

September 6, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We have so enjoyed having our Wolves back on campus again! Purposely, we have been taking things slowly and not diving straight into curriculum these first few days, as many students may still have schedule changes. We are revisiting and relearning habits for success together, and we are reestablishing school routines after the long unstructured summer months. This week, you can expect Educators to start introducing more curriculum to start the school year.

Thank you to the families and scholars who joined us for Project Community Care on the Saturday before the first day of school! The school sign received a necessary upgrade!



Educator Update:

Unfortunately, we did have to start the school year with an unfilled half-time teaching position in the 6th Grade. We have been fortunate to have a consistent substitute Educator running the three classes (labeled as Mr. Keller on the schedule) while we search for an Educator to join the WSMS team. The 6th Grade Math and Science Educators are collaborating with our Substitute to be sure that our scholars have appropriate pacing and lessons in the meanwhile. We are working hard to try to find talented candidates to interview for this opening.

Schedule Questions:

Our Administrative team has been working through the schedule issues that were sent to us at westsylvanoffice@pps.net. If you still see possible errors in a schedule, such as missing Math or World Language or inaccurate classes, those changes can be addressed. For Math acceleration, if an acceleration was not approved last Spring, your scholar will need to wait until assessment data is gathered throughout the first quarter to see if they are eligible for acceleration. Math Educators will also be doing some pre-assessments in the coming weeks to start gathering data.

Student Supports

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| 6th Grade: | Counselor: | Ricky Almeida [ralmeida@pps.net] |
| | Administrators: | Jill Hunt [jihunt@pps.net] Ben Keller [bkeller@pps.net] |
| 7th Grade: | Counselor: | Kandice Abney [kaabney@pps.net] |
| | Administrator: | Ben Keller [bkeller@pps.net] |
| 8th Grade: | Counselor: | Rebecca Cohen [rcohen@pps.net] |
| | Administrator: | Jill Hunt [jihunt@pps.net] |

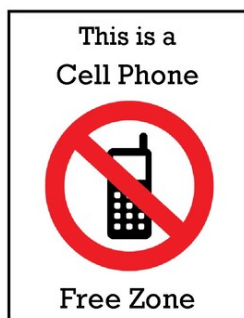
Transportation:

For questions about your scholar's bus route, district transportation options, or times/locations for pick-up, visit the Transportation Department's website at pps.net/Domain/61.

Safety updates:

Masking is not mandatory at this time, but continues to be recommended. Scholars and Educators are welcome to choose whether or not to wear a mask based on individual needs and preferences. We continue to recommend physical distancing, and all PPS updates can be found on the main [PPS website](#). Scholars are still allowed to eat outdoors. We simply designate a space near the Upper Gym for those with a preference to eat outdoors. Should your scholar have a question about outdoor eating, they can find any adult supervising lunch for more information.

Electronics Policy:



The cell phone policy changes have been going well so far! The few scholars who have been on their phones throughout the day have them placed in the office to pick up at the end of the day. WSMS is a cell phone free zone from 9:00 AM - 3:45 PM daily. We request and advise all families to keep scholars' cell phones at home during the school day. If a scholar brings a cell phone to school, they will be expected to store their turned-off phone in their locker throughout the *entire* school day (including lunches). Important messages can be sent to our main office via email at westsylvanoffice@pps.net and emails will be forwarded to your scholars. Time will be allowed for students to check their emails during the last period of the day.

Cafeteria/Menus:

Students are welcome to bring their own sack lunch and are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle daily to refill throughout the school day. WSMS received an upgrade to our water fountains, and we are using refillable temporary water stations while these upgrades are being finalized.

This year, Scholars will have to pay for school breakfast and lunch, and information about plans and assistance can be found on the PPS Nutrition Services webpage [here](#). We have three separate lunch times, by grade level (see the full bell schedule below). Menu information is available [here](#).

