (703) 228-2522

Registrar ..... (703) 228-2511

Email ..... claremont.school@apsva.us

School website ..... www.apsva.us/Claremont

## Other Useful Contacts

### Arlington Public Schools (APS)

Emergency Announcements  
[www.apsva.us/emergency-alerts](http://www.apsva.us/emergency-alerts)

APS Hotline — school closures  
 (703) 228-4277

County-wide Extended Day Program  
 (703) 228-6069  
[www.apsva.us/extended-day](http://www.apsva.us/extended-day)

APS Transportation Services  
 (703) 228-8670  
[www.apsva.us/transportation-services](http://www.apsva.us/transportation-services)

### Claremont Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Website ..... <http://ClaremontPTA.org>

Email ..... [ClaremontFamilies@gmail.com](mailto:ClaremontFamilies@gmail.com)

Facebook ..... [www.facebook.com/groups/ClaremontPTA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ClaremontPTA)

Twitter ..... [@CIS\\_PTA](https://twitter.com/CIS_PTA) (new)

## Help Our School Reach You

Just as you need to know what’s going on at Claremont Immersion School, it is critical that the school knows how to reach you in case of emergencies. Please keep your contact information — including your email addresses and phone numbers — updated. When your contact information changes, or your emergency contact information changes, please remember to inform Claremont Registrar *Monica Simpson* in the Claremont Office right away at [monica.hahn@apsva.us](mailto:monica.hahn@apsva.us)



## Mentor Program?

Are you new to the school or looking for help figuring things out? Would you like to help others get their bearings? Request a mentor or volunteer to be one by contacting one of the Mentor Program Coordinators: (English) *Emily Brady* at [ebrady5@gmail.com](mailto:ebrady5@gmail.com) or (Spanish) *Lyzbeth Monard* at [lmonard@hotmail.com](mailto:lmonard@hotmail.com)

## Did You Know?

You can make online payments for meals and extended day by signing up for an account at [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com)

## STAY INFORMED!

**SIGN UP FOR CLAREMONT’S PARENT  
 LISTSERV — SEE PAGE II  
 FOR DETAILS!**

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**NEVER HESITATE TO ASK IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION!**  
We are here to help! Contact us at (703) 228-2500  
or [claremont.school@apsva.us](mailto:claremont.school@apsva.us)

**Join the Claremont ListServ!**  
[claremont-pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:claremont-pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

An open forum that includes official PTA business and school events, but also encompasses news and tips of interest to the school community.

## Many Thanks To...

We would like to thank the many parents, PTA leaders, and staff members who made the production of this fourth edition of our school's guide possible. We hope that everyone in our busy community finds it to be a very valuable resource.

### Guide Production Team:

- Melissa Schwaber & Emily Schwartz Greco [Editing]
- Isa Anderson [Original design, English typesetting]
- Stacy Kreppel [Proofreading]
- Marjorie K. Araya [Revisions, Translation, and production Spanish]



## SCHOOL OVERVIEW

### Mission

Claremont Immersion School commits to all students achieving academic success in two languages.

### Vision

Claremont Immersion students are bilingual, global citizens; caring and kind team players; effective communicators; independent problem solvers; and persistent, lifelong learners.

### About Claremont

Claremont Immersion School/Escuela de Inmersión Claremont officially opened its doors as Arlington County's second immersion school in September 2003. That year, there were 350 students. Today, more than 740 children attend Claremont. Most students speak Spanish or English at home and our diversity is deep.

Our multicultural community's households speak a total of 18 languages. Starting in Kindergarten, each child spends one half of the day learning in English (reading, writing, health, physical education, and social studies) and the other half learning in Spanish (reading, writing, math, and science). Students also study either art or music in Spanish. In recognition of the developmental requirements of elementary-age children, science is integrated into the Kindergarten classrooms by the homeroom Spanish teacher.

First Graders have three science classes a week. Students in Second through Fifth Grades have four science classes a week. In the pre-Kindergarten classrooms, teachers integrate Spanish into their English-language instruction to introduce students to the language. They aren't immersion classes, but many of those students enroll in the school's bilingual program when they enter elementary school.

Due partly to an enrollment change that began five years ago to alleviate over-crowding throughout Arlington's school system, the number of class groupings per grade varies. There are now six Kindergarten classes, five First grade classes, six Second and Third grade classes, five Fourth grade classes, and four Fifth Grade classes. There are also two VPI Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Claremont students and their families have heritages from around the world. Our school benefits from the rich diversity of our students, their families, and our school staff.

### Daily Schedule and Arrival

Claremont encourages children to take the bus, walk, or bike if they can do so. Children should arrive between 7:40-7:50 a.m. to ensure their arrival in class by 8:00 a.m. Children may not be left at the school prior to 7:30 a.m. unless they are enrolled in the morning Extended Day program. Some students in the Extended Day Program



arrive starting at 7:00 a.m., before regular school hours begin. From 7:30-7:40 a.m. students who are not in the morning Extended Day program who arrive early may sit and wait in the front lobby. Students start off the day most successfully if they have the opportunity to participate in our morning recess. Morning recess begins at 7:40 a.m. and provides children with the opportunity to transition from home to school, connect with friends, and run around to get their brains warmed up for learning.

Claremont serves breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. All students are encouraged to eat breakfast either at school or at home to have a healthy start to the day. Breakfast costs \$1.55 and is free to students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch. Claremont also offers a "Grab and Go" Breakfast that is a quick, healthy, and student-approved.

### Arriving Late and Unexcused Absences

Call the school attendance line at **(703) 228-2526** before 7:45 a.m. if your child will be absent or tardy. Or send an email to [claremont.school@apsva.us](mailto:claremont.school@apsva.us). Include "Late Arrival" in the subject line. Notifying the school is important because the school needs to know where students are at all times during the school day to ensure their safety.

**TIP** → If you are driving your child to school the first day or any other time, please allow extra time for parking or dropping your child off. It's crowded! Remember, we must follow the traffic pattern.

The expectation is that students are already in their classrooms and ready to begin instruction at 8:00 a.m. Students should arrive before 8:00 a.m. so they have enough time to walk to their classrooms and settle in. Also, while breakfast is an important meal, students who are eating breakfast at school should finish by 7:55 a.m. to ensure they arrive in their classrooms by 8:00 a.m.

### Daily Schedule



**7:40 a.m.:** Students can arrive and morning recess begins

**8:00 a.m.:** School starts

**2:41 p.m.:** Students are dismissed

Children who arrive after 8:00 a.m. are considered tardy. When students arrive late, they must sign in with a school staff representative stationed just beyond the multi-purpose room doorway. Students must state their name, teacher's name, and the reason for being late. Three tardy arrivals are considered the same as an unexcused absence.

Children who don't miss a single day of school and have never been late are honored at the end of the year. Limit late arrivals and early pick-ups so students do not miss important instructional time. If possible, please schedule medical and dental appointments after school.



## MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

### General Information

If you're accompanying your children to school, do your best to ensure that they independently put away their book bags and jackets at the start of the day. Families of students in First through Fifth Grade shouldn't escort children to their classrooms. Parents of First Graders may drop their children at the entrance of the trailers (officially known as "relocatable" classrooms), but not inside them.

Please note that the relocatables and all doors are locked at 8:00 a.m. and parents and students who arrive late should report to the main office. A staff member will escort late students to the First Grade classrooms in the relocatables. The back door to the school building is also locked at 8:00 a.m. Parents who arrive after 8:00 a.m. are asked to enter the school building through the main entrance.

Families of Pre-Kindergarteners and Kindergartners are invited to say goodbye to their children at the classroom door during the first week of school. After that, families should say goodbye to their children at the front entrance to the Pre-K/Kindergarten hallway so their children can walk independently to class.

### Bus Riders

Bus service for elementary school students is available for children who live more than one mile from school. The youngest students exit the bus first, followed by older students. Staff and student patrols are posted at the entrance to the school to ensure the safety of students as they arrive off the buses.

Parental supervision at bus stops is very important. Kindergarteners and Pre-Kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop by an adult, according to Arlington Public Schools policy. However, if it's the regular routine that a student in First through Fifth Grade is met at the bus stop and on a particular day there is no one waiting for that student, the bus driver will most likely not release the student and the student will be brought back to school and will wait in the main office until picked up by a parent or guardian. The transportation office or the Claremont Immersion main office will call the parent to let them know that their child is being returned to school.

If a parent or a person a parent has authorized to meet the child is not present at the stop to meet the child, the bus driver will return the child to school, time permitting. If the driver does not have time to return the child at the end of the route, the child will remain on the bus until the driver's route allows time to return the student to school.

Drivers will return a student from any grade to school if the child does not feel safe exiting the bus. If the driver does not have time to return at the end of the route, the child will remain on the bus until there is time to return.

### Walkers

Claremont encourages students to walk and ride bikes safely to school. Students who live within a one mile radius are considered "walkers." They may enter through the front of the school building or from the back. If students arrive on foot after 8:00 a.m., they must go to the front entrance to receive a late pass. Students who walk to school should always stay on the sidewalk and cross at crosswalks. This rule also applies to walking from Chesterfield Road to the school entrance: follow the sidewalk and don't walk in the parking lot.

### Cyclists

Students are encouraged to bike safely to school. Remember to wear your helmet! Bikes may be locked to the bike rack located to the right of the front entrance to the school.

### Car Riders

If you live too far from Claremont for your child to walk or bike there, understand that the school wants your child to take the bus in the morning and afternoon instead of you driving them to and from school. This will cut down on the amount of traffic around the school. If you must drive your child to or from school, please be respectful of the Claremont staff you will find stationed throughout the parking lot. They are there to enforce our traffic-flow rules, which ensure the safety of our students. It is your job to be cooperative and follow their instructions.

### Traffic Rules

Reduce your speed. Please travel no faster than 20 miles per hour along Chesterfield Road and on nearby streets and 10 mph in our parking lot, especially when students are arriving and being dismissed from school. Yield to walkers and give pedestrians the right of way. Be considerate of other drivers and on the lookout for small children crossing the street who may be hard to see from the driver's seat.

### Transportation Questions?



Please contact the Transportation Services Call Center at (703) 228-8670 between the hours of 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on weekdays or learn more online at <http://apsva.us/transportation>

In the morning, students are to be dropped off at the curb at the designated drop-off point. Do not drop students off as you are waiting to loop around to the car drop-off point. This is dangerous and unsafe. Your child must stay in the car until you are at the curbside. You may also park your car nearby in the neighborhood and walk your child to the entrance.

If you need to park to drop off or meet your child, do so in a legal spot in the parking lot or on the street. Some nearby



street parking is permit-only during school hours. In the lot, don't park (even temporarily) in handicapped spots unless you have a legal right to do that. You may not park in the reserved spaces either —and that includes spaces reserved for people who won them at the school's Silent Auction. Don't park along the curbs on either side of the parking lot during arrival and dismissal; this will block the buses. Claremont families can park in the new spaces next to the Wakefield practice field.

Observe these rules at all times — even when you are in a hurry. If you wish to avoid the traffic jam in the morning or afternoon please have your child ride the bus or leave home earlier. Remember students may begin arriving at 7:40 a.m., when the school's morning recess begins.

### Important Traffic Rules to Remember

- Follow the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures.
- Drivers in the drop-off or pick-up line must stay in their cars at all times. In the morning and afternoon, staff members will escort students to and from cars.
- Always turn RIGHT out of Claremont parking lot. Do not turn left during arrival and dismissal times.



### Patrols and Crossing Guards

The school Safety Patrol is comprised of Fourth and Fifth Grade students who assist in the safe conduct of children to, from, and inside the school. Safety Patrols are stationed at bus stops, on buses, near the building, in the hallways, and on the playground. Bus patrols assist children entering and departing the bus in the morning and afternoon. Patrols must wear their green belts while on duty and are easily identified. There may be additional adult crossing guards at key locations to ensure the safety of our students. At the end of Fourth Grade, a Fifth Grade mentor and the Patrol director (currently Ms. Seay) prepare the next year's patrols for the upcoming year of service.

## DISMISSAL

Dismissal is a critical point of communication between the school and the family. The default options are:

1. Walker (picked up in the Walker location);
2. Car Rider (picked up in the Car Rider location);
3. Bus Rider (dismissed to their regular afternoon bus);
4. Extended Day/After school Programs

If you have a change to your child's dismissal, please contact the school at (703) 228-2500 as early as possible by phone or send an email to [claremont.school@apsva.us](mailto:claremont.school@apsva.us)

**Nadia Vásquez** is the staff person in charge of dismissal schedule changes. Be sure to write "Dismissal Change" in the subject line of your email. All dismissal changes must be received before 2:00 p.m. on regular school days and before 11:30 a.m. on Early Release days. If there are any changes to the school day or an afterschool program is cancelled, children will be sent home by their regular default dismissal.

