

October 7, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope that October is going well for our families! Our MYP Learner Trait for October is “Principled.” Scholars will spend time this month discussing and demonstrating that trait. Our Educator team just submitted our application to become an authorized MYP middle school, and we are waiting on feedback for a possible authorization visit this Winter! To find out more about the WSMS International Baccalaureate MYP authorization journey, [please visit this website!](#)

At school, many of our scholars are finalizing their MAP testing, and our sixth graders are gearing up for Outdoor School in two weeks! Also, we will hold a virtual TAG school meeting this coming Tuesday evening, October 11th, to answer family questions about TAG and accelerations so that the process is clear and the timelines are explained for those who may have questions.

We want to welcome a new part-time Educator to the WSMS team, Ms. Genevieve Ma’yet. Ms. Ma’yet will be filling our vacant half-time position in sixth grade, teaching two Science classes and one sixth grade Math class. We are grateful for the patience and understanding of our families while we completed this hiring process. Ms. Ma’yet will start on Monday with our school team and has been introducing herself to Scholars over the last two days on campus.

Thank you to our WSMS Foundation and family community for all of your support of the First Friday lunch this week! These Friday efforts really are appreciated! In two weeks, our WSMS Foundation is also hosting the [2nd Annual Music Fundraiser](#) on Saturday, October 22. Please come out to support our Music programs, make donations, and take part in the option to recycle any electronics for free.



We greatly appreciate the additional family members who have been volunteering in our Main Office, our Library, and joining us for school lunches and recess to help with supervision! The additional adults around campus really help with these busier spaces and the busiest times of the school day!

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]

Safety Updates:

Last Friday, there were two safety issues, one with a 6th grade family member and another with a few of our 8th graders. The Beaverton Police sent an officer to greet our families on Monday morning only as a show of support with our community. The officer was just on campus for a short time in the morning. To help address any rumors or concerns, the officer was *not* invited to campus due to ongoing safety concerns *or* school safety threats. Our BPD officers are community partners for safety response, as we are located within the city of Beaverton. I told Educators the same information, in case Scholars asked why this person was around.

As a result of the Friday issue with a few of our 8th graders, there was an uptick in many untrue rumors circulating. Each concerning statement has been investigated by myself and our Counselors, and there is no credible evidence of any threat to safety for our scholars. Also, we have spent time in Advisory reteaching the importance of being an upstander. We have also been emphasizing the dangers of inappropriate social media posts, and the impact of untrue gossiping on the lives of others. We continue referring scholars to Counseling and mental health providers when needs are identified. [The SafeOregon](#) reporting site is another way to report concerns so that they are investigated.

Reminder to Bring Charged Chromebooks and Chargers:

We have a very small supply of extra Chromebooks to loan out when our Scholars forget their devices at home. Please remind your scholar to bring their charged device to school each day so that they can use it to access MAP testing and to stay caught up.

- Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#)

Opportunities for Family Connection and Scholar Extended Activities:

- [Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during lunches or in the front office in the afternoons\)!](#)
- **After School Speech and Debate Club:** This is the interest form for the 2021 WSMS Speech and Debate Club. This club (separate from the speech class at WSMS) is a club organized by the Lincoln Speech and Debate

Team and is taught by its members. In this club, we teach different competitive events in speech and debate and attend tournaments to compete with other local middle schools. We hope that with the club, students will be more prepared for the Lincoln Speech and Debate Team as well as to increase their public speaking, research, and other crucial skills. Link to sign up form: <https://forms.gle/BgCSGB4Hk3ru6fuH6>

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:

- ★ *Virtual T.A.G. meeting for families at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11th.*
- ★ *Tualatin Parks and Recreation Community Parktober Harvest Festival Celebration: **October 13, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM** in the field behind school. Any local businesses who want to set up a table or sell items are welcome to self-promote, as it is an open community event. This fun free event with activities for all ages, free giveaways, and an opportunity to give input on the new park coming to SW Pointer Rd. Wear your favorite fall costume and drop-in any time between **5:30-7:30 pm at West Sylan Middle School** (8111 SW West Slope Dr). Spanish interpretation services will be provided. Everyone is welcome!*
- ★ **No School for Students and optional PD for Educators: October 14th**
- ★ Virtual Q & A meeting about ODS for 6th grade families : October 17th, 5 p.m. (link will be sent to families)
- ★ *Outdoor School for 6th Graders: **October 23-28** ~ Overnight camp returns! More details to come through 6th grade Educators in the coming weeks.*
- ★ School picture make-up day: Tuesday, November 1st **for those Students who missed the initial Picture Day in September.*
- ★ End of 1st Quarter (quarter classes end, and new quarter classes begin the following Monday): Thursday, November 3rd
- ★ **No school for Scholars, Educator planning and grading day: Friday, November 4th**

Enjoy your weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben