

Dear West Sylvan Families,

It has been such an amazing experience having all of our WSMS Wolves back on campus these last seven days! We have some updates to share as we move forward through September. Thank you to the families who joined us for Project Community Care day!

WSMS Community Care Day

2021



#PPSForwardTogether

West Sylvan Events:

6th Grade Minute-To-Win-It is today, Friday, hosted by the WSMS Foundation. More information can be found [here](#).

West Sylvan

6th GRADE

MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT

FRIDAY Sept 10th
3:45 Dismissal - 5:00 pm
West Sylvan Back Field

GAMES

WATER TOSS
RELAYS
LIFE SIZE PONG
SNACKS
MORE

play meet fun

This party is an annual tradition that lets our 6th graders meet their class, team build and have fun together. It starts on the back field immediately after the last bell. Snacks are provided then the games begin. The party opens up for parents at 5:00 and there will be snow cones and food trucks for purchase so come join for a night of family fun!!! Spirit wear will be for sale and Principal Hunt will be there to introduce herself and kick off the festivities!!

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Safety updates:

We continue to practice the safety measures recommended through both our state and district operating procedures [here](#). We continue to spend our days reminding and reteaching scholars about safe school habits as the last seven days of school have played out, and we are confident that all scholars will continue to work to keep our school community safe. PPS has added a

dashboard to the district website [here](#). We have not had positive COVID reports at WSMS. To summarize some key points:

- Masks are mandatory indoors and outdoors for all school staff, essential visitors and all scholars.
- For the first six weeks, please plan on your scholar eating lunch outdoors in our field area. Eating indoors will only occur if weather conditions prevent outdoor eating.
- Only essential visitors may come into our buildings, and they must be masked. 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. Teachers will maintain Canvas classes (virtual information) if an absence occurs to help with sharing information.
- 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.
- We continue to maintain a "symptom space" in our school in the event that anyone is displaying signs of illness, and we will follow district guidelines with families should there be a reported case of COVID, which includes a process for screening symptomatic scholars and possibly sending them home.
- All PPS employees have been required to submit their proof of COVID vaccination prior to the start of school. Any PPS employee without proof of vaccination by the state deadline will have additional action occur with human resources.
- 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.

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

Transportation:

As many families know, there is a statewide shortage for bus drivers, actually nationwide if you have family members you hear from in other states, too. That has led to various routes being combined, certain buses needing to take two trips each morning and afternoon, and various other struggles. We apologize for the on-going transportation issues! Each morning we inform our teachers of the various late buses, and students 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. [Here](#) is the direct link to contact the PPS transportation team.

Cafeteria:

Scholars are welcome to bring their own sack lunch and are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle daily to refill throughout the school day in our water fountains. We have three separate lunch times, by grade level (see bell schedule [here](#)). If scholars bring their own

lunches, please be sure there is not a need to heat up the items. Scholars will be eating in our outdoor spaces during lunches to maintain the 3 feet of distancing, to the extent possible. If the weather is poor, we will move to indoor eating alternatives with assigned seating to cohort scholars. **All scholars eat for free throughout the 21-22 year in PPS, which includes a breakfast offering and a lunch offering.**

Lockers:

All scholars have been assigned a locker that is shared. To avoid overcrowding in our hallways, the more items scholars can store in the lockers, the better. Taking a smaller tote bag to classes rather than a large full backpack, reduces hallway crowding. Most scholars are now able to access their lockers on the first try and are finding their way to their classes! Our campus map is [here](#), if you would like to continue to review it with your scholar.

Laptops:

Our WSMS scholars are scheduled to receive new laptops on October 13th through the [PPS 1-2-1](#). If your scholar was not issued a PPS device previously, using one from home will work until that date. We also have computers scholars can access while on campus, should they not have access at home. We will continue to tell our educators to ensure that classroom activities can be completed without a PPS device until we receive our laptops on October 13th.

School Clubs and Student Activities:

- Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#) for a list of clubs and opportunities for scholars to connect and get involved. Scholars are also encouraged to start additional clubs each school year, and we will be seeking scholar input next Wednesday during an Advisory for their club ideas. Additionally, we will hold a Club Lunch this month to help our scholars find out more about various clubs that they can join and lead. Any scholar can start a club by getting a couple other scholars together and an educator to host a space. Typical times for club meetings are during lunch. In some instances, an educator may choose to offer other times to meet, given scholars' schedules.

Opportunities for Family Connection:

- West Sylvan Foundation Information: Get involved, show school spirit, and support WSMS! We have another day for 7th graders next Friday, Field Day. Sign up here: <https://www.westsylvanfoundation.com/>

WEST SYLVAN FOUNDATION PRESENTS
7TH GRADE FIELD DAY
FRIDAY SEPT 17TH

9/17 3:45-5:00 PM

THIS PARTY IS FOR OUR 7TH GRADERS TO MEET THEIR CLASS, TEAM BUILD AND HAVE FUN TOGETHER. IT STARTS ON THE BACK FIELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LAST BELL. SNACKS ARE PROVIDED THEN THE GAMES BEGIN. THE PARTY OPENS UP FOR PARENTS AT 5:00 AND THERE WILL BE SNOW CONES AND FOOD TRUCKS FOR PURCHASE SO COME JOIN FOR A NIGHT OF FAMILY FUN!!! SPIRIT WEAR WILL BE FOR SALE AND PRINCIPAL HUNT WILL BE THERE TO INTRODUCE HERSELF AND KICK OFF THE FESTIVITIES!!

[HTTPS://WWW.WESTSYLVANFOUNDATION.COM/PARTY-SIGN-UP](https://www.westsylvanfoundation.com/party-sign-up)

General Questions:

Jerda Solonche, Principal's Secretary: jsolonche@pps.net (faculty, school business)
Kirsten Crombie, Secretary: kcrombie@pps.net (student/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

Here are some dates to save on your calendar now in preparation:

6th Grade Minute-to-Win-It: Friday, September 10, 2021 3:45-7 p.m. (optional outdoor event hosted by our West Sylvan Foundation): **Masks required outdoors.**

Say Cheese! School Picture Day! September 16th for all grades, distanced, without masks for picture only

7th Grade: Field Day Event: Friday, September 17th, 2021: 3:45-7 p.m. (optional outdoor event hosted by our West Sylvan Foundation) **Masks required outdoors.**

Back to School Night Virtually: September 30th: Teachers will be meeting virtually for this year's Back to School Night. More details will come as we near the date.

1:1 Student Device Collection and New Device Distribution: October 13th. All scholars will turn in their old PPS device for a brand new school device.

[2021-22 PPS Calendar](#)

[WSMS School Bell Schedule](#)

Enjoy your weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening , and Ben