It is the responsibility of the coordinator/sponsor of the afterschool programs to contact all parents of any cancellations. It is the PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to contact the school if an afterschool program has been cancelled and your child is to go home differently from the default dismissal. Parents are expected to pick up children by 2:41 p.m. if they are not taking the bus home, participating in the Extended Day after-school program, or enrolled in an Enrichment Class that afternoon.

The school staff can't supervise children beyond this time. If you will be unavoidably late on a rare occasion, please call the school. The school will contact families of students who have not been picked up and the students will wait in the main office.



**WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO CONFIRM YOUR CHILD'S DISMISSAL.**

### Bus Riders

Students are dismissed from class to their assigned bus. If your child will be riding home on a bus with a friend, you must contact the school before 2:00 p.m. of the day the child rides home on the bus. Your child will be offered a temporary bus pass to ride that day. The school must receive a note, email, or phone call from a parent before placing a child on a bus.

### Walkers

The school staff assists with dismissal for walkers from 2:41-2:50 p.m. Please be prompt. Children considered walkers will be dismissed from the Third Grade wing to the school's yard area in front of door #11. A staff member is assigned to watch children until they are picked up by their designated caregiver. Be aware that your child will be asked if he/she is a walker or a car rider. If your child is picked up by you at the walker location and then walks to your car to go home, be sure to help explain to your child that he/she is a walker and not a car rider.

### Car Riders

School staff assists with dismissal for car riders from 2:41-2:50 p.m. Please be prompt. Students who are car riders are picked up at the same location as the student drop off in the morning. Staff members are assigned to help students get into their cars. Drivers are asked to pull up alongside the curb; a staff member will open the door and the child will climb in and buckle his or her safety belt. Drivers are then asked to follow the car in front of them

and pull out in a line. A staff member will be directing traffic. Please be respectful of the directions provided by staff members for the safety of students and staff.

Please turn your engine off while you wait. Our “No Idle Zone” is one of Claremont’s green initiatives. Do not park in any of the reserved spaces, including the handicapped ones and those set aside for the winners of the school’s silent auction.

## SCHEDULE EXCEPTIONS

### Unplanned Schedule Changes

With extreme weather and other emergencies, school may be canceled, the start time may be delayed, or students may be dismissed early. You can access this information via text, email, on a website, or via phone. Announcements about school schedule changes will be made as early as 6:00 a.m.

By providing the school with your email address and phone number, you will be automatically entered into the APS School Talk Emergency Alert System, so that the County can email, and in some cases send recorded voice and text messages, to alert you to an unexpected closure at school.

In the emergency announcement, APS will announce whether Extended Day has also been closed or will remain open. Remember that phone lines are quickly overloaded in emergencies. Don’t call the school if a blizzard or hurricane strikes. When the school opens late due to an emergency situation, field trips will be canceled and no breakfast will be served that day.

### Planned Schedule Changes: Early Release Dismissal

On eight Wednesday afternoons over the course of the school year, one Thursday during Parent-Teacher conferences, and on the final Friday of the school year, students will be dismissed more than two hours early at 12:26 p.m. Every Early Release Day at Claremont has its own school-spirit themes. You’ll find them listed in the Key Dates document that is sent home at the start of the school year and on Claremont’s Web calendar, which you may download to your mobile device.

**→ Resources for information on emergency school closures:**



- **APS website home page:** <http://apsva.us>
- **Recorded telephone hotline in English and Spanish:** (703) 228-4277
- **Local TV news and radio shows, the Washington Post website, and Arlington Cable Channel 70 (Comcast) or School-Community Bulletin Board on Channel 41 (Verizon Fios)**

### Things you should know about Early Release Dismissal:

- **Dismissal procedures are the same as a typical school day, including Extended Day ending at 6 p.m.**
- **The lunch schedule may change.**
- **There is no lunchtime recess.**
- **Some of your child’s Wednesday “specials” may not take place.**
- **Enrichment classes that would otherwise occur will usually be postponed.**
- **Early Release Days have school-spirit themes.**

### 2016-2017 Early Release Days

- **Wednesday, October 26**
- **Wednesday, December 7**
- **Wednesday, February 8**
- **Thursday, March 2**
- **Wednesday, March 8**
- **Wednesday, April 26**
- **Wednesday, June 14**
- **Wednesday, June 21**
- **Friday, June 23 (last day of school)**

**ON EARLY RELEASE DAYS, SCHOOL CONCLUDES AT 12:26 P.M.**

### Extended Day Arrival and Dismissal

Extended Day is a fee-for-service program that offers before and after-school child care at Claremont. Students must be pre-registered with the Arlington Public Schools Extended Day central office to participate. For more information, call **(703) 228-6069** or find out more online.

Extended Day morning drop off begins at 7:00 a.m. Extended Day afternoon care begins at school dismissal and ends at 6:00 p.m. Drop-off and pickup are in the multi-purpose room. Pre-K and Kindergarten students are escorted to and from their classrooms. Parents enter through the front entrance to pick up their children. Use the doorbell. Parents must sign out their children before taking them home from Extended Day. Families whose children arrive at school early or stay late through the Extended Day program must arrange their own transportation. There is no bus service for the Extended Day schedule.

Given the school’s 8:00 a.m. start time, many children in the program only participate after school. It is common for our students to take the bus to school but not take it home, while some only take the bus home.

## After-School Enrichment Classes & After-School Clubs

Families must arrange for transportation from school to the child's home following the enrichment classes organized by the PTA or after-school clubs because there is no bus service available after these activities end. Classes usually range from 45-90 minutes in length and most take place in 6-8 weekly sessions.

See page 24 for more information about the After-School Enrichment Program and look for information about after-school clubs throughout this guide.

If your children take these classes or join these clubs, make sure they understand the plan each morning on the day of the class as they will be dismissed to the gym. Children in Extended Day may also participate in After-School Enrichment classes. They are dismissed to Extended Day, which takes them to gym after school, and then from the classes they return to the Extended Day program. Enrichment Classes and after-school clubs don't meet on holidays, snow days, or Early Release Days.

If an After-School Enrichment class is cancelled for any reason, your child will be sent home the way they are regularly dismissed. It is the responsibility of the class's instructor to notify families of a cancellation in advance. It is the responsibility of the family to contact the school if there is a change in your child's dismissal, including a PTA After-School Enrichment class cancellation. If the school is not contacted, the child will go home via their regular default dismissal (walker, car rider, bus, extended day).

Please contact the school office by phone or email before 2:00 p.m. to confirm your child's dismissal plan when a class has been cancelled. You can also check with the PTA volunteer coordinator at [claremontASEcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:claremontASEcoordinator@gmail.com)

## Emergency Information Cards

Parents must complete and return an Emergency Information Card by the second day of school. APS has a student information system that provides options to submit forms electronically.

It's critical for parents to include an email address on their Emergency Information Card. The school sends parents both essential and non-essential information via email. See parentVue on page 14.

Parents are expected to keep the information on these forms up to date. It's impossible to contact every parent in the event of an early closing. Therefore, your child should know what to do and where to go when schools close early. Parents are requested to make necessary arrangements for emergency child care and to discuss these arrangements with their child.



**Need help Setting up an email account? Please contact Haydeé Colón-Jennings in the front office at (703) 228-2504.**

Each classroom is equipped with an emergency bag containing parent contact information, a first aid kit, and other emergency supplies. Teachers take this bag along on field trips and any other occasions when classes leave the building. This emergency bag will be used in the unlikely event of an emergency situation.

**SAFETY NOTE: All locked doors can be opened immediately from the inside should students need to make an emergency exit.**



## Visitors

All visitors should enter through the main doors and report to the office before doing anything else. You must sign in and receive a visitor's pass. This is just one measure we must take to ensure that all children are safe at all times. All doors are locked at all times except for the main entrance. That door is unlocked at arrival and dismissal times. When arriving at school after 8:00 a.m., please ring the doorbell and identify yourself over the loudspeaker when a staff member answers your ring.

## FOOD AND MEALS

### Breakfast

Children should eat a good breakfast at home or at school before school starts. The cafeteria serves breakfast daily from 7:40-7:55 a.m. The standard rate for breakfast is \$1.55. Breakfast is available for free for children whose families qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program. A "Grab and Go" breakfast is also offered that is healthy, quick, and appealing to children.

### Lunch

Lunch is served between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. daily. Lunch periods last 25 minutes and students have a 25-minute recess either beforehand or afterwards. Each class has an assigned lunch table.



**Did you know that one out of every three Claremont students qualifies for meal benefits, such as free breakfast and a reduced-price lunch? Applications for free and reduced-price meals are in the first day packets. If you need help applying, please contact Haydeé Colón-Jennings at (703) 228-2504.**

Children can bring a lunch from home or purchase lunch from the school cafeteria. The school has a cooking kitchen. The standard rate for lunch is \$2.75, or 40¢ with reduced pricing. Students can also purchase milk to drink for 75¢. If you pack lunch, help ensure your child has enough time to eat. Send easy-to-eat food in easy-to-open



packaging. Peel oranges, slice apples, and cut sandwiches in half. Don't send any food that needs to be heated as the school can't provide this service. You can find monthly menus on [www.apsva.nutrislice.com](http://www.apsva.nutrislice.com) and on the "nutrislice" smart phone app.

All school meals meet standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Children can purchase a fresh fruit or vegetable every day. Visit the APS website to learn more.

### Snacks

If your child is in Kindergarten or a pre-Kindergarten program, pack a snack for them to eat. Children in those classes eat snacks in the afternoon. Your child's teacher will give you more information at Back to School Night. A list of healthy and nutritious snack options appears on page 7.

### Paying for Your Child's Meals

Every student has an individual meal account with an ID number and is issued an ID card. The easiest way to manage meals is to deposit money into your child's individual meal account. Teachers hold the ID cards, so no cash is lost. You may also send cash in daily or deposit money into your child's account in the following ways:

1. Through online access to your child's meal account, families can deposit and monitor funds at [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com);
2. In person with the cafeteria manager, who is available daily at drop off to accept cash payments or checks written to Arlington Public Schools;
3. Or by sending payments in with your child.



**You Can Eat Lunch at Claremont Too!** Parents can eat meals at school with their children. Obtain a visitor's pass in the office and meet your child in the cafeteria. Adults can bring their lunch or purchase one. Lunch costs \$3.50 and breakfast is \$2.50. Just remember that students only have 25 minutes to eat their lunch. Please help them stay on this schedule if you are joining them.

### Tracking Funds in Meal Accounts

You can pay for school meals online at [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com). This online system charges a small fee, but makes lunch money management very simple. Year-end balances carry over to the fall and you receive an email when the balance gets low. It is the parent's responsibility to keep meal accounts up to date — the school doesn't manage delinquent accounts. Students will be given a reminder when their accounts fall below \$8. Children without lunch money will be served a sandwich and a carton of milk. You may also make Extended Day payments through [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com)

## An Important note about food allergies



Claremont Immersion has students with severe and/or life-threatening food allergies. To ensure the safety of all of our students, please label all foods you bring for classroom celebrations and check with your child's teacher before offering any food to a group of students or an individual child.

The staff will take students to the clinic immediately if they feel unwell after eating at a school function. All food brought into a school function or classroom party must be clearly labeled to indicate the food allergens. Here's an example: "Contains: Walnuts, Wheat, Milk." When you bring store-bought foods to Claremont, please leave the ingredient label on the food so that the teacher or homeroom parent can easily read and review it. Some food labels or baking mixes list the food allergens at the end in bold. Other labels list the allergens in bold throughout the list of ingredients. If you have any questions on how to determine which foods may be allergens, please contact the clinic at (703) 228-2505.

These guidelines do not apply to food your child brings to school for their own lunch or snack.

If your child has a food allergy, you may keep a supply of "safe to eat" treats in the classroom or cafeteria. These can be given to your child on days when there is a birthday or classroom celebration, and the food brought in for the celebration is not safe for your child to eat. Talk to your child's teacher about ensuring they have safe food options during classroom celebrations.

### Almuerzo en Español

Once a month, Spanish-speaking parents are encouraged to come and speak in the language with Claremont students while they have lunch. Volunteers are welcome to come for the whole time or just part of it. This event is usually held on the second Friday of the month between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., but takes place on the third Friday of the month when there is a scheduling conflict. For more information, contact Haydeé Colón-Jennings in the front office at (703) 228-2504

## Classroom Celebrations and Birthday Treats

At Back to School Night, your child's teachers will explain how birthdays are celebrated at his or her grade level. They will also share information about important classroom celebrations that occur throughout the year.

Many parents volunteer to help make classroom celebrations run smoothly. Each classroom may have reusable plastic green/blue plates that can be used for classroom celebrations. If your classroom does not have the reusable plates, paper products may be used. If reusable plates are used, please have a parent wash them and return them to the classroom after the celebration.

## Student ID Numbers

Each student enrolled in Arlington Public Schools is assigned a student ID number that doubles as his/her lunch number. You receive your child's ID number after you register your child. The school will also send you the student ID number in a back-to-school welcome letter in mid-August. This is an important number that is also used at school to log in to school web-based programs, such as BlackBoard, to register for Summer School, or to sign up for the Extended Day program. If you have lost your student's ID number, please contact **Monica Simpson**, the school registrar, in the main office at **703-228-2511** or at **Monica.Hahn@apsva.us**

## Tips for providing kids with healthy treats & snacks, courtesy of Viva Verde

- Chopped raw vegetables and dip
- Chunks of avocado, cucumber, or cooked sweet potato
- Breadsticks or pita chips with hummus
- Pretzels or popcorn (no butter or cheese)
- Tortilla chips with bean dip
- Cheerios, granola, or other cereal
- Toasted whole grain breads or crackers with fruit spread or nut butters
- Graham crackers or gingersnaps dipped in applesauce
- Mini rice cakes with nut butter
- Apple slices with nut butter
- Fresh or dried fruits
- Frozen bananas blended with a little non-dairy milk
- Applesauce or other fruit cups
- Nuts, especially mixed with dried fruit
- Soy or coconut yogurt or ice cream
- Individual boxes of soymilk, hazelnut milk, rice milk
- Homemade vegan muffins or cornbread
- Fresh soybeans (edamame)
- Bite-sized tofu cubes or tofu hot dogs

## DAILY ROUTINE

### The Basics

From Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, students get half of their instruction in English and half in Spanish. Students in Claremont's elementary immersion program have two main teachers and classrooms. English language arts and social studies are taught in one classroom by your child's English-speaking teacher. Spanish language arts and math are taught in another classroom by your child's Spanish-speaking teacher. Science is taught in Spanish by a science teacher in one of the homerooms. Students travel to different classrooms for their "specials," which include physical education (PE), library, music, and art. PE is taught in English. Art is taught in Spanish and Music is taught in English in Kindergarten, Second, and Fourth Grades. Art is taught in English and Music is taught in Spanish in First, Third, and Fifth Grades. At times, based on staffing considerations, there can be adjustments to this system.

The Pre-Kindergarten Virginia Pre-School Initiative (VPI) is a county-wide English-language program housed at Claremont Immersion. Because the Pre-K VPI students have guaranteed admission into Claremont Immersion, teachers integrate Spanish into their instruction, so students are exposed to the language. It is not, however, an immersion program.

### Back to School Night

The best way to learn about your child's day at Claremont is to attend Back to School Night. You will get acquainted with your child's daily routine directly from your child's teachers at this key event. Back to School Night offers parents an opportunity to discover what students are learning this school year, what the expectations for homework are, and how to get involved in the classroom and at the school in general. For parents unable to find childcare during Back to School Night, extended day staff will provide childcare in the multi-purpose room for quiet reading and activities.

### Other Parent Visiting Opportunities

Other opportunities to visit with your children and their teachers in the classroom include celebrations marking Halloween, Thanksgiving, the winter holidays, and Valentine's Day, as well as the Science Fair in December and Museum Night in April. And the parent-teacher conferences in both the fall and the spring.

### Wednesdays are "Spirit Wednesday"!

Join the fun and wear your Claremont Spirit Wear. To order visit the Claremont PTA website or contact Lyzbeth Monard at [Imonard@hotmail.com](mailto:Imonard@hotmail.com)

## The Morning News CNN (Claremont Nuevas Noticias)

The school day begins with morning recess at 7:40 a.m. and, by 8:00 a.m., all children should be in their classrooms. They watch the Morning News, which ends with all students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and pausing for a moment of silence. The school broadcasts the news to every classroom on interactive SMART boards. On “Special Feature Friday,” Fifth grade students work in teams to present information, such as recognition of student accomplishments or honors, interviews with teachers, important announcements about upcoming events, and other fun cultural facts shared about different topics students are studying. CNN videos are posted on the Claremont Immersion website, and can be viewed a day after they have been broadcast.

## RECESS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students participate in physical education (PE) and recess. If your child has a medical reason that s/he cannot participate, please send a note from the student’s doctor with information regarding the limitations and effective dates. Remember also to keep our clinic informed of any medical concerns that affect your child’s participation in any school activities. To ensure all students can safely participate in PE and recess, we ask that students wear closed-toe shoes to school throughout the year. Please refrain from sending children to school in flip-flops or high heels, which do not protect their feet when playing on the playground or participating in other active learning games.

### Recess

Arlington Public Schools policy provides for at least 100 minutes of recess per week. At Claremont, morning recess runs from 7:40-7:55 a.m. every morning. Students also have 25 minutes of recess before or after lunch every day, except for early dismissal days. Recess takes place outside every day that weather permits, so students should dress for the weather. When it rains heavily, the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or it is a “code red” (high-heat index) day, recess is held inside.

### Physical Education

At the beginning of the year, teachers will send a note home regarding the days when students have PE. Students should wear sneakers on those days. If they don’t, they won’t be able to participate in PE that day.

### Swimming

Third and Fourth Grade Claremont students go swimming with the PE department at the Wakefield High School pool. Swimming is an important life skill and part of the school curriculum. Swim classes take about two hours of the day, Monday through Friday, for a single week. Typically the

week is assigned for each school well in advance. Teachers will tell parents when their child’s class is scheduled to go swimming. All children are encouraged to participate in swimming and there is different instruction available based on the swimming skills of the students.

## HOMEWORK

Homework helps students to practice what they have learned in school. Students should be able to complete their homework assignments independently. Parents are asked to provide students with a quiet place and a consistent time for students to complete their homework. If a student is having difficulty understanding his/her homework, it is important for parents to let teachers know so teachers can provide assistance to the students. At Back to School Night, teachers will explain the homework expectations for the grade level. In the box below, you’ll find general guidelines for the amount of time that should be spent on homework. If parents have questions about homework, they are encouraged to contact their student’s teacher.

### Suggested Time to Be Spent on Homework by Grade Level

- **Kindergarten:**  
15 minutes on homework, plus 15 minutes of reading
- **First Grade:**  
20 minutes on homework, plus 20 minutes of reading
- **Second Grade:**  
30 minutes on homework, plus 20 minutes of reading
- **Third Grade:**  
45 minutes on homework, plus 20 minutes of reading
- **Fourth Grade:**  
One hour on homework, plus 30 minutes of reading
- **Fifth Grade:**  
One hour on homework, plus 30 minutes of reading

There is no Pre-Kindergarten homework.

## READING

### The Claremont Library

Each class visits the Claremont Library at least once per week throughout the school year. Learn your child’s library day and help him or her remember to return books on time. Library time is a supervised experience in which children choose from a selection of books appropriate for their reading level. Students check out books and return them the following week. Kindergarteners check out one book a week in English or Spanish. After Kindergarten, children borrow at least one book in both languages, al-



though sometimes the Spanish-language books are bilingual. Students have a fixed day to check out books with their classes, however the library is open 20 minutes before and after school every day for students to check out or return books. It's also open 8:00-11:00 a.m. during summer school, when summer school is held at Claremont. If books are late, the librarian will send a note home to the students' family. In addition, students go to the library for special presentations or to work on instructional projects. The library also hosts two book fairs each year in coordination with the PTA.

The library welcomes suggestions for purchases and can order materials from another school library within Arlington if the Claremont library does not have it. Parents may

### Checkout guidelines:



- Pre-Kindergarten: One book
- Kindergarten: One book • 1st Grade: Two books
- 2nd Grade: Three books • 3rd Grade: Four books
- 4th Grade: Five books • 5th Grade: Six books

also check books out of the Claremont library. You can either browse in person or online using the Arlington Public Schools' ACORN database.

The Arlington Public Libraries also have a wide array of Spanish-language books that can enrich your child's immersion reading experience.

### Arlington Book Shelf (ABS)

The Dream Dog Foundation, a non-profit devoted to empowering children and parents to improving their world through education, supports an Arlington Book Shelf (ABS) at Claremont. In order to promote book ownership and literacy, this is a dedicated bookshelf in the Claremont Immersion Library where students can take books home for free without having to return them. ABS books can be identified by the white ABS sticker on the front cover. Please consider donating your gently used books to the ABS library and Claremont Classroom Libraries. A donation box can be found in the school lobby. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the ABS coordinator **Melissa Schwaber-Hawkins** at [melissaschwaber@gmail.com](mailto:melissaschwaber@gmail.com)

### Read-a-Thons

Claremont's second annual Read-a-thon will kick off February 14 with a school-wide "Claremont Loves to Read" event with classroom reading parties and end on Read Across America Day on March 2. Students will ask friends and family to support their reading with a donation. Everyone who participates will get a prize. The principal and assistant principal will challenge students to reach a school-wide total number of minutes read. In return for reaching this goal, the principal and assistant principal

will reward students with a special "prize". Last year, students earned an extra pajama day and the principals dressed up like monkeys while riding tricycles around the school.

The PTA uses a large portion of the money raised to buy books in Spanish and English for Claremont Classroom Libraries. For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Melissa Schwaber-Hawkins** at [melissaschwaber@gmail.com](mailto:melissaschwaber@gmail.com)

### Book Fairs

Claremont hosts two book fairs each year in the school library. Both events offer books in Spanish and in English. Children preview the books with their classroom teachers during the Book Fair week and bring home wish lists to their families. Parents may purchase books during school hours and on one evening during the fair. The PTA runs the first fair of the school year, which will take place December 5-9. The Book Fair Family Night will take place on December 8, along with the school Science Fair. At that book fair, there is an opportunity to donate books to needy children through a school-wide "giving tree" project (see page 19), as well as to the classroom teachers. The school runs the second fair of the school year, which will take place April 24-28, 2017. For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Kyra Wohlford** at [wohlfordk@yahoo.com](mailto:wohlfordk@yahoo.com) or Claremont librarian **Luly Maceo** at [lourdes.maceo@apsva.us](mailto:lourdes.maceo@apsva.us)

### Books, Books and More Books! (New)

Below is a chart that might help with understanding the different books your child may bring home from school. Reach out to your child's teachers if you have any questions about the books. We appreciate all of our families helping by ensuring that our students return the books when they have finished reading them, except for our "Arlington Bookshelf Project" books. These have an "ABS" sticker on them, and are able to be kept at home.

Where are the books from?	Who chooses the book?	How to ID?
Classroom Library	Student chooses based on interest or reading level.	Yellow Sticker with parrot
School Library	Students choose based on interest.	Claremont library label on back
Arlington Book Shelf (ABS)	Students choose as many as they would like for their home library.	White ABS sticker
Guided Reading Book	Teachers choose based on reading level.	These might come in a "book bag"
RazKids(online)	Teachers choose based on reading level.	

## FINE ARTS

### Art

All Claremont students take art classes in either Spanish or English. You will often find your child's artwork sent home on Tuesdays, along with completed homework, math tests, poems, and other papers. The rest of their work is returned at the end of the school year. You can also see your child's artwork displayed during the school's Museum Night event, which during the 2016-2017 school year will take place on April 27 and coincide with the spring Book Fair Family Night. Additional opportunities for art activities are listed on the Claremont website.

### Music

All Claremont students take music classes in either Spanish or English. In the younger classes, children also perform the songs they've learned, often in Spanish, at school events.

### Band and Orchestra

All Fourth and Fifth Graders have an opportunity to play an instrument. Band and orchestra lessons are once a week during the school day.

Arlington County hosts an annual "Instrument Petting Zoo" (an evening event held at a middle school), so that students can try several instruments and be advised which might be best for them. Parents will receive information from the school about renting or buying instruments. Scholarships are available. Contact **John Findley**, Claremont's Band and Orchestra teacher, at [john.findley@apsva.us](mailto:john.findley@apsva.us) for more information.

