

Dear West Sylvan Families,

As we near the end of September, we are thankful for our families' hard work helping us all stay safe and stay in school. We are thankful to report no positive cases of exposure within WSMS, and if we all continue to do our part, we are hopeful that we will continue this trend. Thank you for all you do at home to reinforce safe practices with your scholars and to screen them for any symptoms prior to sending them to campus. Educators continue incorporating lessons throughout the month in support of our safe community practices. 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, a water bottle, and an agenda to help with their daily organizational needs. We are encouraging all scholars to show their school spirit on Mondays and Fridays throughout the year! Mondays will be college & career days, and Fridays will be WSMS Wolfpack Wear days. Wearing WSMS gear, including the backpack we just distributed, demonstrates our unity and our school pride as one WSMS community.



Recent family events:

Thank you to all families who came out to support our WSMS Foundation for both the 6th Grade Minute-To-Win-It and our 7th Grade Field Day! Both were amazing turnouts, raising funds for important school projects and it was so wonderful to actually see you in person! For more information on how to support WSMS Foundation or order WSMS Wolves Spirit Wear, please visit <https://www.westsylvanfoundation.com/>

Family Member Recruitment for School Site Council:

West Sylvan Site Council parent/guardian members are elected per our by-laws. If you are interested in serving on Site Council as a parent/guardian member, please contact the school principal, Jill Hunt at jihunt@pps.net. Meetings will occur once monthly typically from 4:30-5:30 virtually, until safety guidelines permit otherwise. School Site Council reviews important school initiatives and informs decisions for our school community.

Updates about COVID Vaccination Survey from PPS:

Last Friday, PPS sent unique emails to every family with a survey regarding their COVID vaccination input. Please find more detailed information at the link [here](#).

Families can also upload their students' vaccination status when they complete the yearly registration verification processes. Directions 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.

Virtual Back To School Night:

As we get closer to our virtual Back-To-School-Night date, Thursday, September 30th, we will be sharing the virtual link information. To accommodate families with busy schedules, we plan to send out a video link that you can watch at your convenience by 4 p.m. on September 30th. Please note, this is a night for an overview of structure and content, not a night for individual meetings between families and educators. Groups of educators plan to be available for short overviews and to meet you virtually from 6-7:30 with our administration presenting at 5:30, virtually. More details about Back To School Night will be shared at the start of next week.

MAP Testing in English and Math:

Some teachers have started baseline testing for our regular cycle of MAP testing, which will conclude by Thanksgiving break. This is computer-based testing, and educators will be administering these tests based on technology availability. These tests help us gather baseline data on skills in several content areas so that our educators can measure and target skills for growth throughout the school year.

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).

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 regularly for communications from PPS. Details about the survey can be found [here](#). PPS regularly updates a dashboard on 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.
- Please plan on your scholar eating lunch outdoors in our field area. As it gets cooler, they 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 overnight outdoor school for any scholars throughout fall. Outdoor fall activities will be held on campus.
- No assemblies or large indoor gatherings, 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. Meetings 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 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. 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 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 by mid-October.
- 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.

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

WSMS Drama is Back!

West Sylvan Drama is excited to announce a Fall Drama Club! All experience levels are welcome. Students will be able to have fun and socialize while exploring theatre, movies, comedy, drama, script reading, and acting techniques. Sessions will be led by professional director and PPS Artist in Residence, Kacey Manny.

Drama Club will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September 28th - December 9th in the Gym/Stage area from 4:00 - 6:00pm. The complete schedule is [here](#).

Cost: \$50.00. Payments can be made on www.SchoolPay.com. The line item is WS Drama Club – Fall 2021 Session. Scholarships available for students. Please email dramawestsylvan@gmail.com to sign up or if you have any questions!

Transportation:

While PPS works hard to train and hire new bus drivers, there is still a shortage throughout the nation. While this work is underway, various routes have been combined with certain buses needing to take two trips each morning and afternoon and other routes being cancelled. 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.

Parking Enforcement Message from Beaverton PD:

Beaverton PD officers informed us that they will be 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.

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 appropriate distancing, to the extent possible. If the weather is poor, we will move to indoor eating alternatives with assigned seating to cohort and record attendance and seating locations of 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, we ask that, unless there is a medical reason for a backpack, that scholars store their backpacks in their lockers, and only take the necessities to class using a smaller tote bag or the bag we just gave our scholars. 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, a very important step as we try to enforce adequate spacing between scholars in the hallways and keep everyone safe.

Laptops:

Our WSMS scholars are scheduled to receive new laptops on October 13th through the [PPS 1-2-1](#). Though I have asked for our delivery date to be moved forward, this request has not been possible. 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.

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.

School Clubs and Scholar Activities:

- We surveyed scholar club interests over the last two weeks, and many clubs are getting started! Clubs may 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:

Back to School Night Virtually: September 30th. The video link will be shared on September 30th so that you can watch based on your schedule. Live virtual sessions begin at 5:30 p.m., if you are able to attend.

Scholar-Free Day: October 8th is a statewide inservice day when scholars do not have school

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.

Outside of PPS Resources:

Some families have inquired about additional world language options, outside of our school district and school offerings, as our grant funding for both Mandarin and Arabic was not reissued this year from outside organizations. While not sponsored by our school or PPS, the program, [OneWorld Now!](#), offers [online after-school Arabic, Mandarin, Korean and Russian classes](#) that are open to 8th graders. The after-school program starts in mid-October so there would still be time for interested families to register this year.

Resources:

[2021-22 PPS Calendar](#)

[WSMS School Bell Schedule](#)

Enjoy your weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Ben, and Evening