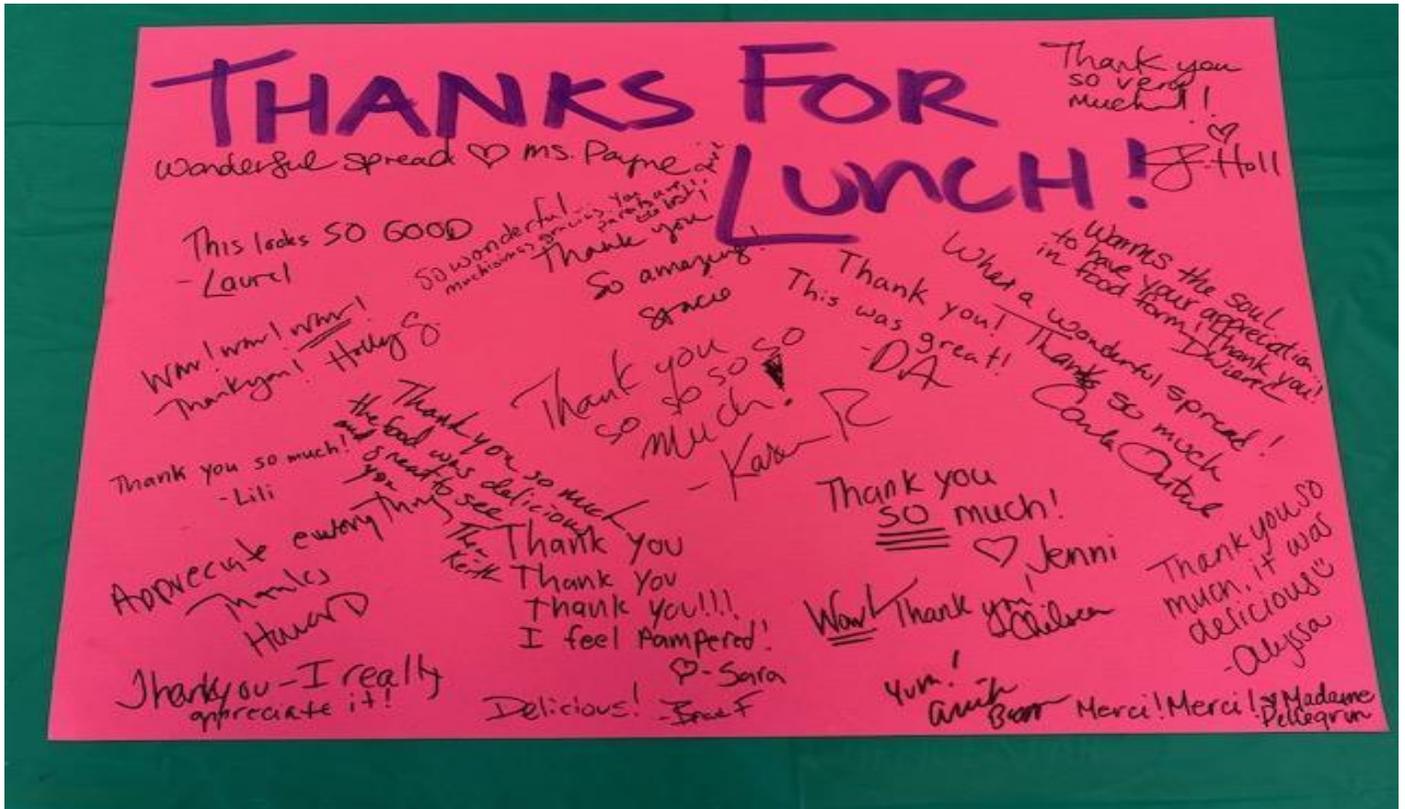


December 10, 2021

Dear West Sylvan Families,

Thank you to all of the families who contributed to the WSMS First Friday luncheon for our educators last week! The entire team really appreciated the event, and here are some notes of appreciation below! We have one more full week until winter break, and know that some families may be planning vacations away. If your scholar may miss days next week or the first week of January, please be sure to communicate with attendance about additional days away.