Many of the school's Fourth and Fifth Graders perform in two concerts each year, usually held at Wakefield High School. Students need to follow a dress code at these performances, so be sure to find out about it in advance. Claremont's music teachers run after-school music programs for students. More information is available under Instructional Programs, "Music," on the Claremont website.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL 27, 2017,  
OUR MUSEUM NIGHT!**

### Trash Band

The Trash Band is an ensemble of Fourth and Fifth Graders that rehearses once a week after school with music teacher Amanda Brown. Band members play found objects as instruments. Students work together to compose their own songs using buckets, pots and pans, suitcases, and other things. Students also create their own instruments out of wood, tape, and other resources. Families enroll their children through the enrichment program.

### Orff

The Claremont Orff is a group of Fifth Graders who rehearse with music teacher Dr. Laura Larco after school. More information will be sent home.

### Fun Fact:

**The Claremont band was the largest in Arlington County in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.**

### SPARK

Claremont's SPARK cultural arts program aims to ignite excitement about learning through unique experiences that further the school's dual language focus. Every year, each grade level partners with a local artist, musician, or cultural institution. Students work closely with these artists to produce something big, fun, and eye-opening. In Kindergarten, they perform in a musical production. In First Grade, they learn Afro-Latin drumming.

## SAFETY AND EMERGENCY

Claremont follows strict safety protocols. During the school day, all exterior doors are locked to prevent unannounced intruders. Parents should ring the doorbell on the post to the right of the front entrance. The school cooperates with the Arlington Police and Fire Departments to train and practice for emergencies. Emergency protocols and procedures are updated on a regular and an as-needed basis.

Safety drills that will be practiced during the month are listed on the first day of the online calendar. They are unannounced and will be scheduled to minimize impact on instruction. Staff and students practice the following drills during the school year: earthquake, tornado, secure-the-building, shelter-in-place, and lockdown. If the emergency involves a child being injured, ill, or otherwise distressed, parents are contacted by the school.

Remember that the school can only contact you quickly if you keep the contact information updated in your student's file. All changes should be sent to the office directly. Monica Simpson, the registrar, updates addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails on the student information system. You will need a ParentVUE account to update phone numbers and e-mails directly through the Family Access Center.

The school also holds fire drills at monthly intervals, as required by law. Fire drills are an important safety precaution. During a drill, the alarm rings continuously – it's a very loud buzzer – accompanied by brightly flashing strobe lights. It's essential that, when the alarm sounds, everyone responds promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. Students should

stay quiet and remain outside the building until a signal is given. Speak with your children about the drill so they are prepared and, if they're young, not frightened by them. Fire drills are only one part of Claremont's Emergency Preparedness Plan. Plans and procedures are in place for severe weather emergencies, chemical/biological emergencies, intruders, and other unlikely events.

### **APS Handbook Addresses Emergency Preparedness**

This is the most complete source for this information. Parents receive a copy the first week of school and it will be made available online during the school year.

### **Contingencies**

Administrators and other staff members make up an identified crisis management team that is trained and equipped to deal with a wide variety of emergencies.

## HEALTH CONCERNS

### **The Claremont Clinic**

The Claremont School Health Clinic is open on school days during school hours, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:41 p.m. A full-time nurse assistant, **Marisa de Morales**, is supervised by the school nurse, **Maggie Seymour**. Ms. Seymour also works at two other Arlington Public Schools. The county-wide nursing supervisor is **Sarah Bell** and she can be reached through the Arlington Public Health Department. The clinic handles first aid, administers medications, maintains student health records, and handles any student medical emergency. If your child has any health condition that requires attention, please contact the clinic directly at **(703) 228-2505**

When there are health risks, such as a contagious outbreak, the school will provide parents with detailed information about the situation, symptoms, and best practices.

### **Keeping Your Child Home Due to Illness or Injury**

Parents must notify the school office when students are going to be absent or late. Call the Claremont Attendance Line **(703) 228-2526** and give a brief description of the illness (for example, fever, vomiting, rash). Failure to call will result in unexcused absences.

### **Medical Attention at School**

Clinic staff will call the parents if an injury, illness, or repeated clinic visits occur. The emergency contact person will be notified if the clinic staff is unable to reach the parent. You must keep your emergency contacts and phone numbers current. Medications will only be administered during the school day if the appropriate paper work is signed by the healthcare practitioner and the parent. This

applies to both over-the-counter and prescription medications. Information about medication and other health clinic policies are sent home in the back-to-school packet.

### **Lice**

Arlington County sets the school's policy on lice, a common nuisance for any facility serving a large group of young children. If a child is found to have lice at school, the clinic staff will contact the parent directly for treatment to be given at home. If a second student (in the same classroom) is confirmed to have lice, the clinic will send a letter to all parents in that class. The clinic does not screen classrooms or groups. Treatment usually requires a special over-the-counter or prescription lice-killing shampoo, careful combing, and a thorough cleaning that at a minimum includes the child's bed, backpack, and car seats. A child may return to school immediately after treatment for head lice. That child should be examined by the clinic's staff before returning to class and families should make sure that everyone in close contact with the child who has lice is screened too. The school won't remove a child from the group if head lice are found during the school day.

If a child must wait in the clinic due to an overwhelming infestation, the staff ensures the confidentiality of the student's diagnosis. If you have any questions about head lice, you may contact the school clinic for more information, as well as for suggestions for treatment.

### **When Your Child is Sick**



**Your child should stay home when he or she has a fever over 100 degrees, is vomiting, or has diarrhea. Children must remain at home for at least 24 hours after the fever, vomiting, or diarrhea ends. This policy is best for the overall health of both the sick student and other students.**

### **Sunscreen**

Students go outside for recess and other activities as weather permits. This can add up to more than one hour each day. The staff is not permitted to apply sunscreen or other lotions. If your child requires sunscreen during the school day, apply it before school. The school can only apply sunscreen in the clinic and with a doctor's order. A medication form must be used. Forms are available under the Clinic's links on the website.

**Join the Claremont Listserv!**



**claremont-pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

**An open forum that includes official PTA business and school events, but also encompasses news and tips of interest to the school community.**



## PLANNING

Claremont Immersion is a dynamic community and we enjoy celebrating old traditions and creating new traditions. The year is packed with special events and opportunities for family involvement.

### The Claremont Calendar

Upcoming events are easily viewed on the right-hand side of the school's homepage. You may download a web-based calendar from the Claremont school website's Calendar Page at any time. The website explains how to download the calendar to a mobile device.

### 2016-2017 Early Release Days

- Wednesday, October 26
- Wednesday, December 7
- Wednesday, February 8
- Thursday, March 2
- Wednesday, March 8
- Wednesday, April 26
- Wednesday, June 14
- Wednesday, June 21
- Friday, June 23 (last day of school)



**ON EARLY RELEASE DAYS, SCHOOL CONCLUDES AT 12:26 P.M.**

### Grade-Level Newsletters

Read the grade-level newsletters sent home on a monthly basis in your child's Thursday folders to stay on top of upcoming events. Please note that field trip information will not be included in your grade level newsletter. Digital copies of these are available on the website under "Classrooms."

### PTA Emails

PTA volunteers also send out frequent updates about school events. For a quick snapshot, be sure to read the "This Week at Claremont" email bulletins the PTA sends out early in the week. To get those emails, you must join the PTA listserv.

### Summer School

The Claremont-Key immersion summer school program usually starts two or three weeks after the last week of school and in the past has lasted for five weeks. The exact dates and location will be confirmed mid-school year. Summer school options are discussed during spring Parent-Teacher conferences.

## MEETINGS

### PTA Meetings

These gatherings take place between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. in the school library, generally on the first Tuesday of the month. Free babysitting and Spanish translation are provided. New for this school year, the PTA will offer a quick meeting recap the following morning.

### Cafecitos con la Directora

These Spanish-language events generally take place on selected Wednesday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m. Parents are invited to speak to the Principal in Spanish about topics that are of interest to the Claremont parents community. Childcare and a light snack are provided.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

These important opportunities to connect with your child's teachers will take place October 6-7 and March 2-3; Make sure you know what time yours will be and see page 14 for details. March 2 is an early release day. Students will not attend school on October 6-7 and March 3. Claremont Immersion will work to accommodate all parents within the 1 ½ days slated for March conferences or during a mutually agreed upon time that will be up to the teacher's discretion. You can find more information on page 13.

### Field Trips

Every class from Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade takes several field trips over the course of the year. Teachers send field trip information home in the Thursday packets. Depending on the field trip and grade level, teachers ask parents to be chaperones. To be a chaperone on a field trip will require that the parent or guardian be available from 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. until at least 1:00 p.m. Chaperones should return to the school with their child. The number of field trips varies each year, but typically there are at least two for each class. Examples of field-trip destinations include the Arlington Planetarium, the National Arboretum, memorials and museums on the National Mall, and theatrical productions.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

### Back-to-School Social (PTA-Sponsored)

This event, held on the first Friday after school starts on the Claremont playground, kicks off the school year and offers a great opportunity to greet teachers and friends and meet new Claremont families. The PTA provides popsicles. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic and join in the fun starting at 6:00 p.m.

### Fall Fun Fest (PTA-Sponsored)

The Fall Fun Fest brings the Claremont community together for food, games, and good times. Many parent

volunteers are needed for ticket sales, making and serving food, set-up, clean-up, and supervising various activities. Admission covers crafts, balloon animals, face painting, moon bounces, musical performances, food, and more. For more information, contact **Courtney Holmes** at [courtneyleeholmes@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyleeholmes@gmail.com)

### **Claremont Fun Run**

See Claremont Corredores on page 24

### **MCM Healthy Kids Fun Run**

The Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run takes place in October in the Pentagon North parking lot. Nearly 3,600 children ages 5-12, including many Claremont students, participate in the one-mile, just-for-fun event. All participants receive a T-shirt, medal and snacks at the finish line. Parents must sign up their child during the first two weeks of the school year. For more information, please contact **Jen Krupey** at [jenkrupey@gmail.com](mailto:jenkrupey@gmail.com)

### **Hispanic Heritage Assembly**

In October, all Claremont classes perform a short presentation for a school-wide assembly in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. Parents are sent invitations to attend with the specific times prior to the assembly. Students sometimes are asked to wear special clothes that day. Your child's teacher will send home information in the Thursday packet. The assembly is in Spanish.

### **Día del Idioma Assembly**

Initiated in Spain in 1926, Día del Idioma is an international celebration recognizing the global importance of the Spanish Language. It takes place on April 23, the anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author of *El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha*. In honor of Día del Idioma, Claremont will hold a school-wide assembly on April 21 in 2017.

Students will make short presentations or performances. Your child may be asked to wear special clothes or bring props. Your child's teacher will send home information in the Thursday packet. The assembly is in Spanish.

### **International Dinner and Dance (PTA-Sponsored)**

Claremont celebrates the diverse heritage of our students with a potluck dinner and entertainment. Families are encouraged to bring food that represents their nationality or cultural heritage. This popular event takes place at the school. Contact **Lisa Chesnel** at [lchesnel@yahoo.com](mailto:lchesnel@yahoo.com)

### **Movie Nights (PTA-Sponsored)**

Enjoy a family-friendly movie in the multi-purpose room, usually on Friday evenings. Pizza and concessions are available for purchase. Keep an eye on the PTA listservs and the Thursday folders for schedule information and the titles of the movies being screened.

### **Read Across America**

Every year on March 2 from 7:45-8:30 a.m., Claremont celebrates Read Across America Day. Members from *Vamos Adelante* take charge inviting parents to read a book in Spanish to every classroom in Claremont. Around 35 readers come at once just to read a book to their child's class. Students and readers come to school wearing their pajamas! Participate, it's so much fun! Please contact **Isa Anderson** at [AdelanteClaremont@gmail.com](mailto:AdelanteClaremont@gmail.com)

### **Lectura con los Directores**

For one week in the fall and spring, Ms. Panfil, the principal, and Mr. Ramirez, the assistant principal read aloud to every classroom. This gives an opportunity to highlight great books that students can check out from the school library, and encourage students to enjoy reading in two languages. In the Fall, Mr. Ramirez reads to all the classes in Spanish and Ms. Panfil reads to all the classes in English. In the Spring, they switch languages.