2022-23 Menu Prices

| | Breakfast | Lunch |
|--------|------------------|--------------|
| PK-8: | \$1.60 | \$3.00 |
| Adult: | \$3.00 | \$5.50 |
| Milk: | \$0.50 | \$0.50 |

Bell Schedule with Afternoon Advisory:

To increase the amount of time dedicated to building connections for our scholars with adults, to increase opportunities for academic support, and to afford opportunities for engagement in school clubs for all, we have added an Advisory time (30 minutes) to the end of each school day to begin the school year. We are adding this valuable time for our scholars to engage in meaningful social-emotional work, academic tutorials, executive functioning strategies, and to participate in clubs and community building. Please refer to the following bell schedule, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 6th.

| AFTERNOON Advisory Schedule | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| 6th Grade | | 7th Grade | | 8th Grade | |
| Period 1 | 9:15 ~ 10:05 | Period 1 | 9:15 ~ 10:05 | Period 1 | 9:15 ~ 10:05 |
| Period 2 | 10:09 ~ 10:59 | Period 2 | 10:09 ~ 10:59 | Period 2 | 10:09 ~ 10:59 |
| Lunch | 11:03 ~ 11:33 | Period 3 | 11:03 ~ 11:53 | Period 3 | 11:03 ~ 11:53 |
| Period 4 | 11:39 ~ 12:29 | Lunch | 11:57 ~ 12:27 | Period 4 | 11:57 ~ 12:47 |
| Period 5 | 12:33 ~ 1:23 | Period 5 | 12:33 ~ 1:23 | Lunch | 12:51 ~ 1:21 |
| Period 6 | 1:27 ~ 2:17 | Period 6 | 1:27 ~ 2:17 | Period 6 | 1:27 ~ 2:17 |
| Period 7 | 2:21 ~ 3:11 | Period 7 | 2:21 ~ 3:11 | Period 7 | 2:21 ~ 3:11 |
| Advisory | 3:15 ~ 3:45 | Advisory | 3:15 ~ 3:45 | Advisory | 3:15 ~ 3:45 |

Additional Clubs and Opportunities for Scholars:

- [Join the Morning Choir Club!](#)
Does your child like to sing? They are welcome to join our before-school Choir Club at West Sylvan Middle School! Choir is a wonderful way to be involved in the Arts. Students will develop a healthy vocal technique, build musicianship skills such as reading music and ear training, sing music from a variety of styles and cultures, and be part of a fun community of awesome kids who love to sing. More sign-up information coming soon!
- [Drama Club After School!](#) We will have a Drama Club after school three days a week, starting Wednesday, Sept. 7th at 4pm. Interested families and scholars can contact Drama Director, Mr. Kruse, at lkruse@pps.net.
- Morning ASL club: The ASL 5-6 class from LHS would like to start a virtual morning ASL club. More information is coming soon, and the introductory flier is here.
- Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#) for a list of clubs and opportunities for students to connect and get involved. Students are also encouraged to start additional clubs each school year.

Opportunities for Family Connection:

- [Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during lunches or in the front office in the afternoons\)!](#)
- [West Sylvan Foundation information](#) ~ Get involved, show school spirit, and support WSMS!
<https://www.westsylvanfoundation.com/>

General Questions:

Office Email: westsylvanoffice@pps.net

Jerda Solonche, Administrative Assistant: jsolonche@pps.net (staff, financial)

Kirsten Crombie, Administrative Assistant: kcrombie@pps.net (attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

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

- ★ **No School due to holiday: Monday, September 5th**
- ★ *6th Grade Minute-to-Win-It: Friday, September 9th* at 3:45 PM - 7:00 PM
**(optional outdoor event on the WSMS field hosted by our West Sylvan Foundation)*
- ★ *Back To School Night: Wednesday, September 21st* at 5:00 PM -7:00 PM
- ★ **No School for scholars due to Educator Planning Day: Friday, September 23rd**
- ★ *Tualatin Parks and Recreation Community Event: October 13, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM* in the field behind school
- ★ *Outdoor School for 6th Graders: October 23-28* ~ Overnight camp returns!

Go Wolfpack!

Jill and Ben

(Your Principal and Assistant Principal)