

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope you have had a healthy and peaceful week ahead and are able to enjoy some time with family next week! As a reminder, there is no school for scholars all next week. We'd like to thank our WSMS Foundation for a successful 1st Annual Band Fundraiser last Saturday! The WSMS Foundation team raised over \$3000 under the guidance of Mr. Cafiso, his family, our band teacher Mr. Arce, and our band members! Thank you to all who supported our band in their first endeavor to fundraise together! If you missed the opportunity to join, the flyer is [here](#) for any additional donations!



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!

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 have been posted for Fall Conferences since 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 are now open. 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. Go to <https://myconferencetime.com/wsms> to sign up for the slots that are still available on November 22nd - 23rd.

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.

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.

OHSU COVID Screening Kit Information

PPS has partnered with OHSU to arrange for weekly screening test kits, which have arrived. Our site began this week for just over 100 families who opted in and completed the necessary forms to voluntarily participate. 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 and printing labels. 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 may drop off signed forms to our attendance window, or families can scan them via email. Test kits are for non-symptomatic, home screening only. Testing kits will be distributed to eligible 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 to families.

Consent forms to sign and return to West Sylan:

- [OHSU Information English](#)
- [General Consent School Opt-In Form](#)

Lost & Found to Donations

We have a Lost & 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 today, 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.

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

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!](#)

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, and 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 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 reported for six 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:

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.

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 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 Fun Sports Discounts

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

Mark your calendar now in preparation

- No School for Scholars for *Virtual* Fall Conferences: Monday-Tuesday, November 22-23
 - * Educators have schedules open 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
 - * Offices closed, and nobody will be answering phone calls at the school office. Email is best during times like these if something is urgent.
- 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 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 break! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening, and Ben