### **School Pictures and the Claremont Yearbook**

A professional photographer will take individual student and class-wide photos on October 28. PTA volunteers coordinate the order and delivery process and arrange an alternate date for students who are absent on Photo Day or whose portraits aren't usable. Families have an option to purchase these pictures in December. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please contact **Kristin Donaghy** at [donaghykristin@gmail.com](mailto:donaghykristin@gmail.com)

Individual student and candid class photos also appear in the school's yearbook. You may order yearbooks in the spring. They are delivered on or shortly before the final day of the school year. Children have an opportunity to submit a picture to be used for the back or front cover.

### **Team Kids**

Fifth grade students participate in a month-long "Team Kids Challenge," an innovative, five-week youth development program delivered alongside Arlington police and firefighters. The Challenge Program is an entirely student-led community service program focused on strengthening assets in our students to promote positive outcomes, while decreasing high-risk behaviors. Through participating, students learn they are a powerful and significant resource to address critical community issues, such as hunger, homelessness, animal protection and support for deployed troops. Community service helps students develop the values and skills that enable them to make positive choices in their own lives, while making a difference in the lives of others.

A youth leadership committee comprised of fifth graders help organize weekly events that include collecting food, clothing and books. All funds raised support a non-profit or charity chosen by the students. As a conclusion to the

month-long Team Kids Challenge, Claremont hosts a student-led carnival to celebrate their accomplishments. The Leadership Team discusses issues they are most passionate about, and then selects the beneficiary charity for their carnival.

### **Museum Night**

In April, the school turns into a museum of a “Day at Claremont.” Student classwork and artwork is on display throughout the school, so this is a great time to visit your child’s classrooms to see their work. It’s also a great opportunity to take a peek at next year’s grade level classwork and displays. Please come to the school that evening to check out your child’s creations, which you’ll find in hallways, in their homerooms, and their art teachers’ studios.

## COMMUNICATING WITH THE SCHOOL AND OUR COMMUNITY

### **APS School Talk**

This listserv is your direct link to news and events that impact the Claremont Community. You are automatically signed up for it as a parent of a student enrolled in the Arlington Public Schools system. It uses the phone numbers and email addresses you provide, so you must keep your contact information up-to-date. If you need assistance setting up an email account, please contact **Haydeé Colón Jennings** at **(703) 228-2504**.

### **PeachJar and Thursday Packets**

PeachJar is an electronic flyer program that will send you information via e-mail. APS, the school, and the PTA will send out information via PeachJar. Please note that flyers may have two pages with English and Spanish translation. You can also access all flyers via the Claremont Website, by clicking on the PeachJar link.

Teachers in all grades send home a Thursday packet that should be returned on Friday. Forms will be sent home in paper, such as field trip slips and order forms. Additionally, Kindergarten and First Grade teachers use a blue parent communication folder that goes home every day.

### **Talk to Your Child**

Speak with your child about what’s going on at school. Big school events are announced on the Morning News (see page 8), which often brings the buzz about them to your home.

### **The Claremont Directory**

The PTA publishes the Claremont School Directory\* and distributes it in the fall as a digital document. Printed copies are available in the school office. The directory is organized by class and provides child and parent names,

addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. The directory is great for planning class parties, coordinating with other parent volunteers, and setting up playdates.

\*Parents may opt out of the directory.

### **Communicating with Your Child’s Teacher**

Communication between a student’s family and his or her teachers is an essential component of an effective partnership that supports children as they work to be successful learners. Ask your child’s teacher his or her preferred communication method, such as Student Planners (for Second Graders and older students), email, and phone calls. Every Claremont teacher’s email address is available on the school website. You can always send a written note too. If you do call the school, keep in mind that the office will not interrupt teachers during class time for calls.

### **Twitter (New)**

Follow Claremont Staff and Teachers on Twitter to see updates as your children learn in two languages. Not on Twitter? Visit the school website to see the live feed of Claremont Tweets. In past years, the school offered Parent Info Sessions about how to get started on Twitter.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Claremont schedules two formal conferences with parents each year. In the 2016-17 school year, the first will be on October 6 or 7, while the second will be on March 2 or 3. March 2 is an Early Release day. There is no school on October 6 or 7 or March 3. Your child does not attend these meetings. Don’t miss this opportunity and make every effort to arrive on time. These 20-minute-long meetings are one of the best ways parents can learn about their child’s progress at school.

During your Parent-Teacher conference, you and your child’s teachers will exchange information for the child’s benefit. Parents meet with their child’s Spanish and English teachers at the same time. If you have more than one child at Claremont, the school will proactively schedule your parent-teacher conferences, usually back-to-back.

It’s up to you to notify the school office if this assigned schedule doesn’t work. Families with one child in the school sign up for a time slot during back-to-school night. Each teacher coordinates the schedule for March conferences. Information will be sent home in your child’s backpack. If these two meetings do not suffice, teachers are happy to meet with parents at a mutually agreed upon, prearranged time.

### **BlackBoard**

BlackBoard is an online communication tool to post homework assignments. Your student will be taught how to log on to BlackBoard. More information is available on the Claremont website under Instruction, Technology.



## Parent VUE

The Arlington Public School system adopted a new student information system called Edupoint's Synergy in the summer of 2013. The school system will also implement Synergy's ParentVUE and StudentVUE across the county. These features give parents and guardians the ability to update student information online.

 **Don't Miss These Opportunities for Face-to-Face Interaction!**

- Back to School Night • Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Museum Night • Science Fair

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is an integral component of Claremont's instructional program. Claremont teachers regularly assess their students. Students also take standardized tests required by Virginia or Arlington County. Regular classroom assessments include chapter tests, quizzes, checklists, and the use of rubrics.

### Report Cards

Report cards summarize for parents and guardians their child's achievement and progress: Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten progress reports are issued in February and June. Report cards for First through Fifth Grade students are issued at approximately nine-week intervals in November, February, April, and June.

### Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade Progress Reports

These progress reports summarize the teachers' observations and evaluation of the child's growth in specified areas of development: social and personal development; physical and intellectual development, including language, math, science, health, and social studies; and music and art. Kindergarten report cards also include the results of the child's PALS Assessment (see below for more details).

### Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade Report Cards

Report cards for students in Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade are standardized, but don't have letter grades. Instead, there are metrics deemed more relevant for early-childhood educators. On Kindergarten report cards, P means "progressing," B means "beginning," and N means "not introduced." On first and second grader's report cards, you'll see a P for "making expected progress" or an N for "not making expected progress." Teachers will also indicate areas of strength with + signs and areas of difficulty with # signs. Report cards also indicate the number of days of school your child missed and how many times they were tardy.

## Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Report Cards

Beginning in Third Grade, teachers evaluate student achievement in each academic area using the symbols A, B, C, D, and E. Student effort is evaluated in each academic area based on teacher judgment of the effort the student demonstrates in performing school tasks. There are other reporting methods for Special Education, ESOL/HILT students, and for student progress in the Immersion Program. As students work toward achieving grade-level expectations in all curriculum areas, teachers carefully consider their students' demonstrated achievement. In addition, teacher comments inform parents of one or more of the following: improvement since the last report; particular difficulties and/or specific needs; unusual traits, talents, abilities, or accomplishments; work beyond assigned tasks; and other areas the teacher determines to be important.

### Standardized Tests

Claremont follows all federal, state, and local protocols and policies for administering standardized tests. There are many kinds of standardized tests and they are given at different grade levels. Standardized tests are also given for different purposes. For example, some standardized exams are used to measure the effectiveness of an instructional program, and in other cases the results are used to measure individual student progress.

The standardized tests Claremont administers are determined by the APS Office of Assessment and Evaluation and in collaboration with the APS Department of Instruction. The type of standardized exams and the grade levels when they are given can change from year to year, and within the school year.

### PALS

All Kindergarteners, First, Second, and Third Graders are assessed through the Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening (PALS), as required by Virginia law. It provides information about a student's reading skills in English.

### SOL Tests

All Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders take the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Students and their families may find detailed information about these exams on the Claremont website, which links to this Arlington Public Schools resource.

### Additional Assessments

Claremont administers additional assessments to determine eligibility for special education or gifted services. These tests are given only with parental permission. If you have questions or concerns about what assessments your child will be taking, contact your child's teacher for more information.

## Student Services

All students are able to benefit from an immersion program. Claremont provides a range of services to support all our students' access to a free and appropriate education. Services are provided to students on an individual basis and in accordance with the Arlington Public School system's policies and are aligned with state and federal regulations. If you have concerns about your student at any time, contact your child's teacher to set up an appointment and discuss your concerns. **Lesly Fuentes** in the front office coordinates all student services meetings, which are generally scheduled on Thursdays and Fridays.

### Determining Student Progress

When determining student progress in all academic and special areas, the following are used:

- A collection of work over time;
- Daily written or oral tasks;
- Class participation;
- Periodic assessments (quizzes, tests, performance tasks);
- Individual and class projects; and
- Formal and informal observation.

Parents are notified in a letter sent home through the Thursday packet when students will be taking standardized exams. If you have questions or concerns about a test your child will be taking, please contact your child's teacher.

## Intervention Assistance Team Meetings

Students can experience difficulty at school in any area (academically, emotionally, or socially) over an extended period of time. When this occurs, a teacher or a parent can refer a student for an "Intervention Assistance Team (IAT)" meeting. The meetings are generally scheduled on Fridays. A small team, comprised of the students' parents, teachers, the school counselor and the principal, meet to find ways to assist the student. Meetings are approximately 45 minutes long and at the conclusion, the team comes to a consensus on an action plan to support the student.

Parents are provided with a copy of the minutes and next steps outlined to support the students' success. Parents who have concerns about their child are asked to discuss these concerns with their child's teachers first. If parents continue to have concerns, they may ask their child's teacher to schedule another IAT meeting for their child or contact Lesly Fuentes in the front office.

## 504 Plans

Students can be found eligible for a 504 (Students with Disabilities) plan that provides accommodations for students within the school setting. For more information, contact your child's teacher.

## Special Education Services

Claremont's student services staff provide individualized educational supports to students who are identified as requiring special education services. For more information, contact your child's teacher.

You may also contact the Parent Resource Center located at 2110 Washington Boulevard, Suite 158, Arlington, VA 22204 at **(703) 228-7239**.

## Arlington Special Education PTA (SEPTA)

Children with learning differences are intellectually capable of handling an immersion school environment. But parents of students with special needs do require resources and information specific to their individual situations and help and advice from other parents who have been there. SEPTA facilitates social and informational events for families to learn about special needs services in the Arlington school system while raising awareness of disabilities and special needs.

If necessary, your child may obtain an Individual Education Plan (IEP), which gives students access to appropriate accommodations within the school environment. Whether or not you have private insurance, Arlington County provides testing and treatment at either no cost or sliding scale fees. For more information, contact Claremont's SEPTA parent liaison, **Caroline Butler** at **(703) 819-6228** or via email at **carolinebutler77@gmail.com**. You can also visit these websites for more information:

- Arlington Special Education Parent Resource Center: <http://www.apsva.us/prc>
- Department of Student Services & Special Education: [www.apsva.us/student-services-special-education/](http://www.apsva.us/student-services-special-education/)
- Arlington County Therapeutic Recreation: <http://parks.arlingtonva.us/>
- Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC): <http://www.peatc.org/>
- Arlington Septa: <http://www.arlingtonsepta.org/>

## The Gifted Program

Arlington Public Schools is dedicated to maximizing the strengths and potential of all students so they may become self-confident, well-rounded, responsible and productive citizens. APS evaluates and provides gifted services for students in Kindergarten and Grades 1-12. The fine arts evaluation process begins in Third Grade.

The Office of Gifted Services follows the APS Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted which complies with Virginia Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students based on the following concepts:

- Giftedness is developmental; it is potential which must be nourished;

- Gifted students share some characteristics with all other children; and
- There is variability among the gifted.

At Claremont, school-based services are delivered in the regular classroom setting with identified students cluster-grouped with other children; with teachers who are specifically trained in elements of gifted education including best practices in differentiated instruction; through curriculum, which is differentiated or extended from concepts in the prescribed curriculum and, when appropriate, opportunities for acceleration and advanced studies are provided.

Services are also provided according to a collaborative resource model in which the classroom teacher works with the resource teacher for the gifted to develop and present appropriately differentiated learning experiences for gifted students within the regular class. The bulk of instruction for gifted students is delivered in a differentiated manner by the classroom teacher with the support of the resource teacher of the gifted. There can also be a pull-out “enrichment” component of the delivery of gifted services.

