

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We are almost there! In a few days, your scholars will go back to school full time! Here are a few updates from our last communication.

Safety updates:

Since our last communication, new updates have come from Governor Brown, and our updated safety updates have been shared from our district which can be reviewed [here](#), if you missed them. To summarize some key points:

- Masks are mandatory indoors and outdoors for all school staff, essential visitors and all students.
- For the first six weeks, please plan on your scholar eating lunch outdoors in our field area. Eating indoors will only occur if weather conditions prevent outdoor eating.
- Only essential visitors may come into our buildings, and they must be masked. 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, it is best to have your scholar stay home. Teachers will maintain Canvas classes (virtual information) if an absence occurs to help with sharing information.
- 3 feet of physical distance will be maintained, to the extent possible, during the school day. Our teachers have been hard at work configuring their classrooms and preparing for how to organize learning to meet the spacing guidelines.
- We will maintain a "symptom space" in our school in the event that anyone is displaying signs of illness, and we will then follow district guidelines with families should there be a reported case of COVID, which includes a process for screening symptomatic scholars and possibly sending them home.
- All PPS employees have been required to submit their proof of COVID vaccination prior to the start of school.
- 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.

School Supply List Suggestions

Schedule questions:

Our administrators are working around the clock to respond to schedule change requests. Please fill out [this form](#) one time if there is an error. Once the form is submitted, there is no need to also email. We are addressing all inquiries as quickly as possible. Here are your supports throughout the school year by grade level.

6th Grade: Counselor: Kandice Abney: kabney@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:

For questions about your scholar's route, district transportation options, or times for pick-up, visit this website: <https://www.pps.net/Domain/61>. There is a note that bus routes will be updated on 8/24, so stay tuned. For September 1st, there will be a late route to pick up our 8th graders for that late start.

Cafeteria/Menus:

Students are welcome to bring their own sack lunch and are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle daily to refill throughout the school day in our water fountains. We have three separate lunch times, by grade level (see bell schedule [here](#)). If scholars bring their own lunches, please be sure there is not a need to heat up the items. Scholars will be eating in our outdoor spaces during lunches to maintain the 3 feet of distancing, to the extent possible. If the weather is poor, we will move to indoor eating alternatives with assigned seating to cohort scholars. **All students eat for free throughout the 21-22 year in PPS.**

Lockers:

All students are assigned a locker that is shared within the first week of school. There will be time during the first week to find lockers and explore the building, as we will have a "soft start" with times for a touring campus and getting reacclimated to full school week routines. Our campus map is [here](#), if you would like to review it with your scholar.

Laptops:

Students should bring their charged laptop to school daily. If a scholar does not have a laptop, please complete [this form](#). Teachers will continue to incorporate a variety of lessons that access school technology resources to enrich classroom instruction, and to reinforce 21st century skills.

September 1st, 2021: Jump Start Plan and [Schedule](#):

Please review the campus map with your scholar and IF POSSIBLE print their schedule.

The items below describe what will occur on the first day of school.

These items will be retaught throughout the first weeks of school.

We are planning a snack for our 8th graders on September 1st, due to lunchtime that day only.

- Scholars will tour campus and learn how to find classes.
- Scholars will review their schedule and learn about getting help with their schedule.
- Scholars will review social distancing guidelines (safety).
- Staff will explain school systems: bathrooms, office passes, counselor passes, passing time, phones, attendance.
- Scholars will get help with lunch systems - learning where to eat lunch, cafeteria systems (hot lunch, garbage, table arrangements, excusal, recess areas, recess equipment, entry and exit routes).
- Teachers will explain individual classroom procedures.
- Scholars will learn about locker assignments and locker safety expectations.

- Scholars will review their student agendas (a planner to add resources).
- Scholars will establish peer connections and meet new students.
- Scholars will participate in getting acquainted with activities to build a collaborative environment.
- Staff will explain counseling supports.
- Teachers will review bus/drop-off & pick up procedures - systems (where to wait before school, parent pick-up /finding bus system, alternate bus riding communication).

List of school clubs:

- Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#) for a list of clubs and opportunities for students to connect and get involved. Students are also encouraged to start additional clubs each school year.

Opportunities for Family Connection:

- **Project Community Care:** Anyone wishing to help beautify our outside areas are invited to campus from 9-11 this Saturday, 8/28. This is an opportunity to help beautify our school campus prior to the start of school together! Masks will be required outdoors.
- **West Sylvan Foundation Information: Get involved, show school spirit, and support WSMS!** <https://www.westsylvanfoundation.com/>

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:

6th and 7th graders only: September 1, 2021: Jump Start at **9:15 a.m.**

8th graders: September 1, 2021: Late start at **11:15 a.m.**

No School due to holiday: September 6, 2021

6th Grade Minute-to-Win-It: Friday, September 10, 2021 3:45-7 p.m. (optional outdoor event hosted by our West Sylvan Foundation): **Masks required outdoors.**

Say Cheese! School Picture Day! September 16th for all grades

7th Grade: Field Day Event: Friday, September 17th, 2021: 3:45-7 p.m. (optional outdoor event hosted by our West Sylvan Foundation) **Masks required outdoors.**

Back to School Night Virtually: September 30th: Teachers will be meeting virtually for this year's Back to School Night. More details will come as we near the date.

1:1 Student Device Collection and New Device Distribution: October 13th. All students will turn in their old PPS device for a brand new school device.

[2021-22 PPS Calendar](#)

[WSMS School Bell Schedule](#)

See you soon! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Ben, and Evening

