



# The Bridge

NSA ANNAPOLIS

April 2026



## Month of the Military Child

April is the month that we celebrate and honor the resilience, sacrifices, and strength of children in military families. As many of us know, military kids face unique challenges including frequent moves (sometimes every 2-3 years), changing schools and leaving friends behind, parents deploying for long periods of time, and adjusting to new communities and cultures with each new duty station. Despite all of this, they often show incredible adaptability and strength in the face of adversity.

### **The Dandelion**

The dandelion serves as the official symbol of military children because it thrives wherever the wind carries it. It represents the resilience that military children have to flourish wherever they go. You may see crafts featuring the dandelion throughout the month, or maybe you can search for some in your yard!

### **Why Purple?**

The official color for Month of the Military Child is purple. Purple is used because it combines all branches of the U.S. military into one color (green, blue, and red) - symbolizing a shared experience, unity, and support for all military families and their children.

### **How are we celebrating at NSA Annapolis?**

- The School Liaison will have purple ribbons to be displayed around CYP centers throughout the month. Stop by to write your child's name and hang up their ribbon!
- April 7: NSA Annapolis CO signing MOMC Proclamation
- April 11: Bubble Up
- April 15: CYP Purple Up! Parade
- April 15: Grab a purple ribbon at the CDC to showcase your support for Purple Up! Day.
- Visit the School Liaison with questions on April 16, 21, and 23 at the Youth Center and CDCs 1 and 2

### **What can I do to celebrate?**

One of the largest outward signs of support and celebration for the month of the military child is Purple Up! Day. I encourage you to celebrate with us on April 15 by wearing purple or placing a purple ribbon on your uniform. You can help me spread the word to local schools, churches, and other community organizations to encourage them to support military families by wearing purple or coming up with an activity to honor military families.

## Scholarship Opportunity!



The United States Navy has a unique senior enlisted force called the Chief Petty Officers who are guided by principles that include Deckplate Leadership, Institutional and Technical Expertise, Professionalism, Character, Loyalty, Active Communication, and Sense of Heritage. As a member of the Chief Petty Officer Association, Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent personified these principles that the Chiefs hold dear.

Consistently going above and beyond the call of duty, Senior Chief Kent espoused the principles of the Chiefs Mess, paying the ultimate sacrifice in Manbij, Syria on January 16, 2019, while deployed in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

The Chief Petty Officers stationed on Fort Meade have established a scholarship fund for graduating seniors from local high schools seeking to preserve the memory of Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent and to carry on her passion for education. Each year, several scholarships are awarded for deserving students entering their first year of college.

Applicants must be a graduating senior from Meade High School or a high school from Anne Arundel, Howard, or Prince George, or a member of their high school's JROTC or a graduating senior who is a dependent of a member in good standing with the Fort Meade CPOA. Please submit application, two letters of recommendation, college acceptance letter, high school transcript, and 500 word essay.

**Applications due April 3!**

## Upcoming Events

**April 11:** Bubble Up (see flyer below)

**April 15:** Purple Up! Day - Wear purple! CYP will celebrate with a parade.

**April 16:** SL at the Youth Center for questions

**April 21:** SL at CDC 1 for questions

**April 23:** SL at CDC 2 for questions





ANNE ARUNDEL  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New to the area? Maryland organizes schools by county. Anne Arundel County Public Schools are organized into clusters. To check which school your student attends, find information about bus routes, and review data about the district, [click here!](#)

Be sure to check out your individual school's webpage for their newsletters and upcoming activities like coffee with the principal, boosters meetings, and other PTA sponsored events.

**March 27-April 6:** Schools closed. Spring Break

**April 7-14:** AACPS SAC waitlist applications open (opens between April 7 and 14 depending on building)

**April 8:** Kindergarten registration begins at noon

**May 1:** Out of Area Transfer Request Applications Close (Open March 1-May 1)

**May 5:** Pre-Kindergarten applications open at noon

Looking ahead?

The 2026-2027 AACPS school year calendar has been approved. The first day of school will be 24 August 2026 and the last day will be 11 June 2027.

## Youth Sponsorship

Have you ever been the new kid in school? Would you like to help other new kids? Find out about school based programs at local middle and high schools in AACPS including Annapolis, Broadneck, Severna Park, Old Mill, Meade, and more!

Contact your School Liaison at 410-293-2605 for more information about this great opportunity to become a leader and help others. If you are new to the area and would like a youth sponsor, please reach out today to get connected!



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*Don't forget your purple!*

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