The Gifted Services Eligibility Process Identifies Students in the Following Areas:

- Specific Academic Aptitude: students with specific aptitudes in the academic areas of mathematics, science, English, social studies.
- Visual/Performing Arts Aptitude: students with specific aptitudes in visual art and/or instrumental or vocal music areas.

**Ms. Carol Schaedel** is Claremont’s Gifted Resource Teacher. And you can reach out to her at [carol.schaedel@apsva.us](mailto:carol.schaedel@apsva.us)

### The Gifted Screening Process

The total population is considered in the creation of a candidate pool. Screening of available test and assessment data occurs annually in the first half of the school year.

### Referral

A student is referred to the gifted services eligibility process based on one or more of the following criteria: a need for services beyond that provided by the regular instructional program; available test information; student products and performance; academic performance; and/or behavioral characteristics of gifted students. A referral form may be completed by Ms. Schaedel, a classroom teacher or other staff member, a parent or guardian, a community member or a student. The referral form is available on the Claremont website under Programs and Services, “Gifted.” Forms are available in English, Spanish, Bengali, Amharic, Mongolian, and Arabic.

### Identification

Student referrals are considered by a school-based committee composed of a classroom teacher, Ms. Schaedel, Principal Panfil or her designee, and at times a school counselor. All relevant data is reviewed and the decision to identify a need for services or not is made by the committee. In identifying students for Gifted Services, multiple criteria are used including the following:

- Nationally normed aptitude and/or achievement assessments
- Teacher observations for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS)
- School-based performance data
- Parent Information Sheet
- Student work samples/alternate measures
- Writing portfolio (K-5, in English only)

Parents are notified of the committee’s decision by letter.

## REMINDER!

**SUBMIT REFERRALS FOR THE GIFTED PROGRAM BY APRIL 1**



### Skipping and Repeating Grades

Claremont follows APS guidelines and policies for determining when students skip or repeat a grade. This happens infrequently and is decided on an individualized basis. If there’s a possibility of a student being retained, parents are notified at the spring Parent-Teacher conference. Teachers and members of the administrative staff work collaboratively and closely with parents in determining the best grade placement for students’ educational success.

### Student Records

The school maintains a Student Cumulative Folder for each student. The file includes report cards, other progress reports, information pertaining to special programs such as Gifted and Talented, Special Education, or ESOL/HILT, and results of standardized tests. For some students, a confidential folder may also be maintained with highly personal data such as psychological test results and legal reports. Parents or legal guardians have the right to review their child’s file with the principal or a qualified professional staff member to interpret the information.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Please take advantage of at least a few of the many opportunities you have to be an active participant in your child’s education at Claremont. You can choose from a wide variety of activities and events that work for your family’s schedule. Become a homeroom parent. Lead one



of the PTA's many initiatives. Help in the classroom. Volunteer at the Fall Festival or a movie night. Chaperone field trips. Bring your child to a Vamos Adelante event. Lead a Girl Scout troop. This is your school too!

### **Almuerzo en Español**

See page 6 for more details.

### **Vamos Adelante**

Vamos Adelante is dedicated to encouraging children to talk and read in Spanish on a daily basis, as well as to promoting awareness of the different cultural roots that exist among Spanish-speaking families in Claremont. Vamos Adelante hosts three family events on select Friday evenings each year, where Claremont students get exposed to the Spanish language in fun ways. In order to give children more enthusiasm for learning and practicing Spanish, parents are invited to read a book in Spanish to their child's class. Starting in November, there is one opportunity each month to come read a book to the Kindergarten classes and once a week for the First & Second grade classes. If you would like to participate in reading a book, look out for the dates sent via ListServ where you can sign up online or send an email to [AdelanteClaremont@gmail.com](mailto:AdelanteClaremont@gmail.com)

Come meet other Spanish speaking families! Meetings take place from 8:00-9:30 a.m., the last Friday of each month at the Teacher's Lounge. See the School's Calendar for specific dates. All family members and children welcome!

### **Hosting Teaching Assistants from Spain**

Claremont is an International Spanish Academy (ISA). As part of this partnership with the Embassy of Spain, a "Spanish Language and Cultural Assistant" comes from Spain to work at Claremont for the school year. One or two Claremont families host this assistant in their home. The assistant teaches and provides support in some of the Spanish classrooms for approximately 20 hours a week. Host families provide room and board and a sense of community to the assistant. The host family not only makes possible the addition of a valuable resource to Claremont's teaching staff but also has the chance to learn about a different culture and improve their Spanish language skills. If you're interested in hosting a teaching assistant this year or in the future, please contact parent volunteer **Susie Wallin** for more information at [crhs\\_dc@hotmail.com](mailto:crhs_dc@hotmail.com)

### **Homeroom Parents**

At least one parent in every Claremont class volunteers serve as a homeroom parent. These volunteers serve as crucial liaisons between the school, the teachers, and students' families.

Their main responsibilities are helping the PTA and their child's teachers organize fun classroom events. Depending on your child's grade level, homeroom parents may also

help coordinate a staff-only event, such as a teacher lunch on a parent-teacher conference day. They aren't expected to do everything themselves. Homeroom parents can recruit volunteers from their child's class to ensure fun, successful events for everyone.

Homeroom parents should stay on top of the school calendar and in touch with their child's teachers. The PTA's hospitality committee, led by Adora Williams and Emily Brady, sends all homeroom parents reminders about upcoming events as well. They have access to lots of supplies such as paper products, serving items, decorations, etc., in the PTA closet. If you are a homeroom parent in need of access to the closet, just ask someone in the office to help you.

Email is easy, quick, and green, so homeroom parents should try using it to stay in touch with other parents. But it's also ineffective for reaching some parents who aren't online all the time or don't use email, so flyers are another important communication tool. Homeroom parents have access to the school's photocopier. For most homeroom parent needs, white paper can be used.

The flyers go into the Thursday packets and arrive home via backpack mail. When parent contributions are gathered, such as with teacher gifts, backpack mail also serves as a convenient delivery system. For more information about how Claremont families honor and express appreciation for our teachers, see page 20.

To learn about Claremont's school allergy policy and healthy options for food to share at these celebrations, see pages 6 and 7.

**Get Involved! Parent involvement is proven to lead to a child's success at school.**

**Join the Claremont Listserv!**  
[claremont-pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:claremont-pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

An open forum that includes official PTA business and school events, but also encompasses news and tips of interest to the school community.

## **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)**

One of Claremont's greatest strengths is our involved and committed families. Over the years, we have built an amazing PTA that assists the school by volunteering with activities and fundraising. To learn about what the PTA is doing or to get involved, provide the group with your contact information and attend its monthly meetings.

All Claremont families should be on the school's PTA email

list. This is the PTA's primary way of communicating the news you need and reminders of upcoming events. You don't need to pay PTA dues to be on the lists, but parents of Claremont students are encouraged to join the school's PTA. Be sure to visit the PTA website for loads of helpful information. You may also contact the PTA via email at [claremontfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:claremontfamilies@gmail.com) with any questions. As a Spanish immersion school with students drawn from both English- and Spanish-speaking families, not all Claremont parents speak fluent English or Spanish. Therefore, we make an effort to communicate important information in both languages.

PTA committee chairs or volunteers who need a form or an email translated into Spanish or English for PeachJar or for a PTA listserv email are encouraged to send the text to the PTA translation committee at [traduccionesclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:traduccionesclaremont@gmail.com)

### 2016-2017 PTA Executive Board

- **President:** Jorge Figueredo
- **President Elect:** Melissa Schwaber
- **Vice President, Communications:** Marjorie K. Araya
- **Vice President, Social:** Melania Saraniero
- **Vice President, Fundraising:** Amber Dungan
- **Vice President, Membership & Outreach:** Lyzbeth Monard
- **Vice President, Educational & Green Initiatives:** Amy Oldham
- **Treasurer:** Beth Addington
- **Recording Secretary:** Maggie Colston

### PTA Leadership

The Claremont PTA Executive Board is a group of elected PTA members that oversees various committees. If you are interested in becoming more involved in a specific committee, or have a new idea or suggestion, feel free to contact any of the Executive Board Members.

### PTA Meetings

PTA meetings provide a chance to meet teachers and other Claremont parents and become more informed and involved in the life of your school. Meetings run from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in the school library. They generally begin with a presentation based on the monthly topic, which may include a guest speaker, followed by a Principal's update and then a PTA update. Free childcare is provided at PTA meetings for school-age children, as is interpretation from English to Spanish. The goal of these PTA-sponsored service is to make it easier for all parents and guardians of Claremont students to attend. All members of the community may attend the meetings and we encourage everyone to come to as many events as possible.

New for this school year, the PTA exec board will offer a quick meeting recap at 8:00 a.m. the following morning.

### PTA Membership and Website

Although you do not need to be a member, we do encourage membership. PTA rules only allow members to vote on new officers and budget matters. Dues are \$20 per family. This automatically enrolls your family in the local, state and national PTA.

Joining the PTA is quick and easy. You can pay in cash, with a check made payable to the Claremont PTA, or via PayPal by clicking the DONATE TO THE PTA button in the right margin of the website: <http://claremontpta.org/>. Special envelopes are available upon request, and at all PTA meetings for those who opt for cash or check. Your membership dues/donations go directly to benefit the PTA's support of Claremont students and teachers. Return the envelope (if applicable) to your child's homeroom teacher, to the office or to a PTA representative.

### PTA Activities

A parent volunteer updates the PTA website on a regular basis. The site includes a school calendar, access to the school directory, information about volunteer opportunities, pictures, meeting minutes, and more. The PTA also sends frequent updates on PeachJar or APS School Talk. Several PTA activities are mentioned elsewhere in this guide and here are a few more.

### The Giving Tree

The PTA provides the school community with a list of gifts that our community wants or needs during the holiday season. Gifts range from stocking stuffers like crayons and construction paper to books, coats and hats, games, and toys.

### Honoring Claremont's Teachers and Other Staff

We are fortunate to have a talented, friendly, and engaging school staff at Claremont. There are many ways families can express their appreciation for all the hard work and energy that go into making our school shine.

### Teacher Appreciation Week

This yearly event falls between May 1-5, 2017. Families send flowers and cards to celebrate and honor our educators. On the last day of the week, which we call "Fiesta Friday," teachers attend an hour-long party during the school day. Parent volunteers, led by homeroom parents, cater the party and parent volunteers substitute-teach in the classroom for that hour.

### Gifts

In many cases, families give gifts during the winter holiday season and at the end of the school year, but more often homeroom parents or other volunteers coordinate class-wide gifts at that time. The logic behind this is that

it's easier to receive a few collective gifts than 40 separate gifts. Typically, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and children in the younger grades give their teachers Valentines.

### Support Staff Appreciation Day

One day a year, families show their appreciation and support for the school's support staff. We will honor the office and other support staff on April 28 in 2017.

## PTA Fundraising

### Printer Cartridges

The PTA collects used printer cartridges for recycling, saving the environment, and raising money for the school at the same time. Please leave your old cartridges in the designated box in the school lobby.

### Store Rebates

Three big supermarket chains — Safeway, Giant, and Harris Teeter — all donate funds to schools based on purchases using savings cards that are electronically linked to a school account. When you buy anything at those stores, you can help support Claremont if you have linked your card to the school's fund-raising account. Sign-up forms and details are sent home in a Thursday folder in early September. For more details, contact **Audrey Gowda** at [audreygg@yahoo.com](mailto:audreygg@yahoo.com)

### Box Tops

Just clip and save the "Box Tops for Education" located on many soup cans, cereal boxes other food products, and drop them off in the Box Top mailbox in the lobby or send them in through backpack mail to your child's classroom. For more information, contact **Karen Mahler** at [karenmahler79@gmail.com](mailto:karenmahler79@gmail.com)

### Armchair Fundraiser

Parents have an opportunity throughout the year to simply make a monetary donation to the PTA rather than participate in other PTA fundraisers. For more information, contact PTA VP of Fundraising **Amber Dungan** at [itsber@yahoo.com](mailto:itsber@yahoo.com)

### Silent Auction

The Claremont silent auction is a community event where parents and teachers get together for fun, fundraising and festivities. It is one of our biggest events and typically takes place in the spring. In past years, this has been an adults-only event on a Saturday evening.

