

Dear West Sylvan Families,

With our short week, we are sending our communication a day early. As a reminder, there is no school for our scholars tomorrow, Friday, October 8. We hope you enjoy the long weekend together! On Wednesday, scholars received another tote bag option to use instead of a personal backpack. We are trying to reduce crowding in hallways, and putting bulky backpacks in lockers helps enormously! Carrying a tote to class, instead, helps us in creating more space between scholars as they move through their day. Next week everyone will receive a seating pad to use outdoors for those days when it's a little damp. If your scholar missed the distribution, we have more in the office.



Laptops:

Next Wednesday, October 13th, we ask that your scholar bring their old district-issued laptop and charger to school to turn in, as we will be completing the rollout for the [PPS 1-2-1](#). We will finally be able to say that *all* of our scholars have a dedicated school-issued laptop! We thank our partners at Lincoln High School for giving us returned laptops to use in the meantime. Please send your scholar with their six-digit student ID number, which can be found in ParentVUE and/or Canvas. If your scholar is absent on Wednesday, please contact kcrombie@pps.net so that we can arrange an alternate day and time to turn in the old device and receive the new device.

6th Grade Outdoor School (ODS):

Outdoor school will take place in two parts this year, the first part starting next week as classes with our teachers, on our West Sylvan campus. Scholars will meet their ODS teachers this next Monday, in a one hour session, then hold ODS workshops on Thursday and Friday during the school day, which will be about 4 hours each day. A special schedule will be made to facilitate the two day workshops and scholars should be prepared for some outdoor activities, in the event of wet weather. Scholars should bring their normal school supplies, as some classes will still be held on our Thursday and Friday ODS days.

Block teachers will be sending home permission slips for the first half of Outdoor School classes, that review expectations, which should be signed and returned by Monday, or early next week.

We anticipate the second half of ODS to be held during **mid April**, which is currently planned as a three day, overnight, experience. More details will be shared as we get closer to that date, to give time for families to prepare, should ODS maintain their current plans.

ODS 1st experience - Oct. 11, 14th, 15th.

On West Sylvan Campus with ODS teachers, during the regular school day.

Monday - One hour

Thursday - 4 hours second half of day.

Friday - 4 hours second half of day.

ODS 2nd experience - April 17th - 19th

On ODS Sites - Camp Kuratli or Camp Canby Grove

(More info to come.)

School Spirit:

We love seeing our scholars wearing spirit wear on Mondays and Fridays! Mondays are college and career days, and our school community is encouraged to wear something representing their college or career interests. Fridays are WSMS Wolfpack Wear days. Thank you for encouraging your scholar to participate and show our shared unity!

Yearbooks:

Our Yearbook staff is starting to collect pictures for this year's issue. Did you know it's easy to share photos to be included in the Yearbook? Just go to hjeshare.com and enter the code **sylvan22** to upload your photos (use all lower case for the code). MASKS OFF please. We want to see their shining faces in the yearbook! Be sure to accurately label each photo with the student's name and grade. There's no guarantee every photo will be included in the book, but we will try our best. [Tutorial for using eShare](#). [Tutorial for using eShare from your phone](#).

All sales of yearbooks will be pre-ordered directly through an outside company. Yearbooks will not be purchased through the school. To order your yearbook, go to yearbookordercenter.com and enter code 6339.

School COVID updates:

Our standard operating procedure is to notify everyone when a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed through MESD, *even if your scholar was not a close contact*. Sharing a class does not meet the threshold for being a close contact. We also do not manage outside sports or the notifications with sports teams. We depend on families to self-report to our office in a timely manner when there is a positive COVID-19 case in the family. When a positive COVID-19 case is reported, the following behaviors may prevent a scholar from being identified as needing to quarantine, which is why it's so important that we all continue to be safe:

1. Being fully vaccinated
2. Wearing a mask correctly and consistently
3. Practicing appropriate physical distancing

We understand that families may choose to self-quarantine, even without a recommendation or notification of a close contact. Those absences are also excused absences. We continue to work tirelessly with both PPS leads and MESD leads to contact trace and exclude any staff members

and scholars who may have been considered “close contacts,” whether the contact could have been in classes, at lunch, on the bus, or in clubs. Anyone asked to quarantine is advised to stay home for 10 days from the date of the exposure *when they are not fully vaccinated*. *If fully vaccinated, scholars and staff who are symptom-free are not required to quarantine*. For each reported case, MESD reviews the details of the case and then gives us guidance on those exclusion dates. In addition to assigned classwork to complete remotely, this PPS website has been created with a variety of resources for continued remote learning [here](#), in the case of a recommended quarantine.

