

Dear West Sylvan Families,

As we close out another busy week here at WSMS, our Wolves have several items on the horizon that we want to share! We hope all families who observed Yom Kippur yesterday had a meaningful day of observance. Additionally, Wednesday marked the beginning of Latino Heritage Month in PPS, an annual opportunity to celebrate and recognize the power of our multiracial Latinx community - past, present and future. Educators will be incorporating lessons throughout the month in support. Additionally, you may have seen your scholar come home with new WSMS items this week which were handed out through Advisory on Wednesday, as we bought everyone a drawstring backpack and a water bottle to help with their daily needs. We are encouraging all scholars to show their school spirit on Fridays throughout the year! Wearing WSMS gear, including the backpack we just distributed, demonstrates our unity and our school pride as one WSMS community.

7th Grade Field Day is Today:

Donations for the 7th Grade Field Day event today will go to WSMS Foundation. Scholars can join on the field behind campus beginning after school at 3:45, and families can join at 5 p.m. At 5 p.m. there will be food trucks and time to mingle with other families. This event is hosted by the WSMS Foundation. Masks are required outdoors for this event. 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)

Virtual Back To School Night:

As we get closer to our virtual Back-To-School-Night date, September 30th, we will be sharing the virtual link information. More will be shared by the end of next week.

Picture Day:

October 28th will be our next opportunity for scholars and staff to take a school picture, as we know that yesterday's picture date was not an option for all of our families observing Yom Kippur. We recognize and honor that many of our scholars observe Yom Kippur and our sincerest apologies for the prior scheduling of yesterday's event. For families who observe, we hope your family had a meaningful Yom Kippur and look forward to taking a picture for your scholar on October 28th.

Safety Updates:

We continue to practice the safety measures recommended through both our state and district operating procedures [here](#). PPS is also sending out a survey to families. Please check your email. Details about the survey can be found [here](#). PPS also has various vaccination clinics available for families, so we are sharing the flyers in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). We continue to spend our days reminding and reteaching scholars about safe school habits, and we will be reinforcing those habits again in the time for Advisory next Wednesday. PPS has added a dashboard to the district website [here](#). Key reminders are here, 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.
- 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. 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.
- 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. Not sure what to look 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.
- 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, which was articulated again in the PPS Board Meeting on Tuesday.

- 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 nationwide shortage for bus drivers. That has led to various routes being combined, certain buses needing to take two trips each morning and afternoon, and various other struggles, including daily cancellations of routes, which we hear about at the same time that families are informed. We apologize for the on-going transportation issues! 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. [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, like the one just given out to all scholars, 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 Scholar Activities:

- We surveyed scholar club interests on Wednesday, and many clubs are starting and getting started. Clubs can meet during lunch, before school and after school, depending on the club advisor and scholars' schedules. Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#) for a list of clubs and opportunities for scholars to connect and get involved. Scholars are always encouraged to start additional clubs each school year! Additionally, we will hold a Club Lunch to help our scholars find out more about various clubs that they can join and lead. Any scholar may start a club by getting a couple other scholars together and an educator to host a time and space.

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:

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 Scholar Device Collection and New Device Distribution: October 13th. All scholars will turn in their old PPS device (if they have one) for a brand new school device.

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

[2021-22 PPS Calendar](#)

[WSMS School Bell Schedule](#)

Enjoy your weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Ben, and Evening