### Amazon Smile

Claremont PTA earns money every time you shop via Amazon Smile. Just log into the Amazon Smile website and choose Claremont Immersion PTA as your organization. The PTA earns a small percentage from each purchase. You can still use your Prime membership for shipping. Amazon Smile doesn't work on the Amazon App on your phone.

### Spirit Wear

Show your Claremont spirit with specially designed Claremont Immersion School t-shirts, car magnets, license plate frames, and more. For more information, contact **Lyzbeth Monard** at [lmonard@hotmail.com](mailto:lmonard@hotmail.com)

### Read-a-Thon

See page 9

## Wednesdays are "Spirit Wednesday"!

Join the fun and wear your Claremont Spirit Wear. To order visit the Claremont PTA website or contact **Lyzbeth Monard** at [lmonard@hotmail.com](mailto:lmonard@hotmail.com)

## Contests and Big Projects

### Reflections Contest

Reflections is a PTA-sponsored, nationwide art competition. Students express themselves around a theme through creative writing, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and video production. All Claremont students are encouraged to participate. Remember: we are all artists! For more information, contact **Tammar Stein** at [tammarstein@hotmail.com](mailto:tammarstein@hotmail.com)

### Science Fair

Students use the scientific process to conduct experiments and create displays showcased at Claremont's Science Fair, which will be held this year on **December 8**. Participation in the Science Fair is required for Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders, who will complete their projects at the school under the direction of their science teachers. Participation is optional for Kindergarteners, First, and Second Graders. Even if they don't do their own project, children in the younger grades usually enjoy spending time at the Science Fair looking at projects completed by other kids.

October is a great time to begin working on ideas for science projects. Some of them require extra time for planning and/or gathering materials. Great ideas can be found online if you simply search "science fair projects for kids." Consider helping your children with their project!

### Lean, Green, No-Screen Week and Health Fair

Each April during the week of Earth Day, students can pledge to go "screen free" for the week, as well as commit to making healthier and environmentally friendly choices. Also included this week is an evening event such as a health fair or book fair. For more information contact parent volunteer **Mikaila Milton** at [mikailamilton@fiskdesign.net](mailto:mikailamilton@fiskdesign.net)

### Field Day

Field Day is held on one of the final days of the school year. Students participate in an array of fun and engaging outside activities and games. Students are encouraged to wear a Claremont t-shirt and enjoy the day with their



friends. The PTA provides ice cream for every child. Check with your homeroom parents to see if they need volunteers. Pack a change of clothing for your children, in case they get wet during water games. Make sure they wear sneakers, wear sunscreen, and eat a hearty breakfast.

### Talent Show

All children will be invited to share a talent at the end of the school year. There are three shows that combine two grade levels: Kindergarten-First, Second-Third, and Fourth-Fifth. Auditions and dress rehearsals are held during and after school. Information will be sent home in a Thursday folder and the shows take place on the Monday of the last week of school.

### Outdoor Lab

The Outdoor Lab is a 210-acre site located near Haymarket, Virginia, where all Arlington school children have the opportunity to learn science, outdoor skills, arts, and humanities in a natural setting. Weather permitting, Fifth Graders get to spend a two-day overnight trip at the Outdoor Lab. Dates for this trip are announced at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, Third Graders visit the Outdoor Lab as a day-long field trip and all families can take part in their open houses, which are usually held in the fall and spring each year.

## JUST FOR FIFTH GRADERS

### Choosing a Middle School

Claremont ends after Fifth Grade, so all families have to prepare for the transition to Middle School when their child reaches that point.

Beginning in January, Fifth Grade parents and students receive information about the middle school selection process. Claremont students have the option of continuing in Gunston Middle School's Spanish Immersion Program, enrolling in their assigned neighborhood middle school if they do not reside in the Gunston district, or entering the lottery for H-B Woodlawn's Secondary Program for Grades six through 12.

Arlington Public Schools holds a yearly Middle School Information Night and all the middle schools offer Information Nights for parents to visit and ask questions.

Every Claremont Fifth Grader spends part of a day at Gunston to get a feel for middle school.

Claremont's counselors also provide information about middle school applications and deadlines with Fifth Graders and their families.

All Claremont students are accepted into the Gunston immersion program automatically. For more information about middle school options, contact Claremont's school counselors.

In the spring, Fifth Graders must choose their electives for middle school. In many cases this means choosing to continue with band/orchestra or taking another class.

### Math Placement in Sixth Grade

Parents of Fifth Graders receive information about how their children will be placed in math classes in middle school. There are different math options for students within middle school and all math classes are taught in English at Gunston.

A variety of factors are used to determine student's Sixth-Grade math placement, including results on standardized exams, such as the SOLs; performance in math class; and a math placement exam students take at the end of Fifth Grade.

A team of educators coordinated by the APS Mathematics Department determines recommendations for all Arlington students' math placement for middle school. For more information, see information posted on the Claremont website and the Arlington Public Schools website.

### Promotion

During the last week of school there will be a program at Wakefield High School to celebrate the Fifth Graders' promotion to middle school. The students typically dress up for this event and there is a reception in the gym afterward for families and students. The reception is traditionally coordinated by the parents of the fourth graders as a way to "pay it forward."

### Patrol Field Trip

If your child served as a patrol during Fifth Grade, there may be a special field trip in June, such as a bowling and pizza party, to celebrate their contribution to the school.

### End-of-Year Trip

The Fifth Grade community plans a day trip (e.g., to a water park or ropes course) and collects money from Fifth Grade families and fundraises to cover all costs, including transportation and lunch. Fundraising events can include such things as the cake walk at Fall Fest or selling concessions.

## BEHAVIOR, DISCIPLINE, AND COUNSELING

### The School-Wide Learning Environment and Responsive Classroom Approach

Claremont teachers and staff strive to create a safe, caring, and engaging learning environment where all students feel welcome and inspired to learn in two languages. Teachers and staff implement "Responsive Classroom" approaches in the classroom and in the school setting to create an environment conducive for learning for all

students. This includes the school-wide signal for “quiet,” which is a raised hand. When an adult raises his/her hand, students and other adults know this is the signal to become quiet and be ready for instructions.

Other Responsive Classroom approaches to creating a safe, caring, and engaging school-wide learning environment are the writing and adoption of classroom rules by students, morning meetings or student meetings, and clearly communicated behavior expectations for shared school spaces such as the hallways, playground, and the multi-purpose room.

with students to provide clear, consistent expectations for respectful behavior, and partner closely with parents to help students achieve success at school. Open communication is encouraged and parents, who may have concerns regarding their child’s experience at school should contact their child’s teacher immediately to set up a time to discuss the situation. The school counselors are also available and can be reached at **(703) 228-2506**.

### **Bullying**

Claremont Immersion teachers and staff take bullying very seriously. Arlington Public Schools defines bullying as, “intentionally aggressive behavior that repeatedly targets another person for the purpose of establishing power over them.” It can take many forms, for example: name-calling, hitting, threats, insulting gestures, teasing, or intentionally excluding others. It can occur in any setting — at school, at home, on the bus, or over the Internet. If you’re concerned that your child is being bullied, contact your child’s teacher or the school counselors immediately.

### **A Note about Medical Forms**

**Just like entering Kindergarten, there are certain vaccines and boosters that are required for entry into middle school. In early May you will receive a letter outlining these and other vaccination options. However, if your child has a well-visit earlier in the school year, be advised to discuss this with your doctor so you don’t have to go back for another appointment and bring a copy of the standard Virginia state school entry form.**

### **Expected Behavior and Discipline**

Teachers explain and model for students what is respectful behavior in the class setting and in shared spaces within school. Students have the opportunity to practice the expectations, and are expected to be able to demonstrate respectful behavior throughout the school day. Teachers also provide a variety of supports to students so that they can be successful. If a serious discipline issue arises, a student may not be able to be in the classroom setting and the student may spend time in the office temporarily. Parents would be contacted either by phone or by a note home that must be signed and returned to the office.

### **School Counselors**

The Counseling Department at Claremont offers support to all students while working closely with parents, teachers and administration. Services are offered in both individual and small group settings covering a variety of topics including support for social skills, anxiety, changing families and getting ready for middle school. Counselors also visit classrooms for whole-group guidance lessons, which help teach students a variety of social skills. If you would like further information about counseling services please contact the school counselors at **(703) 228-2506** or visit the Claremont counseling web page.

### **The Claremont Learning Environment**

Claremont teachers strive to create a safe and engaging learning environment where all students feel welcome and inspired to learn in two languages. Teachers work


### **Following School Rules**

**If a student is having difficulty following classroom or school rules, the teacher will contact the parent with the goal of working together to help the student be successful throughout the day.**

### **Leave It at Home**

In order to create an optimal learning environment for our students, parents are asked to refrain from sending any item that might be a distraction or cause a safety hazard. Examples of such items include toys, iPods, cell phones, anything that could be construed as a weapon, trading cards, electronic games, skateboards, cash, etc. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please note that students are allowed to bring an eBook if parents have signed and sent in the eBook contract. The contract explains that eBooks can be used during appropriate instructional times and that the school is not responsible for their loss or damage. The contract can be found on the Claremont website.

### **With Changing Technology...**

**TIP**  **Figuring out which items are permitted or not can be confusing. The general rule is if it might be a distraction to your child or others, or you are concerned about the item’s potential damage or loss, leave it at home. When in doubt, please contact your child’s teacher if an item is acceptable at school or not.**

### **Excessive Absences and Tardy Arrivals**

Arriving on time to school helps your child have a great learning day. Students are expected to come to school every day except, of course, when they’re sick. Parents are encouraged to be in communication with the school (front

office, teachers, counselors, etc.) if they're experiencing challenges that are preventing them from being able to have their children arrive on time or come to school regularly. The school strives to partner with parents to ensure students' attendance and on-time arrival.

Claremont takes consistent tardiness or absences very seriously because it endangers a child's educational future. The school contacts families whose students are consistently tardy or have excessive absences to create a plan to ensure the student's on-time arrival and/or regular attendance. Individual follow-up occurs as needed. Claremont wants all children to attend on time and every day to get the best education possible.

## CLOTHING, LOST AND FOUND, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, ACTIVITY AND SNACK FEES

### Clothing Guidelines

Claremont Immersion encourages children to dress appropriately for the weather. Students will be outside for morning and afternoon recess and may be working in the Outdoor Classroom. Dressing your child in layers is helpful because they can adjust their clothing to be comfortable. For safety reasons, be sure your child wears tennis shoes (sneakers) for all PE classes and close-toed shoes every day. We encourage students to wear clothes that are appropriate for play and learning, so they can run, sing, paint, dance, think, and learn.

### Wednesdays are "Spirit Wednesday"!

Join the fun and wear your Claremont Spirit Wear. To order visit the Claremont PTA website or contact Lyzbeth Monard at [lmonard@hotmail.com](mailto:lmonard@hotmail.com)

### Spare Outfits

Keep a complete change of clothes, including underwear and shoes, in your young child's cubby. This is required for Pre-Kindergarteners, Kindergarteners, and First Graders. Label all spare clothing and pack it in a plastic bag with your child's name on it. Remember to change the extra clothes at least twice a year to make sure they're the right size and appropriate for the weather.

### School Supplies

At the end of the school year, a supply list of about a dozen items is sent home. Parents are expected to purchase and give the school these supplies at the beginning of the following school year. Supply lists are also posted on the Claremont website, currently on the left-hand side of the homepage. The PTA also arranges for parents to order supplies in one simple payment, with no

shopping required, before the school year begins through EduKit. Watch for flyers, and plan ahead for the coming school year if you want this convenience. The PTA organizes the EduKit program and collects donations to cover this cost for families that can't afford it. If you need a scholarship or would like to donate to help cover the cost of school supplies for families for whom this is a challenge, please contact **Haydeé Colón-Jennings** at **(703) 228-2504** or [haydee.colon@apsva.us](mailto:haydee.colon@apsva.us)

### Activity and Snack Fees

Teachers collect an activities fee from parents at the beginning of the school year. The fee covers the cost of field trips and other items that are purchased for special activities for the class during the year. This prevents teachers having to collect money from families multiple times. If you need a scholarship or would like to donate to help cover the activity fees for families for whom this is a challenge, please contact **Haydeé Colón-Jennings** at **(703) 228-2504** or [haydee.colon@apsva.us](mailto:haydee.colon@apsva.us)

### Lost and Found

Heaps of jackets, hats, and gloves are turned into the office and never claimed. Mark ALL pieces of clothing with your student's name, especially sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets your child is likely to take off at school. Lost articles may be picked up in the classroom or at the school-wide Lost and Found in the multi-purpose room. Due to limited storage space, each month clothing items that are not claimed are washed and donated.