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 EXTENDED: All forms are due by Friday, January 7th, 2022

For more information, check out the [West Sylvan 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 Sylvan TAG site (in your preferred language) for your child before Friday, January 7th.
2. Once you've submitted the Parent Nomination Form, the West Sylvan 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 Sylvan 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 Sylvan, 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! Thank you to all the 8th Grade families who attended the Information Night on Wednesday 12/8. You can access recorded video presentations for the vast majority of the school's departments at [this link](#).

**Please note that current 8th Grade students at West Sylvan do not need to re-enroll to attend Lincoln High School.*

Test to Stay Program:

PPS plans to start the Test to Stay program in January. If your family has yet to complete the consent forms [here](#), please complete them and either scan them to nhartman@mesd.k12.or.us or have your scholar return them to the attendance office window. More details will be shared from the district. Here are some key points from the expected Test to Stay plan. If a consent form is completed, any non-symptomatic scholar who may have been exposed to an individual with a positive COVID-19 result on campus could test to stay on campus. We would give the BinaxNOW rapid nasal swab test on campus to non-symptomatic scholars who could have been in close contact with someone on campus with a positive COVID-19 test, and pending a negative result, scholars would return to class, rather than automatically being advised to quarantine at home. [Here](#) is more information.

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](#)

Safety and Threat Screening Process:

Given the recent tragedies in Michigan, many families have asked what the PPS protocols are for handling threats. The SafeOregon tip site is a way to report anonymous tips so that our administrative team investigates concerns. The link is [here](#). All potential threats are responded to by a team that consists of a counselor, a school psychologist, at least one administrator from the school, district-level administrators, and any educators with knowledge of the situation. If the threat is considered a Level 1 threat (more information is [here](#)), there are specific steps involved which include involving law enforcement and locking down campus, similar to the process that happened recently at Roosevelt High School. There are a series of screening protocols that are used to interview any scholars involved, any family members that may have knowledge of the scholar(s) involved, and other potential witnesses. After completing the various screening process, administrators determine how to respond to the potential threat.

We also understand that the news of the tragedies can impact how our scholars feel about their own school day. After the tragedies, we shared a variety of instructional resources with our educator team to use in their classrooms. Additionally, our school counselors are available throughout the day to work individually with scholars to address their concerns.

Food Services and Lunches:

Breakfast and lunches continue to be free for all throughout the year. As the temperatures have dropped, we've had all scholars who wanted to remain indoors have indoor options for both eating and their free time during lunch. That said, regardless of the temperature, many scholars still feel most comfortable both eating outdoors and remaining outdoors throughout recess to engage in play. Understanding that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to this unstructured lunch time, we are allowing scholars to choose indoors or outdoors, assuming that it is not pouring down rain.

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!

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.

You can find out more information about our WSMS Foundation and their amazing work for our scholars [here](#). Also follow them on Instagram @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. [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:

We are grateful to report that we haven't had a positive COVID-19 case on campus reported for two months! 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. When a positive COVID-19 case is reported, the following 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 by:

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 when 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, this 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.

Ski Bus:

Please see more information [here](#), if your scholar may be interested in engaging in this activity. This is not a school or district-sponsored activity, and the trips are not supervised by any PPS personnel. Flyers are attached for your [review](#).

Winter Break Ideas:

- **Portland Parks & Recreation [Winter Break Camps](#)**

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.

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

General Questions:

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

Kirsten Crombie, Secretary: kcrombie@pps.net (scholar/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, help with scholar laptops, withdrawals)

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

Mid-Term Reporting: December 15th: updated grades posted by educators (mid-term is today)

Winter Break: December 20-January 2nd

School Resumes: January 3, 2022. Families planning travel should notify Ms. Crombie if they will have extended absences beyond January 3rd due to travel.

Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben