

February 2025

Dear students and families,

As our country continues to face the challenges of the opioid crisis, it is important that we all contribute to ongoing education and prevention efforts. In 2023, there were 182 incidents involving opioids, including 73 overdoses – of which 22 were fatal. In 2024, there were 132 incidents involving opioids, including 52 overdoses – of which 10 were fatal. (*Data as of Dec. 23, 2024 available on the [County website](#)*).

In APS, prevention efforts include:

- Continuing to provide education to include students from grades 3-12, and targeted student efforts have focused on Fentanyl, counterfeit pills, and overdose awareness.
- Increased school and community presentations to provide more education
- Partnership with The [Arlington Addiction and Recovery Initiative \(AARI\)](#) to provide a coordinated approach for information and resources for families, including facts about opioids, treatment options, and Naloxone training for families
- Increasing the availability and access to Naloxone/Narcan in all school buildings
- Requiring staff to be trained in the administration of Narcan
- Permitting high school students (15 and older) to carry Narcan with family permission

As a result, APS staff have observed more students seeking guidance about substance use and how to seek help if they are worried about themselves or a friend. **On February 24-28, 2025**, guest speakers from [Arise and Flourish](#) will be visiting our junior and senior students at Yorktown High School to educate and raise awareness about alcohol and drug addiction. [Arise and Flourish](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission strives to serve youth by empowering them to avoid the cycle of addiction. Through shared personal experiences, they will talk about the cycle of addiction and the devastation of this disease. They will share personal knowledge of the dangers associated with drug and alcohol use, and how to prevent addiction and seek help. Resources will be shared, as well as discussion about choosing a positive and healthy lifestyle.

If you have any questions or concerns about your student's participation in this event, or would like to opt-out, please contact Jenny Sexton, Substance Abuse Counselor, via phone 703-228-2541 or via email at Jennifer.sexton@apsva.us. You may also contact your student's school counselor. More information about the Substance Abuse Counseling services can be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Clark

Principal