## GETTING YOUR BEARINGS AND FINDING MORE INFORMATION

### The Arlington Public Schools Handbook

This is a comprehensive resource for students and parents. It includes general information about the school system, more answers to frequently asked questions, student rights and responsibilities and general school policies. A copy of the handbook is sent home to Claremont families during the first week of school. The APS Handbook is also available online.

### The Mentor Program

New and returning Claremont families are encouraged to connect with a mentor through a new program, which is described in detail on page ii of this Guide. Also, see page 13 for information about the school's directory.

### Parent Resource Center (New)

As part of a new initiative and in coordination with APS FACE (Family And Community Engagement), there is a dedicated space for a family resource center in the office. A committee comprised of staff and families are leading the initiative. The vision of "school is a place where everyone



learns” will be the guiding principle. The resource center will have instructional materials and parent education materials for families to use. If you are interested for more information, please contact Irania Escalante, school counselor at [irania.escalante@apsva.us](mailto:irania.escalante@apsva.us)

## OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL DAY

### After-School Enrichment Classes

The Claremont PTA coordinates a wide array of after-school programs called “After-School Enrichment” classes. The PTA partners with Enrichment Matters to offer a dedicated website and online registration and payment process. The Claremont Enrichment website will give parents access to all enrichment information. Upcoming classes may include art, music, drama, dance, science, and sports. Qualified instructors and experts from the local community teach these classes.

Fall registration is September 12-18. If you need assistance registering online or paying for classes in cash, PTA volunteers will be at school to assist you on September 12, and 13 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Fall classes will run from October 3-December 9. Winter registration is December 12-18 and classes will run from January 23-March 17. Spring registration is March 13-19, and classes will run from April 3-June 9.

The courses generally cost between \$100 and \$150 per child for a 6-8 week session that meets once per week. The PTA Volunteer Enrichment Coordinators in the 2016-17 school year are **Amber Dungan** and **Dayna Davitz**. They can be reached at [claremontASEcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:claremontASEcoordinator@gmail.com). Classes are available on a first come, first served basis and fill very quickly.

See page 4 for information about dismissal on days when your child is enrolled in an enrichment class.

Scholarships are available. Please contact **Haydeé Colón-Jennings** at (703) 228-2504 or **Principal Jessica Panfil** at (703) 228-2500 with any questions about financial assistance.

### Claremont Student Clubs

You will receive information about student clubs throughout the school year in the Thursday packet. Student clubs are after-school activities sponsored by Claremont teachers, parent and community volunteers, or both. You can also find a list of student clubs on the school website, along with the key adult contact. Please note that additional clubs may be added with interest. If you need more information about student clubs contact **Lesly Fuentes** in the main office.

### Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from Kindergarten through college. Working in parent-coached teams, Claremont students from Kindergarten on up apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and world level. A synopsis can be found at [www.OdysseyoftheMind.com](http://www.OdysseyoftheMind.com). If you have any questions contact **Audrey Gowda** at [audreygg@yahoo.com](mailto:audreygg@yahoo.com)

### Claremont Corredores & Corredoras (Runners’ Club)

This after-school running group meets twice a week for two months in the fall and two months in the spring. It is for boys and girls in the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades. Students spend the first 30 minutes in activities and games that encourage healthy living and team building. The second half-hour is for running and conditioning. The culminating activity is the Claremont 5K race in the fall and a local 5K in the spring. Registration for Claremont Corredores and Corredoras is separate from the Claremont after-school enrichment activities.

### Niños Lectores (Reading Club) (New)

Vamos Adelante invites boys and girls in 2nd-5th grade to participate every Monday after school reading books in Spanish to the Kindergarten kids in Extended Day.

The club gives students practice reading in Spanish as well as helps them build self-confidence in front of an audience. If you would like to enroll your child in this free club, email **Isa Anderson** at [AdelanteClaremont@gmail.com](mailto:AdelanteClaremont@gmail.com)

### Student Council Association (SCA)

The SCA is a student organization that works in the best interests of the student body, while also helping our community. The Claremont SCA plans activities and charitable events that add to the student experience. Two representatives from each class are elected by the students. The SCA representatives elect Student Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary). The officers meet with the principal monthly to discuss school matters from the students’ perspective.

## OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

### Arlington Soccer Association

The Arlington Soccer Association is a soccer league that involves thousands of students, including at least several dozen from Claremont. Fees are low in part because volunteer parents coach every team organized by this private,

non-profit organization. If you live far from the school but would like your child to be on a team with other Claremont students, you can make that request when you register. Kindergarten and Pre-K teams are co-ed, but beginning in First Grade they are comprised of either girls or boys. If you have questions, visit the league's website at [www.ArlingtonSoccer.com](http://www.ArlingtonSoccer.com)

### **Arlington County Classes and Camps**

Arlington County offers a wide range of camps and classes held during the school year and school vacations. The best way to guarantee a slot is to sign up online as soon as registration opens at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m. The county prints detailed brochures that are distributed a few weeks before registration begins and makes some scholarships available. Call the registration office at **(703) 228-4747** or visit <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/classes/>

### **Claremont Girl Scouts (For Girls Only)**

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) provides opportunities for fun and friendship while fostering leadership skills and self-esteem. At Claremont, we have a very active Girl Scout community. Troops for all ages, starting in Kindergarten, engage in gardening, clean water demonstrations, community service projects, and other learning activities. The girls also learn through fun craft projects like tie-dying, letterboxing, or journaling and outings such as horseback riding. Girl Scout registration begins in September for new members and parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer. Annual Girl Scout registration costs \$15 and additional troop dues vary. For more information, please contact **Kristin Donaghy** at [donaghykristin@gmail.com](mailto:donaghykristin@gmail.com)

## SUMMER PLANNING

### **Summer School**

Arlington Summer School registration runs through the first week of May. Families typically receive summer school program information at the March Parent-Teacher conferences and the full guide is available online. If your children will attend summer school and you would like to enroll them in Extended Day, be sure to register early.

Arlington offers a Spanish Immersion Summer School Program attended only by students from Claremont and Key, the county's other Spanish immersion elementary school. The program typically alternates yearly between the two schools.

The Extended Day program is also offered at both schools in the summertime starting at the school dismissal time. Your child doesn't need to be enrolled in the Extended Day Program during the school year to participate during summer school and many Claremont parents chose to have their children bussed to Claremont when the summer Spanish program is held at Key.

The Spanish Immersion Summer School program runs during half the summer break or less. Tuition in recent years has cost \$100. Children may not miss more than three days, so it is not an option for families planning long breaks in July or starting the first week of August.

Some Claremont students are eligible for other Arlington summer school programs, which may have different schedules. You can learn more about summer school online or call the Claremont office and speak with **Lesly Fuentes** at **(703) 228-2500** for additional information and guidance, or email her at [lesly.fuentes@apsva.us](mailto:lesly.fuentes@apsva.us)

### **Planning for Summer Break**

When should you start planning your child's activities during the 10-week summer break? Probably no later than January. Private summer day camp registration can begin as early as that month. Arlington County hosts an open house for summer camps in February and has dozens of its own programs – that registration process begins in early March.

## CLAREMONT PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

### **Vamos Adelante**

Please see page 18.

### **Viva Verde**

This committee helps create a healthier school, community, and world with ideas and activities to reduce waste, conserve resources, and promote healthy living, including exercise and good nutrition. Activities include Lean, Green, No Screen Week, the Waste-free Lunch, support of the Outdoor Classroom, healthy snacks, healthy cooking demos at after-school events, and coordination of reusable class party supplies. VivaVerde also supports Claremont's Green Kids Club. Contact parent volunteer **Susie Wallin** for more information at [crhs\\_dc@hotmail.com](mailto:crhs_dc@hotmail.com)

### **Outdoor Education Committee**

The Outdoor Education Committee creates opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom walls through gardening and outdoor activities. The Committee builds garden beds, provides seeds and plants for students to grow, and advises teachers on what to grow and when. It maintains the school's Outdoor Classroom area and helps develop Claremont's outdoor education curriculum. The Committee organizes two Gardening Days, one in the fall and another in the spring. Parents, students, and other members of the community are strongly encouraged to participate. All levels of gardening experience are welcome.

## APPLYING TO CLAREMONT

Because Claremont Immersion is a county-wide school, families must apply to have their student enrolled in our school. Your application will be included in a lottery if the school receives it between February 1 and April 15. The admissions policies for Kindergarten and the Pre-K VPI Program are different. Parents are encouraged to review the information available on the Claremont website under About Us in the “How to Apply” section. You may also consult the Arlington Public Schools Handbook. Please contact Registrar **Monica Simpson** in the office at [monica.hahn@apsva.us](mailto:monica.hahn@apsva.us) or (703) 228-2511 if you have any questions.

### Transferring into Claremont

To enroll their child at Claremont, families must reside within the eligible neighborhood school zone boundaries. Half of the county’s neighborhoods apply to Claremont and the other half apply to Key. For Kindergarten and First Grade, admission to Claremont is based on space availability and determined by a lottery. For Second through Fifth Grade, entry is based on space availability and the student’s proficiency in Spanish.

## BOUNDARY CHANGES AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Due to over-crowding in the county’s elementary schools, plans are being implemented to build new schools and expand existing ones.

The Arlington School Board is also changing the neighborhood school zone boundaries and admission policies at county-wide schools, including Claremont. The Arlington Public Schools system strives to make this information transparent and to get feedback from the school communities who may be affected by the changes. Information about school construction plans and the boundary process is available under the “More Seats for More Students” tab on the APS website (<http://www.apsva.us/moreseats>) and changes are being announced via the APS website and APS School Talk.

You may also contact the school’s capacity representatives: **Emily Schwartz Greco** at [emily.schwartz.greco@gmail.com](mailto:emily.schwartz.greco@gmail.com) and **Bill Gillen** at [wgmng@gillen.org](mailto:wgmng@gillen.org)

## THE CLAREMONT OFFICE: WHO DOES WHAT

**Nadia Vásquez:** Attendance, dismissal changes, early pick-ups/late drop-offs, deliveries (lunches, birthday treats), summer school registration, and backpack mail/school-wide fliers. Contact her at [nadia.vasquez@apsva.us](mailto:nadia.vasquez@apsva.us) or (703) 228-2512

**Monica Simpson:** School year registrar, moving, change of addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, any new living arrangements, information regarding parent custody and visitation rights, emergency contacts, requests for meetings with the principal. Contact her at [monica.hahn@apsva.us](mailto:monica.hahn@apsva.us) or (703) 228-2511

**Haydeé Colón-Jennings:** Assistance in setting up an email account, Tuesday Parent Volunteers, Almuerzo en Español, scholarships for PTA afterschool enrichment or Summer School, and the parent education programs, such as Participa. Contact her at [haydee.colon@apsva.us](mailto:haydee.colon@apsva.us) or (703) 228-2504

**Lesly Fuentes:** Fall Parent-teacher conference sibling scheduling, student service scheduling (IAT, 504, Special Education), bus transportation appeals, requests for meetings with the assistant principal. Contact her at [lesly.fuentes@apsva.us](mailto:lesly.fuentes@apsva.us) or (703) 228-2523

**Carmen Aguilar:** Room reservations; Building Manager, PTA budget liaison. Contact her at (703)228-2503 or [carmen.aguilar@apsva.us](mailto:carmen.aguilar@apsva.us)

**Principal Jessica Panfil and Assistant Principal Carlos Ramirez:** Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to talk with Principal Jessica Panfil or Assistant Principal Carlos Ramirez with ideas, suggestions, or concerns related to the larger school community. For example, our successful morning recess program came from a parent’s suggestion on how to encourage students to arrive early and be ready for learning. Parents may also contact the principal or assistant principal if they still have concerns after meeting and working with their child’s teacher.

To make an appointment with the principal, contact **Monica Simpson** at (703) 228-2511. To make an appointment with the assistant principal, contact **Lesly Fuentes** at (703) 228-2523

**Counseling Services:** To learn more about the school’s counseling services see page 21 or call (703) 228-2506 and visit the Claremont counseling web page.

This booklet is a publication of the Claremont Immersion School and its Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Information, protocols, and policies may change throughout the school year, as the Arlington Public School system, Claremont Immersion School, and its PTA deem necessary. All the dates and contact information included here are meant to help families plan, but please realize that they are subject to change throughout the school year.