

WHAT YOU THINK MATTERS! MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!

This fall the Arlington Central School District launched Arlington Connect, a community-led effort to bring parents, staff and community members together to develop goals and priorities to improve our schools and plan for our future. The Arlington Connect program consists of community surveys, a series of community engagement sessions, open houses and building tours.

Since October, we have held four community engagement sessions:

- **October 13:** State of the Schools
- **November 14:** Preparing Students for Life
- **December 6:** Meeting the Needs of All Learners
- **January 31:** Communications and Community Engagement

Following a presentation on each topic, participants engaged in a work activity to help identify the community's priorities to move Arlington schools forward. See page two for a sample of what you've told us thus far.

"Thank you to all of our families, administrators, faculty and staff, and community members who have attended our Arlington Connect Community Engagement sessions," said

Dr. Dave Moyer, Arlington Superintendent of Schools. "Our efforts to involve the community on the future of Arlington is off to a great start. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to be part of this important conversation."

FEBRUARY AND MARCH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS TO FOCUS ON ARLINGTON SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The District has contracted with the DLR architectural firm to develop an Educational Facility Master Plan. Historically, master plans were developed in response to capital improvement needs and enrollment trends. While these are still important elements in planning today, the perspective captured in modern planning has broadened. DLR not only examines these two components, but also looks at how our facilities support the future of learning and teaching. Both the physical condition of our buildings and modern learning spaces work together to create a supportive environment for the success of student learning.

The Thursday, February 23 community engagement session explores what modern schools can look like. DLR will share research and images of spaces that will enable students to practice the skills they will need to succeed after graduation. The DLR team will present the results from workshops with Arlington teachers and students regarding their vision of future learning spaces.

On Monday March 20, DLR will report its findings on Arlington's current facilities, including security, infrastructure, building capacity and capital improvements. •



Participants at each Arlington Connect session engage in a work activity to help identify the community's priorities for improving our schools and planning for our future.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE SPRING ARLINGTON CONNECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Thursday, February 23:

How Facilities Impact Learning

Monday, March 20

Facilities in Arlington

Thursday, April 27

School Finance 101

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See the back page of this newsletter or visit www.arlingtonschools.org/ArlingtonConnect for more information and to register for the February 23 community engagement session on *How Facilities Impact Learning*.



ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNICATOR

WINTER ISSUE 2023



ARLINGTON CONNECT: HERE'S WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD US

In the fall, we conducted a community survey and we have held four community engagement sessions. At each community engagement session, participants engaged in a work activity to help identify the community's priorities to move Arlington schools forward.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID THUS FAR

From our Fall Community Engagement Survey

- 62% of respondents graded Arlington an A or a B.
- 94.5% said that we need to keep our school buildings up-to-date and in good condition to protect our community's investment in those facilities.
- 69.7% feel that we need to renovate our school buildings to accommodate up-to-date teaching, curriculum and instructional technologies.
- 47% said that schools in Arlington are not as good today as they were five years ago.
- 70% feel Arlington is maintaining safe and secure schools
- 44.3% said that we are good or excellent at communicating with District stakeholders.
- 35.4% feel that we are good or excellent intervening with students who are not performing at grade level.



On December 6, Arlington Connect participants prioritized creating mindfulness rooms in every ACSD school to support student mental well-being.

Here's what participants have said at our Community Engagement sessions

- Participants wanted to learn more about school climate, student learning and academic growth, and communications
- As Arlington Connect develops its recommendations, the District should further explore the possibility of implementing the following programs in our schools to improve student success:
 - Middle school enrichment programs such as pre-advanced placement, engineering and business incubator programs
 - Moving away from the one teacher one classroom elementary school model to having a team of subject-area teachers work with each child.
 - A dual language program focused on helping students become bilingual by fifth grade
 - Work-based learning opportunities and internships for high school students
 - Faculty training on the use of restorative practice and circles to resolve student conflicts
 - Expanding the Responsive Support Program (RSP) for Grades K-6 and expanding the program to full day for high school students
 - Developing a plan for later start times for secondary students •

WE
BELIEVE
that
change is
essential
for progress

WHAT IS ARLINGTON? We want to know what you think!

