

November 12, 2021

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope you have had a healthy and productive week! We are excited for this Saturday, November 13th from 12-3 our WSMS Foundation will be hosting our 1st Annual WSMS Band Fundraiser in the parking lot of our school campus! Members from our WSMS Band will play some music at various points throughout the three hours, and there will be an opportunity to recycle any of your electronic items (anything without freon is accepted). Information is here for how to participate and donate to our 1st Annual Band Fundraiser!

### **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.

### **Optional Fall Conferences**

On November 22-23 only, educators will have available virtual conference time slots. These are short conferences, limited to ten minutes. The open time slots will be posted for Fall Conferences by Monday, November 15th. Due to the fact that these conferences are just two days (day and evening slots, per educator contract), educators are prioritizing meeting with families for scholars who need the most intervention and assistance first for scheduling. Any remaining time slots will be open as of Monday, November 15th. Conferences are most necessary and important for families whose scholars are needing extra help due to absences, extended illnesses, lack of work completion and low/failing course grades. If your scholar is earning strong grades in courses, we encourage you to correspond with educators via email instead, if you want feedback. Given the timing, some families may not be able to make these two days or the times allotted, but these are the only times available, per educator contract. Thank you for your understanding. Please work with your scholar(s) to complete this [checklist](#) prior to meeting with educators. The link to sign up for the 22-23rd is [here](#).

### **Talented and Gifted (TAG) Nominations 2021-2022 - DEADLINE: Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
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! 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.

### **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!](#)

### **[Time for Thanks and Giving](#)**

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://yearbookordercenter.com) and enter code 6339.

### **Lost and Found to Donations**

We have a Lost and Found area across from our upper gym on campus that is visible to all scholars throughout the school day. Any items left unclaimed by the fall break (end of day Friday, November 19th) will be sent to charitable organizations. There are a number of sweatshirts, coats, bags, water bottles, you name it, that have still not been claimed. Please remind your scholar to check there if they have lost an item or come home without various articles of clothing after their school day.

### **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 hired 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.

### **School COVID updates**

We are grateful to report that we haven't had another positive COVID-19 case reported for five 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. 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

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 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](#).

### **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. Our site will begin this screening on Thursday, November 18th. Only families who have returned both permission forms (the OHSU form and the school opt-in testing form) are eligible to participate. OHSU is experiencing an estimated ten day turnaround time in processing new consent forms, also. This is an opt-in process, and families 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 or families can scan them via email. Test kits are for non-symptomatic home screening only. Eligible scholars will 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](#)

### **Family Fun Sports Discounts**

Please see the attached flyer [here](#) for local sporting events that offer family discounts.

**General Questions:**

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

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

**Mark your calendar now in preparation:**

No School for Scholars for Virtual Fall Conferences: Monday-Tuesday, November 22-23; Educators will have schedules open by November 15th to sign up, if you feel a need to check-in due to low grades, struggles with attendance or concerns with progress.

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.

Winter Break: December 20-January 2nd

School Resumes: January 3, 2022. Families planning out of country 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.

**Enjoy your extended weekend! Go Wolfpack!**

Jill, Evening and Ben