

Dear West Sylvan Families,

November is Indigenous Heritage Month, and educators may be incorporating themes related to this month in their respective curricular offerings. As you and your family look forward to the upcoming holiday season, we hope your time is filled with peace and love together! In our usual spirit of celebrations, we want to honor and celebrate our WSMS Choir Club that was able to take their music on the road this week in a rare opportunity to perform for one of the Jackson Middle School choirs (they have four choirs, and hopefully we will grow our offerings next year)! Both groups did fantastic singing, and it was a beautiful moment for the two groups to honor each other and give positive feedback and thanks for their wonderful singing!

Notes of Appreciation?

Thank you to the families who have already submitted some notes to WSMS team members! 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! Enjoy some pictures from the week below.

Quarter 2 Begins on November 8, 2021

For any single quarter electives, scholars will transition to the next class in their schedule for quarter 2 (Q2). The grade for the single quarter class will be finalized, and the new class will begin. In some cases, there will also be acceleration at this time for scholars who are ready for more challenges in math. Math educators are coordinating with Mr. Keller and are finalizing these changes now, responding to emails, and are addressing questions with families. Data from quarter one is considered along with any previous summative assessments, such as MAP scores, for scholars to be considered for acceleration. For more questions, contact your scholar's math teacher or Mr. Keller. Your patience is appreciated in these updates, as the goal is to make them all at the same time period.

Talented and Gifted (TAG) Nominations 2021-2022 - DEADLINE: Friday, December 3rd

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, December 3rd.
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. If necessary, we'll conduct testing. Generally, we use MAP Mathematics 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.

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.

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

West Sylvan Middle School Parent TAG Nomination Form 2021/22 - [English](#)

West Sylvan Middle School Parent TAG Nomination Form 2021/22 - [Spanish](#)

West Sylvan Middle School Parent TAG Nomination Form 2021/22 - [Chinese](#)
West Sylvan Middle School Parent TAG Nomination Form 2021/22 - [Russian](#)
West Sylvan Middle School Parent TAG Nomination Form 2021/22 - [Vietnamese](#)
West Sylvan Middle School Parent TAG Nomination Form 2021/22 - [Somali](#)

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. December 8th starting at 6:00pm in the LHS Gym, there will be an important in-person informational night for future Cards and families..

Tech Updates: ParentVue, Attendance, and Device Updates

- As of last weekend, ParentVue required families to fill out the scholar verification form. If families do not complete the verification, they will be locked out of ParentVue. Ms.Crombie will not be able to help to reactivate the access until families have completed the verification.
- Attendance robo-calls go out at 1pm and 4:30pm. Daily. These calls are required by the state of Oregon. Please have attendance phoned in by then to excuse or report any absences. Please understand when we have subs, there may be challenges with reporting attendance to Synergy in a timely manner, which sometimes results in unnecessary robo-calls. Our substitute teachers are working hard to meet the attendance deadlines with accuracy.
- Please return all 'old' or 'daily loaner' PPS computers to the attendance office. Ms. Crombie can track Chromebook devices as of 10/27/21. There are about a dozen 'loaners' that have yet to be returned and are still missing.

WSMS 1st Annual Band Fundraiser

From 12-3 p.m. on November 13th, our WSMS Foundation will sponsor the 1st Annual Band Fundraiser to raise funds for percussion kits for young musicians. On this day, anyone in the community can drop off e-waste for recycling and donate to our WSMS Foundation which is sponsoring our WSMS Band that afternoon. All items without freon can be recycled for free on this day, and donations are appreciated. Some of our band members will play music intermittently and scholars are excited to showcase their skills for the first time this year! Spread the word to your friends and family members to come recycle and donate! There is a set goal for \$5000 to fund twelve percussion kits and the ongoing ordering of instruments to expand the band program. Even larger items, such as old televisions and computers can be recycled. Feel free to use [this event](#) to do some fall cleaning!

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 information is [here!](#)
- [First Annual WSMS Band Fundraiser: November 13th from 12-3](#) in WSMS parking lot
- [Time for Thanks and Giving](#) *If you'd like to donate to the gift cards that will be used in the holiday outreach baskets, click [here](#).

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** to follow our scholars Follow our West Sylvan kids in their school, sports, performances, events...

If you have a scholar event 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 hjes.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.

West Sylvan 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 Sylvan 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. Please be sure to follow safety and masking precautions whenever carpooling with members outside of your household.

Transportation

This week was slightly better with transportation. We continue to look forward to improvements with the systems in the transportation department as more drivers are trained and are hired to drive consistently for our routes. Please be extra kind to our hard-working drivers! We'd like to keep them once they are with us!

Bus Routes: Overcrowding on Bus 10

There are a fair number of scholars who are using BUS 10 to reach the MAC club in the afternoons which, at times, is causing some overcrowding issues and complications for scholars who need this bus to get home. Please be aware that both BUS 10 and 206 drop off at Vista and Main, which is a home stop but which has also been used as a MAC stop. At this time, we will be prioritizing scholars who need BUS 10 as their home stop and will make space as it is available for MAC scholars. We will be directing MAC scholars to use BUS 206 if there is overcrowding on BUS 10, unless an alternative solution presents itself. Thank you so much for patience as we have waded through the confusion in transportation this year. It has been a challenge on several fronts.

School COVID Updates

We are grateful to report that we haven't had another positive COVID-19 case reported for an entire month! 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:

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 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.

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Ages 5-11

PPS will 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](#).

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 Synergy: When families have items uploaded, this information shows up in Synergy under the documents tab on the scholar page for internal administrative review.

OHSU COVID Screening Kit Information

PPS has partnered with OHSU to arrange for weekly screening test kits which may arrive in the coming weeks; we still don't yet know our exact date. As PPS communicated recently, OHSU is experiencing delays in rolling out this screening process. 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, on Thursdays, test at home that evening, and return the kits 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](#)

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](mailto:r Almeida@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

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

No School for Scholars: Friday, November 5th

No School for Scholars for Veterans' Day: Thursday, November 11

No School for Scholars for Educator PD Day (just added): Friday, November 12

No School for Scholars for Virtual Fall Conferences: Monday-Tuesday, November 22-23; Educators will have schedules open after November 12th to sign up, if you feel a need to check-in

No School for Scholars/Educators for Fall Break: Wednesday-Friday, November 24-26th

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.

Enjoy your extended weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben