

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope that you had some time to relax last week and enjoyed time with your family! We missed our scholars, and are so happy to see them again! Our Advisory classes displayed some of the things for which they are grateful around our campus hallways, which are pictured below.



Notes of Appreciation?

Thank you to the families who have submitted some notes to WSMS team members! These notes really do brighten the days of our educators! If you have a kind note to share, we'd love your feedback [here](#) to celebrate the ways WSMS adults support your scholars and your families! A little appreciation goes a long way and can really uplift someone's day!

Talented and Gifted (TAG) Nominations 2021-2022

*DEADLINE: Friday, January 7th. (The deadline was previously Friday, December 3rd, but was changed in mid-November)

For more information, check out the [West Sylan TAG Site](#)

Interested in nominating your child for TAG? Here's how it works:

1. You'll fill out and submit the Parent Nomination form available at the West Sylan TAG site (in your preferred language) for your child before Friday, January 7th.
2. Once you've submitted the Parent Nomination Form, the West Sylan TAG Coordinator will have the child's subject-appropriate teacher fill out a Teacher Nomination form for your child.
3. MAP Mathematics scores are reviewed for a Mathematics nomination, MAP Reading for a Reading nomination, and the NNAT3 for an Intellectual nomination.
4. In spring of 2022 (right now, probably January or February), the district TAG office will send out letters informing parents and guardians that their child has or has not been identified as TAG, and in what areas. Services will begin for TAG scholars at that time.

Please click the link below in your preferred language to nominate your child.

[English](#) [Spanish](#) [Chinese](#) [Russian](#) [Vietnamese](#) [Somali](#)

* Important Note: These links are for West Sylan Middle School ONLY. Each PPS school has its own nomination form. If you want to nominate a child for TAG who does not attend West Sylan, please contact that school to find the appropriate nomination link.

8th Grade Families of Future Lincoln Cardinals

Lincoln High School is excited to get to know and welcome Future Cards who will be the first to join us in our new state of the art school this fall! For families of current 8th Graders, the PPS Enrollment and Transfer window is November 29th - December 17th. There will be several ways to explore Lincoln HS and other PPS Focus Option schools beginning in December. There will be an important in-person informational night for future Cards and families December 8th starting at 6:00pm in the LHS Gym.

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.

Holiday Gift Card Drive

It is that time for our annual Holiday gift card drive! Gift cards donated go directly to West Sylan Families in need. Please make sure to include your students' name and Advisory teacher on your purchase.

- ◆ To purchase gift cards virtually, click [this link](#).
- ◆ Email and print cards can be sent to ralmeida@pps.net.
- ◆ Shipped cards can be sent directly to the school through Amazon.
- ◆ Physical gift cards can be dropped off with your student's Counselor, at the Main Office, or with their Advisory teacher.

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Ages 5-11

PPS has started to partner with local health agencies to provide school sites where families may choose to access the vaccination for scholars aged 5-11, now that they are approved to move forward. More details are [here](#).

OHSU COVID Screening Kit Information

PPS has partnered with OHSU to arrange for weekly COVID-19 screening test kits, which arrived just before the Fall break. Test kits are for non-symptomatic home screening only. We are distributing these once a week on Thursdays, during the last few minutes of 7th period, to all scholars who opted-in to the program and submitted completed consent forms. Scholars may drop off signed forms to our attendance window, or families can scan and send them via email to jsolonche@pps.net. Testing kits will be distributed to participating scholars once a week on Thursdays. Scholars will do the saliva test at home the next morning and return the kits on Friday morning at the Main Office. OHSU picks up the kits each Friday, processes them, and sends results directly to families. If you haven't signed up and are still interested, the forms are below.

Consent forms to sign and return to West Sylvan:

- [OHSU Weekly Screening Authorization Form](#)
- [General Consent School Opt-In Form](#)

A Message from Ms. Melanie's Ethics Class

Dear WSMS families,

We are 8th graders in Miss Melanie's Ethics class. At the beginning of the year, we were given several items: drawstring bags, water bottles, tote bags and foam seating pads to help with the new school year. A few weeks ago, we sent out a survey asking students if they were using the items. Even though we are incredibly grateful for these gifts, most students surveyed said they did not use or need these products. Our big concern is the environmental impact these items will have on the earth. Most will likely end up in landfills. Our class felt the ethical thing to do would be to collect and donate these items to an organization called Develop Africa.

Develop Africa will take our items and send them to students in need in Sierra Leone. We humbly request that West Sylvan families donate their new or gently used West Sylvan products, if you are not using them. We will also take any other new or gently used water bottles or drawstring bags that are sitting at home unused. Logos are ok! These items can be left with first period educators.

In addition, we will need help with shipping the items to the organization's staging site in Tennessee as well as monetary support for the shipping. There is a link below for the class SchoolPay account where you can make a donation to help with shipping costs. Any help families could give us with access they might have to shipping services would be greatly appreciated.

We hope you consider helping our class to better the academic lives of students in Africa. Everything donated is appreciated! <https://pps.schoolpay.com/link/ethicsmorris>

Thank you,

Miss Melanie's 8th Grade Ethics Class

Restroom Use and Hall Pass Update

As a step in our efforts to increase the amount of time when scholars are in classes and also to allow all scholars more flexibility in their day, our educator team has decided to alter our restroom procedures for scholars so that they may use all restrooms throughout the passing periods. Prior to today, though restrooms were always open and available throughout the day, we were only allowing restroom passes from educators during class time, due to COVID-19 tracing concerns. With passing periods being under five minutes, a quick trip to the restroom doesn't meet the threshold for an exposure if a scholar were to ever come in close contact with another scholar who reports a positive COVID-19 case. Also, we want to encourage more time in class, and using the restroom *only* during class time reduces the time scholars are engaged in their instructional activities. Educators, of course, will also continue to allow scholars to use restrooms during class time, when a need arises, while encouraging all scholars to plan ahead and handle necessary items outside of class time. We wanted to share the thinking behind this shift in procedures with you, as scholars may feel anxious about a change.

WSMS Foundation Fundraisers

Please support our WSMS Foundation! Every contribution helps our school by allowing us to fund important staff positions, as well as educational opportunities for your scholars! There are two fundraisers currently that you can consider supporting!

- The WSMS Foundation is taking any of your recyclable aluminum can donations, and will apply any funds raised toward renovations to our Counseling office. Please see our [flyer here to "Save your Empties!"](#) Feel free to drop off your bagged items in the front of school adjacent to the cafeteria any day of the week. All proceeds will help improve the counseling center.
- WSMS Annual Donate-A-Thon **ENDS TODAY!** Don't miss out on a chance to bid on amazing prizes and contribute to your school community! Go to: <https://go.rallyup.com/westsylvan>

You can find out more information about our WSMS Foundation and their amazing work for our scholars [here](#). Also follow them on Instagram at [@west.sylvan.foundation](#) and check out our West Sylvan students in their [school](#), [sports](#), [performances](#), [events](#)...

If you have a scholar event, announcements related to scholars and their achievements, or you'd like to advertise let us know. Email Lisette Crepeaux at thecrepeauxs@gmail.com.

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 scholar's name and grade. There's no guarantee every photo will be included in the book, but we will try our best.

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.

[Tutorial for using eShare.](#) [Tutorial for using eShare from your phone.](#)

School COVID Updates

We are grateful to report that we have not had a positive COVID-19 case on campus reported for seven weeks! 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 contacts or the notifications with private 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. It's so important that we all continue to be safe by practicing the following protocols:

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

Anyone asked to quarantine is advised to stay home for 10 days from the date of the exposure *if they are not fully vaccinated*. If fully vaccinated, scholars and staff who are symptom-free are not required to quarantine. In addition to assigned classwork to complete remotely, a PPS website has been created with a variety of resources for continued remote learning [here](#) in the case of a recommended quarantine.

Uploading Proof of Vaccinations

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

Family Carpool

Thanks to PDOT and PPS, we will soon be offering an official carpool sign-up! Please watch for more information and links to sign up in next week's Family Communication.

Mark your calendar now in preparation

- **8th Grade Lincoln HS School Virtual Night** - Recorded and available starting December 6th
- **8th Grade Lincoln HS In-person at LHS for 8th Grade Info Night** - December 8th starting at 6:00pm in the LHS Gym.
- **Mid-Term Reporting:** December 15th **updated grades posted by Educators*
- **Winter Break:** December 20th - 31st
- **School Resumes:** January 3, 2022

* Families planning travel should pre-arrange ways to get any schoolwork that may be missed if you will not return in time for the January start date.