As part of our Arlington Connect community engagement program we are developing a revitalized brand for our school district. We want to make sure this new logo and identity reflects the ideas and values of you, the members of our community.

We also want to learn how we can best communicate with you! Would you like to hear from us via email, text, mail or another way?

Please take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts.

WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE OUR SURVEY.

It's Easy to Share Your Ideas!

Option 1: Take the survey online at <https://www.arlingtonschools.org/ACSDSurvey>

Option 2: Scan the QR code. →

Option 3: Visit the Arlington Central School District office, 144 Todd Hill Rd., to pick up a paper copy or call our offices at 845.486.4460 to have a copy mailed to you.

SCAN TO TAKE SURVEY





Arlington High School student athletes have been visiting our elementary classrooms to read to students.



Ms. Tompkins's physics students explore how electric circuits work.



Congratulations to Vail Farm 2nd-grade teacher Julia Quinn who was named Q92's November Teacher of the Month! Brayden, a former student who is now a 4th-grader, nominated Ms. Quinn for being such an amazing teacher during remote instruction. Current students agree that she is "caring" and "the best teacher in the world!"

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE: MAKING 21ST CENTURY LEARNING A REALITY

Arlington Central School District is leading the way in making 21st century learning a reality for all students. We are actively engaging diverse perspectives from our staff, students, and broader community to develop a Portrait of a Graduate. The Portrait is a collective vision that articulates our shared aspirations for **every** student.

The Portrait of a Graduate is the first step in framing a new vision for our school system. Now more than ever, learning experiences must not only provide for the acquisition of rigorous academic content, but they must also be more intentional about fostering critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and other 21st century skills our young people need to thrive in this complex, rapidly changing world.

Many school systems across the country have engaged their larger community in developing a Portrait of a Graduate — every school system's Portrait is unique, reflecting the shared vision of their community.

Our district is currently recruiting a dynamic Portrait Design Team that is diverse and represents all aspects of our community—including students—to help co-design the Portrait. Through this process, we'll work with our community to ask:

- What are the hopes, aspirations, and dreams that our community has for our young people?
- What are the skills and mindsets that our children need for success in this rapidly changing and complex world?
- What are the implications for the learning experiences we provide in our school systems?

The Portrait of a Graduate process involves four Design Team meetings where stakeholders actively participate in creating the Portrait. Meetings will begin at 6:30pm and will run between 2 and 2.5 hours. The meeting location will be determined. The Portrait of a Graduate Design Team will meet on the following dates:

1. Monday, March 6, 2023
2. Monday, March 27, 2023
3. Monday, April 24, 2023
4. Monday, May 15, 2023

When complete, our Portrait of a Graduate will be a North Star to guide our system's transformation. From our kindergarteners to our seniors—this work has an enduring impact. Each of us will play an important role in making our Portrait of a Graduate a reality for every student as we continue to create meaningful learning experiences every day. And, once we create our Portrait, the exciting work of implementing this new vision begins.

INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED?

Please email keycommunicator@acsdny.org if you have any questions or if you are interested in being considered for the Portrait of a Graduate Design Team. •



WE
BELIEVE
that
lifelong
learning is
essential
for growth.

**OUR
MISSION
IS**

to empower
all students
to be
self-directed,
lifelong
learners,
who
willingly
contribute
to their
community,
and lead
passionate,
purposeful
lives.



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GET INVOLVED! JOIN US FEBRUARY 23 FOR OUR NEXT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Thursday, February 23, 2023

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Arlington High School

Cafeteria C (located on the west side of the school)

1157 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY 12540

Free childcare will be available for children 3+ years.

RSVPs are appreciated to help us plan, but are not required.

We encourage our community to attend in-person, however, a Zoom option will also be available. Those choosing to participate on Zoom, must register no later than February 23 at noon.

FUTURE SESSIONS

Monday, March 20: Facilities in Arlington

Thursday, April 27: School Finance 101

FOR MORE INFORMATION

keycommunicator@acsdny.org or visit
www.arlingtonschools.org

Dr. Dave Moyer
Superintendent of Schools

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www.arlingtonschools.org

**SCAN CODE FOR
REGISTRATION FORM**

