

October 14, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

Enjoy your longer weekend! Our Educators have the opportunity to participate in additional Professional Development today, hence the day off of school Friday, October 14th throughout PPS.

MAP testing makeups will conclude in the coming week for anyone still needing to test. This gives Educators baseline data in Math and English so that they can measure progress for Scholars from Fall to Winter each year. The scores also help Educators with targeted planning for instructional design.

Thanks to the [Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District \(THPRD\) team for the community event at WSMS on Thursday night!](#) There were treats, information about a pending park project, games, and tables for community members to sell items. THPRD oversees the park where Scholars have recess each day, so they are community partners for our WSMS.



TAG Updates:

Approximately 30% of Scholars at WSMS are TAG (Talented & Gifted) identified. The WSMS TAG Family meeting occurred virtually on Tuesday. The links to the recording from this week's meeting are here, if anyone missed the meeting: [Zoom link](#) and [Slides](#).

Questions continue to be shared from families about the Math offerings and opportunities for Math acceleration in Middle School for upcoming years in PPS. The visual from the Office of Teaching and Learning is [attached here](#). The pathways are determined by the current grade level and class of your Scholars *this* year, 2022-23. For concerns about this pathway, please contact the Office of Teaching and Learning leaders, [here](#). Acceleration requires approval through the TAG Single Subject Acceleration (SSA) process for future school years. District teams are continuing to take feedback from families as they finalize the Middle School Offerings for the 2023-24 school year.

6th Grade Outdoor School:

A virtual meeting to answer questions about Outdoor School (ODS) will be held on Monday, October 17th at 5 p.m. The session will be recorded for families who miss the Q & A. Sixth graders must return their completed permission forms to attend Outdoor School, which begins on Sunday, October 23rd. Scholars who do not attend ODS will have Substitute Teachers overseeing packet work at school for the week.

Topic: WSMS Outdoor School Q & A

Time: Oct 17, 2022 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://pps-net.zoom.us/j/87599547405>
Meeting ID: 875 9954 7405

Support our Music Programs!

In two weeks, our WSMS Foundation is hosting the [2nd Annual Music Fundraiser](#) on Saturday, October 22nd. Please come out to support our Music programs, make donations, and take part in the option to recycle any electronics for free. Visit these pages to learn more and donate: [Music Fundraising landing page](#) and the Music Fundraising [Donation Page with the Donor Levels](#).



WSMS Foundation News:

Don't Miss Out! Sign-up for the West Sylvan Foundation Directory Today!

Interested in getting information about Foundation scholar and parent events, volunteering opportunities and ways to support West Sylvan? Then sign-up for the new Family Directory [here](#). It allows you to connect with the Foundation and other West Sylvan families and will begin to be the main way we share information. This is a big change from how we have communicated in previous years!

7th & 8th Grade families - many of you have not registered. There are events coming up for your scholars and registering ensures you get the information so your scholar can join the fun! Your information is not automatically entered - everyone has to do it themselves. You can also opt to just receive our emails about scholar events and Foundation activities and not share your information with others, if you choose.

Sign-up for the West Sylvan Family Directory [here](#)!

School Volunteers:

We greatly appreciate the additional family members who have been volunteering in our Main Office, our Library, and joining us for school lunch periods 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]

MYP and WSMS:

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 Middle Years Programme (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!](#)



Safety Updates

Bus behavior:

Several school bus drivers are submitting referrals for Scholars due to inappropriate behavior on the school buses. The bus ride to and from the campus is considered part of the school day, and all PPS Conduct and Discipline policies apply during those periods. If Scholars receive bus referrals and are creating an unsafe environment on the bus, they may be suspended from riding the school bus. Families would have to transport Scholars if bus rules cannot be respected. While we want everyone to have a transportation option to school, the ride experience must be safe for all. Families are being contacted if bus safety is compromised to discuss next steps for their individual Scholars.

Food/Candy Sales on Campus:

Several Scholars have attempted to sell food, candy, and gum recently for their own personal profits during the school day on campus. These sales are prohibited. Scholars are reminded of

the rule, and their items are held in the Office until the end of the day. For repeated issues, families will be contacted to pick up their items.

Cell Phone Violations:

Several Scholars have had their cell phones held in the Office three or more times for violating the No Cell Phone policy on campus. After the third time working with the Scholar, families will be asked to pick up that device. If Scholars have cell phones, they should be in lockers and are not allowed to be used during the school day. There are Office phones if Scholars need to call home, and if families need to send a message to a Scholar, you may send an email to westsylvanoffice@pps.net and the message will be forwarded to your Scholar.

Reporting Safety Concerns:

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 \(especially during Lunches or in the Main Office in the afternoons\)!](#)

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 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 above
- ★ *Outdoor School for 6th Graders: **October 23-28** ~ Overnight camp returns! Drop off at West Sylvan for bus transportation to camps – time TBD.*
- ★ 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