Updates about COVID Vaccination Survey from PPS:

Two weeks ago, PPS sent unique emails to every family with a survey regarding their COVID vaccination input. Please find more detailed information at the link [here](#).

Families can also upload their scholars' vaccination status when they complete the yearly registration verification processes. Directions to upload items are [here](#) for Synergy: When families have items uploaded, this information shows up in Synergy under the documents tab on the student page for internal administrative review.

OHSU COVID Screening Kit Information:

Hard copies were given to your scholars on Wednesday to take home for OHSU COVID-19 screening kits. PPS has partnered with OHSU to arrange for weekly screening test kits which may arrive in the coming weeks. In preparation for these screening kits, we are sharing information below. This is an ***opt-in process, and families would choose to consent to participate***. For multiple scholars in a household, we need signed consent forms for each scholar participating. We cannot issue kits until consent forms are returned to us and sent to OHSU. Scholars can drop off signed forms to our attendance window. Test kits are for non-symptomatic home screening only. Scholars would pick up a kit once a week, test at home that evening, and return the kit the next morning to our school office. OHSU picks up the kits each Friday, processes them and sends results to families.

[Screening Description Letter](#)

[OHSU Information English](#)

[Opt-In Consent Form](#)

Breakfast and Lunch Updates:

All scholars eat free daily throughout the 21-22 school year, and we offer both a breakfast and a lunch through the cafeteria. Given some of our recent rainy days, we have started cohorting our lunches in the upper gym by classes, where we take attendance by table, and should scholars choose, they can still go outside (even if it's slightly rainy). Regardless of rain, many of our scholars still wish to go play, get fresh air and be outdoors. Please encourage your scholar to dress for the weather, so that should they choose to be outdoors on upcoming rainy days, they have clothes to keep them warm and dry.

MAP Testing in English and Math:

Some teachers have started baseline testing for our regular cycle of MAP testing, which will conclude by Thanksgiving break. There is no studying needed in advance for this pre-test; it's

intended to measure prior knowledge. Educators will practice the protocols with scholars before administration. This is computer-based testing, and educators will be administering these tests based on technology availability. These tests help us gather baseline data on skills in several content areas so that our educators can measure and target skills for growth throughout the school year. The results inform teaching and learning goals, also.

Picture Day:

October 28th will be our next opportunity for scholars and staff to take a school picture. This is an opportunity *only* for scholars who did not already take a picture (not an opportunity for a retake).

Safety Updates:

We continue to practice the safety measures recommended through both our state and district operating procedures [here](#). MESD regularly updates a dashboard on the district website [here](#). Key reminders are below, again, so that we continue to work together to keep our community safe:

- Masks are mandatory indoors and outdoors for all school staff, essential visitors and all scholars.
- Please plan on your scholar eating lunch outdoors in our field area. As it gets cooler, they should dress for the weather. Eating indoors will *only* occur if weather conditions prevent outdoor eating. We have a plan for seating in cohorts and tracking attendance by seating, if and when we need to move indoors due to inclement weather.
- No overnight outdoor school for any scholars throughout fall. Outdoor School fall activities will be held on campus, and will begin next week for 6th graders in classes.
- No assemblies or large indoor gatherings, with all larger school activities needing to be virtual.
- Only essential visitors may come into our buildings for less than 15 minutes, and they must be masked and check in through our Raptor Security screening system. Meetings between school educators and families will be offered virtually.
- If you are driving your scholar to campus, please plan on wishing them a successful day from the parking lot, as we won't be able to have families walking scholars to classrooms at this time.
- Continue to self-screen your scholar prior to sending them to campus. If there are concerns about illness, your scholar should stay home. Not sure what symptoms to screen for? [Here is a tool to reference](#). Teachers will maintain Canvas classes (virtual information) if an absence occurs to help with sharing information. **Email teachers directly, if your scholar may need to miss several days of class for any reason so that they can develop a plan for homework with your family.**
- 3 feet of physical distance will be maintained, to the extent possible, during the school day. Our teachers have configured their classrooms to organize learning to meet the spacing guidelines. Band and choir will maintain 6-10 feet of distance when indoors.
- We continue to maintain a "symptom space" in our school in the event that anyone is displaying signs of illness, and we continue to follow district guidelines with families for reported cases of COVID, which includes a process for screening scholars, contact tracing and possibly sending scholars home. If a scholar shows symptoms and has a consent form turned in, our health assistant is able to use a rapid test.

- All PPS employees have been required to submit their proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to the start of school. Any PPS employee without proof of vaccination by the state deadline will have additional action occur with human resources by next week, some having employment terminated. We are approaching that final date for those employees.
- If you are feeling that in-person learning is not a viable option, please submit your application to the [Online Learning Academy](#) to secure a spot for your scholar. More educators are being added to reduce the waitlist for scholars who have signed up for the OLA.

Picking Up Scholars:

Our office has been experiencing heavy family traffic prior to our 3:45pm dismissal, due to daily early pick-ups. If possible, we ask that you avoid picking up your scholar between 3:15pm-3:45pm as our office staff is limited in the afternoons. Any planning around that time frame is appreciated.

West Sylvania Carpool Survey:

We have created a survey in which families may opt into sharing information with each other for coordinating carpooling. This is a community communication tool to be used by families who opt in. *West Sylvania staff will not be managing carpooling communication*, as you can imagine, though we thought this tool could be helpful to connect families together who have this need or are able to provide assistance to others, or both. Please fill out the [survey](#) if you are interested in either seeking or providing carpooling, or both.

Scholar Counseling Supports:

6th Grade: Counselor: Kandice Abney: kaabney@pps.net &
Administrator: Ben Keller, bkeller@pps.net

7th Grade: Counselor: Rebecca Cohen: rcohen@pps.net &
Administrator: Evening Krauel, ekrauel@pps.net

8th Grade: Counselor, Ricky Almeida: ralmeida@pps.net &
Administrator: Jill Hunt, jihunt@pps.net

Transportation:

We continue to see daily cancellations of bus routes for our scholars. Your concerns are best shared directly with the transportation department. We have also created a survey [here](#), where any families who are interested could add their information to connect and try to create a family-organized carpool. This would be something families organize together, if that helps with the current bus cancellations. Each morning we inform our educators of the various late buses, and scholars will not be penalized for being late due to these issues. Please continue to send your concerns directly to the transportation department. While we wish we could help, our office team cannot fix any of these delays or shortages in driver staffing. [Here](#) is the direct link to contact the PPS transportation team.

Our Neighbors and Parking Enforcement Message from Beaverton PD:

Please take care not to block our neighbors' driveways when picking up and dropping off your scholars. Beaverton PD officers informed us that they will be ticketing anyone parked illegally around the school, before and after school. Please read the street signs. We're told that sitting in

your vehicle during “no parking” times may result in a ticket. Just passing this along, as this piece is a Beaverton PD decision, and our neighbors are sending in complaints.

General Questions:

Jerda Solonche, Principal’s Secretary: jsolonche@pps.net (faculty, school business)

Kirsten Crombie, Secretary: kcrombie@pps.net (student/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

Here are some dates to save on your calendar now in preparation:

Scholar-Free Day: October 8th is a statewide in-service day when scholars and educators do not have school.

1:1 Scholar Device Collection and New Device Distribution: October 13th all scholars will turn in their old PPS device (if they have one) for a brand new school device.

Say Cheese! School Picture Day! October 28th for all grades, distanced, without masks for picture only, if not taken on 9/16.

End of 1st Quarter: November 4. If scholars are in quarter-long electives, they will switch to another elective starting Monday, November 8

No School for Scholars: November 5

Outside of PPS Resources:

Some families have inquired about additional world language options, outside of our school district and school offerings, as our grant funding for both Mandarin and Arabic was not reissued this year from outside organizations. While not sponsored by our school or PPS, the program, [OneWorld Now!](#), offers [online after-school Arabic, Mandarin, Korean and Russian classes](#) which are open to 8th graders. The after-school program starts in mid-October so there would still be time for interested families to register this year.

Enjoy your weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben