

Dear West Sylvan Families,






Thank you to those who participated in the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Family Night virtually on Tuesday evening! If you missed information, Laurel Richards is our TAG Coordinator, and can be of assistance with questions (lrichard@pps.net). This week, our scholars began doing MAPs assessments in their math classes to gain baseline data on skills and areas where our educators need to focus instruction for the year. Additionally, we'd also like to thank all families for helping with health and safety protocols! We've gone two weeks without a COVID-19 report and are hopeful that this positive trend will continue! Next week, we begin our Spirit Week, and we are excited to see our scholars showing school spirit together! Also, we'd like to share some masks that our art classes with Ms. Larsen are proud to display, below!



Notes of Appreciation?

If you have a kind note to share for a WSMS team member, 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 in a day!

Spirit Week 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>PAJAMA DAY!!! Wear your comfies to class!</p> 	<p>Rainbow Day!</p>  <p>Wear your favorite color/s!!!</p>	<p>Fictional Character Day!</p> <p>Book? Movie? TV? Game? Manga?</p> 	<p>Decade DAY!</p> <p>20's 30's 50's 60's 70's 80's 90's</p> 	<p>Costume day! COVID MASKS ONLY! No other masks allowed!</p> 

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. A recycling opportunity to drop off any e-waste you have from your residences will be part of the day. All items without freon can be recycled for free on this day. Some of our band members will play music and are excited to showcase their skills for the first time this year! Spread the word to your friends and family members to come 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!

Picture Day:

October 28th will be our next opportunity for scholars and staff to take a school picture. This is an opportunity *only* for scholars who did not already take a picture (not an opportunity for a retake). ID cards will be passed out to our scholars after all pictures have been captured.

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 student'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.

WSMS Scholar Led Clubs:

Counselors and Educators have been working with our scholars to get scholar-led clubs up and running! Please look here for the various clubs that have started already, and encourage your scholars to get involved in a club on campus! If a club that represents your scholars' interests is not listed, we also encourage scholars to start their own club! A growing list is below:

Name of Club	Date(s)/Time(s)	Location	Adult Contact
Asian Student Union (ASU)	Wed. 7th Grade Lunch: 12:15	Rm 140	6th/8th graders: see Mr. Arce for a pass

Black Student Union (BSU)	Wed. 8th Grade Lunch: 1:15	Rm 106	6th/7th graders: see Ms. Axtman for a pass
Choir Club	Wed/Fri 8:15-9 a.m.	Rm 138	Lisa Riffel : lriffel@pps.net or link
Climate Action Club	Wed. 8th Grade Lunch: 1:15	Rm 24	Mr. Sauer for details
Craft Club	Thurs. Lunches	Rm 106	Ms. Rebecca for details in Counseling Office
Drama Club (at capacity)	Tues/Thurs. Afterschool 4-6	Lower Gym Stage	Information at westsylvandrama.com
Filmmakers' Club	Tues/Thur: 8th Grade Lunch	Library classroom	See Dr. Hunt for details
Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)	Tues. Lunches	6th grade: Rm 12; 7th grade: Rm 106; 8th Rm 126	See Ms. Crosby, Ms. Richards, Ms. Rebecca for details: vcrosby@pps.net , lrichards@pps.net ; rcohen@pps.net
Lego Robotics	Wed. and Thurs. 4-5	Room 144	Contract Ms. Wierth: dwierth@pps.net for details
Lunch and Games Club	Wed. 6th/7th grade lunches	6th Room 11 7th Rm 138	Stacie Tew: stew@pps.net
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.)	Mon. 12:15	Room 138	See Mr. Almeida for more details: ralmeida@pps.net
Speech and Debate	Fri 4:15 (virtually)	Virtual	Complete link

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 to the back parking lot of the school.

Also, on November 13th from 12-3 p.m. in the school parking lot, the Foundation is doing our 1st Annual WSMS Band Fundraiser! Members from our student band classes are volunteering to play while families are invited to drop off any E-Waste items to be recycled. Proceeds from the e-waste recycling effort will go to the WSMS Band. We are hoping to fund twelve percussion kits (to start), with a goal of \$5000. You can find out more information about our WSMS Foundation and their amazing work for our scholars [here](#).

Transportation:

Your concerns are best shared directly with the transportation department related to cancellations. We have also created a survey [here](#), where any families who are interested could add their information to connect and try to create a family-organized carpool. This would be something families organize together, if that helps with the current bus cancellations. Each morning we inform our educators of the various late buses, and scholars will not be penalized for being late due to these issues. Please continue to send your concerns directly to the transportation department. While we wish we could help, our office team cannot fix any of these delays or shortages in driver

staffing. The good news is that with a recent raise offered to transportation, the transportation department anticipates many new hires coming aboard to help with the driver shortage, and they are in training now. [Here](#) is the direct link to contact the PPS transportation team.

Our Neighbors and Parking Enforcement Message from Beaverton PD:

Please take care not to block our neighbors' driveways when picking up and dropping off your scholars. Beaverton PD officers are ticketing anyone parked illegally around the school, before and after school. Please read the street signs. We're told that sitting in your vehicle during "no parking" times may result in a ticket. Just passing this along, as this piece is a Beaverton PD decision, and our neighbors are sending in complaints.

School COVID updates:

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

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.

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 student 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 don't yet know our exact date. 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](#)

Safety Updates:

We continue to practice the safety measures recommended through both our state and district operating procedures [here](#). MESD regularly updates a dashboard on the district website [here](#). Key reminders are below, again, so that we continue to work together to keep our community safe:

- Masks are mandatory indoors and outdoors for all school staff, essential visitors and all scholars.
- No helium or mylar balloons allowed on campus, due to our antiquated fire alarm system which is triggered by these balloons.
- Please plan on your scholar eating lunch outdoors in our field area. As it gets cooler, scholars should dress for the weather. Eating indoors will *only* occur if weather conditions prevent outdoor eating. We have a plan for seating in cohorts and tracking attendance by seating, if and when we need to move indoors due to inclement weather.
- No assemblies or large indoor gatherings are allowed, with all larger school activities needing to be virtual.
- Only essential visitors may come into our buildings for less than 15 minutes, and they must be masked and check in through our Raptor Security screening system. Meetings between school educators and families will be offered virtually.
- If you are driving your scholar to campus, please plan on wishing them a successful day from the parking lot, as we won't be able to have families walking scholars to classrooms at this time.
- Continue to self-screen your scholar prior to sending them to campus. *If there are concerns about illness, your scholar should stay home.* Not sure what symptoms to screen for? [Here is a tool to reference](#). Teachers will maintain Canvas classes (virtual information) if an absence occurs to help with sharing information. **Email teachers directly, if your scholar may need to miss several days of class for any reason so that they can develop a plan for homework with your family.**
- 3 feet of physical distance will be maintained, to the extent possible, during the school day. Our teachers have configured their classrooms to organize learning to meet the spacing guidelines. Band and choir will maintain 6-10 feet of distance when indoors.
- We continue to maintain a "symptom space" in our school in the event that anyone is displaying signs of illness, and we continue to follow district guidelines with families for reported cases of COVID, which includes a process for screening scholars, contact tracing

and possibly sending scholars home. If a scholar shows symptoms and has a consent form turned in, our health assistant is able to use a rapid test.

- If you are feeling that in-person learning is not a viable option, please submit your application to the [Online Learning Academy](#) to secure a spot for your scholar. More educators are being added to reduce the waitlist for scholars who have signed up for the OLA.

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:

Spirit Week: Week of October 25th with each day having a specific theme

Say Cheese! School Picture Day! October 28th for all grades, distanced, without masks for picture only, if not taken on 9/16.

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 Virtual Fall Conferences: Monday-Tuesday, November 22-23

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

Enjoy your weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Ben, and Evening