

December 17, 2021

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We wish all of our families a wonderful winter break together! Thank you to all families who donated to our gift card drive! Thanks to all of the generous donations, the West Sylvan Community raised over \$5,000 and can support more than twenty separate families this year! This is the highest amount WSMS has ever raised! Additionally, two of our scholar-led affinity clubs, M.E.Ch.A. and A.S.U., sold over 2,300 Winter Candy Grams over the last weeks. Proceeds from the candy grams are going to the gift card drive as well as to help start a fund for our Asian Student Union.

We look forward to seeing your scholars back together in 2022! We look forward to many more rainbows together in the coming new year!



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!

Offices Closed at WSMS from 12/18- 1/2

All of our educators and office team will be on their winter break beginning Friday afternoon. There will be no office access, or phone calls returned during this time frame. During the winter break, if you correspond

with WSMS staff via email or voicemail, please look forward to having them respond after break has concluded. We wish you all a wonderful time with family and loved ones over the break! Should an emergency with your scholar occur over the break, please contact: <https://oregonyouthline.org/> or 911.

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: <https://sites.google.com/pps.net/west-sylvan-tag/>

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.*

High School Transfer Request Deadline Extended to December 22 at 5 p.m.

More information can be found [here](#), if you are applying for a different high school for programmatic offerings.

ID Cards:

By the first week back, all of our scholars should have their new school ID card on a lanyard with a protective case. We are asking scholars to wear their IDs throughout the day while on campus. This is helpful to quickly identify our scholars throughout the building, the IDs assist with checking out materials in the library

and during lunchtime, they help staff with knowing who they are seeing in the hallways, and it will assist our transportation team to identify scholars as they enter and exit buses (if they ride transportation). Carrying a form of ID is a safety measure we will be encouraging with all scholars as we start 2022 together. Please help reinforce this idea at home.

WSMS Drama Production 2022:

We are so pleased to announce that Kacey CdeBaca will be working with our talented scholars to audition for and put on a spring play for 2022! The flyer is [here](#).

Help with cell phones:

Our catch phrase that we use at WSMS regarding cell phones during the school day is, "Out of sight and away, unless we say." There are times when scholars may need to access their devices for family reasons or even in instructional settings, and we encourage speaking with an adult if such a need arises. Also, several families have had concerns with their scholars' use of cell phones throughout the day for non-instructional reasons. Some families have inquired about apps that can restrict various features on cell phones for scholars throughout the day so that they are not on social media and are not tempted to engage with others through social media platforms.

Here are some tips we have given families:

NY Times Article: [The Best Apps for Managing Your Kids Phone;](#)

[Support for Apple](#)

[Support Google;](#)

[Family Time Article & Tips;](#)

[Verizon Support;](#)

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](#)

Food Services and Lunches:

Breakfast and lunches continue to be free for all scholars throughout the year. As the temperatures have dropped, all scholars who want 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 outdoor play. Please encourage your scholar to dress for the weather if they are choosing to play outdoors in colder temperatures. 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.

8th Grade Promotion Planning:

We are seeking interested volunteers to help plan our final culminating event, promotion, for our 8th graders. Anyone interested in either helping plan events, set up events, or simply donate to help purchase items to make 8th grade promotion special for our 8th graders is encouraged to complete this interest form <https://forms.gle/Gi3NaW3dNDFK8fNK8>. We will start meeting in 2022. All details related to dates, locations and activities are still pending.

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:

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:

- Being fully vaccinated

- Wearing a mask correctly and consistently

- 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:

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:

- Winter Break: December 20-January 2nd
- School Resumes: January 3, 2022. Families planning travel should notify Ms. Crombie via email if they will have extended absences beyond January 3rd due to travel.
- Schools Closed for MLK Jr. Holiday: January 17th
- End of 2nd Qtr/1st Semester: January 27th
- No School for Scholars/Educator PD Day: January 28th
- New Semester/Qtr 3 Begins: January 31st, Classes may change, depending on educators' schedules and electives for some scholars

Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben