

Dear West Sylvan Families,

On behalf of all the staff at West Sylvan, it is my pleasure to welcome you to a new and exciting school year. I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer and your students are ready to begin a new year. For returning students and families we are so glad to have you back for another year and for families just joining the West Sylvan community, we welcome you!

Let me also take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Cherie Kinnersley and I am honored to be serving as your new principal. I know from meeting teachers, parents, community members and from my former role in the feeder pattern, that West Sylvan is a school committed to excellence and equity. Academic achievement, character development and creating a community that focuses on the needs of the whole child are clearly high priorities at West Sylvan.

In my role as principal, my primary responsibility is student learning. To me, learning is students developing the behaviors, skills and knowledge to become independent learners and go beyond their own expectations. It is my goal to help shape the school's environment to create a community of learners where teachers are actively examining their own practice and collaborating with colleagues to plan instruction that meets the varied needs of our students. It is my mission to work with students, families and community members to ensure that we are providing an environment that allows students to feel safe, respected and included while also addressing the unique needs of the middle school child. It is also critical that we work to ensure successful transitions from elementary to middle school and from middle to high school.

In this last area, I am excited to be able to offer a 6th Grade Orientation on August 29th. Our incoming sixth graders will be the only students in the building on August 29th for a special day of planned activities that will include an assembly, getting lockers, becoming familiar with the layout of the building, team building and attending each of their classes. We feel that this day is important for alleviating anxiety and setting our newest members of the Wolf Pack up for success as they transition to middle school. We look forward to having all students back on Tuesday August 30th.

Our first newsletter will be sent out Friday September 2nd. Please take some time reviewing the newsletter as it will provide you with important information regarding upcoming events, updates and community activities. I am attaching to this letter four important back to school information from the school, the PTA and the Foundation. To hear about all the great things happening at WSMS we are now on Twitter, follow us at @WSMS\_Wolves.

Again, I want to welcome all of you to a great new school year. Please do not hesitate to stop by the office or give us a call if there is any way we can assist you.

Sincerely,  
Cherie Kinnersley