

**December 16, 2022**

**Dear West Sylvan Families,**

We wish all of our families a happy holiday season and a peaceful winter break ahead! WSMS offices are closed during the break, and calls and emails will be returned next year upon return from break. **School resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.** If your holiday travels or break go beyond the first day of school in January, please update your Scholar's attendance in Synergy accordingly. We wish you all a safe and happy time over the next two weeks! We will miss our Wolves!

Congratulations to our Scholars who competed in the Robotics Tournaments last weekend directed by Mrs. Carla Oesterle and Mrs. Dori Wierth. Our very own West Sylvan Wolves, Team #21175, participated in ORTOP/FLL Robotics Qualifying Tournaments last weekend at Intel. Our team participated in robot game missions, raking in a whopping 155 points for their robot missions and design, and were interviewed by a panel of experts in the field about their Innovation Project (The Power Generating Stationary Bike). We are sending a sincere congratulations to our team of sixth through eighth graders and their families for making this competition a success, filled with growth and tremendous enthusiasm for our Robotics Club program here at West Sylvan. We look forward to MANY more years ahead with these and other bright, young engineers and designers in our school and community!



### **Appreciations?**

If you would like to share a kind note of appreciation with any staff member, please [share here](#). The kind notes go a long way in making our staff members feel seen and thanked!

### **Bell Schedule Shift in January:**

When we return to school in January, we will be using the "Morning Advisory" bell schedule (see below). We are shifting to this version of our bell schedule in January to dedicate time at the start of each day to reteach many schoolwide expectations and to focus on some important Social-Emotional lessons with our Scholars at the start of each school day. Re-engaging in school after a break can be a challenge, and we want to start the days with some lessons to reconnect and reestablish community each morning during January. The amount of time spent in instruction remains the same, and the Advisory class will be at the start of the day, rather than the end.

### **Social Media and Vacation:**

Two weeks away from school may mean extra time on social media for young people. We typically see an uptick in conflicts between Scholars and reports of bullying and harassment after long periods of time when

Scholars are allowed to engage in more free time on social media than usual. Please monitor your Scholars' social media accounts and chats to ensure that they are engaging in safe behaviors. Help Scholars block negative accounts and log off from chats and groups that are detrimental to their emotional safety and well being.

### **WSMS 2022-2023 Yearbook Orders:**

Each year our Yearbook class, with Educator Mr. Gilley, creates the school yearbook. To order the 2022-23 yearbook, go to [yearbookordercenter.com](http://yearbookordercenter.com), and enter code **6339**. All sales of the yearbook will be pre-ordered directly through an outside company and will not be available for purchase through the school at the end of the school year. Don't miss your chance to get this keepsake for your scholar! Check out the latest Yearbook class video [here](#)! The Scholars in Mr. Gilley's Yearbook class have been busy! We only place orders based on the preorders so that we don't waste school funds. Please order your yearbook in advance.

### **Boundaries for Future High School Students:**

If you are unsure which High School your scholar will attend based on your current residence, please visit [this site and enter your address](#) or [here](#). Below is a website to apply to your "choice" High School if a High School is outside of your normal neighborhood boundaries. Applications need to be submitted by the deadline for consideration for any school outside of your normal PPS neighborhood boundary: <https://www.pps.net/schoolchoice>. There is a deadline for applications, so please apply early if you are requesting a high school outside of your address boundaries.

### ***8th Grade Families Interested in Benson H.S.?***

**Applying to Benson Lottery for the 2023-24 School Year:** We will be accepting applications for Benson from Tuesday, November 15 to Friday, December 16th. Students only have to complete one on-line application. The online application will be on the Enrollment website: <https://www.pps.net/schoolchoice>. Students are usually informed of acceptance by the end of January/beginning of February. We will have an in person and online forecasting nights about mid February for students who have been accepted.

### **Reporting Safety Concerns During Vacation:**

While school is on a break, report safety concerns to your local police department for emergencies and call 911 for immediate medical and safety emergencies. [The SafeOregon](#) reporting site is another way to report concerns so that they are investigated when school resumes. 211 is another number for various community resources.

### **Inclement Weather Preparation:**

School District leaders will assess each morning to determine if cold weather or winter conditions have made roads for travel unsafe for families and buses. Based on assessments, District leaders will announce if buses are on Snow Routes or if there is a change in schedule for schools (a [late start](#) or school cancellation). There will be automated messages sent out based on the contact information in our ParentVue data. Please ensure that you are updating your contact information if cell numbers or contacts have changed.

### **Run a club! Family Volunteers to Run Clubs on Fridays!**

We had our first day of clubs last Friday, and we are looking for PPS-approved volunteers to help run clubs with Students during Advisory period on Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering from 9:15AM – 9:45AM on Fridays to run a club, [please complete the form here](#).

## Marking Attendance through ParentVue

Families are now able to record future absences for their Students directly in ParentVUE without needing to contact the Main Office. Please remember, if a student is going to miss multiple days, it is up to the Student and/or Parent/Guardian to communicate absences with each teacher and make a plan for missing work and assignments.

### If your Student is going to be Absent for a FULL DAY:

Log in to the ParentVUE website or download and open the phone application. In either case, look for the 'Report Absence' button to the right of your Student's photograph. Select start date, end date, and a reason from the drop-down list. Remember to click SAVE, and you should receive a popup confirmation.

### If your Student is Absent for a PARTIAL DAY:

Send an email to [westsylvanoffice@pps.net](mailto:westsylvanoffice@pps.net) with the date, times, and reason.

No internet access? Call West Sylvan's main line at 503-916-5690 and select the Attendance option.

## School Volunteers:

We appreciate all 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! If you are already an approved PPS volunteer, you are welcome to come to campus any day of the week when your schedule permits, and we will find a way that you can help on campus! The periods from 11:15AM-1:30PM and 2:30PM-3:45PM are most needed for Lunch recess help and Office assistance! **[Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during Lunches or in the Main Office in the afternoons\)!](#)**

### Student Supports

<b>6th Grade:</b>	Counselor:	Ricky Almeida [ <a href="mailto:ralmeida@pps.net">ralmeida@pps.net</a> ]
	Administrators:	Jill Hunt [ <a href="mailto:jihunt@pps.net">jihunt@pps.net</a> ] Ben Keller [ <a href="mailto:bkeller@pps.net">bkeller@pps.net</a> ]
<b>7th Grade:</b>	Counselor:	Kandice Abney [ <a href="mailto:kaabney@pps.net">kaabney@pps.net</a> ]
	Administrator:	Ben Keller [ <a href="mailto:bkeller@pps.net">bkeller@pps.net</a> ]
<b>8th Grade:</b>	Counselor:	Rebecca Cohen [ <a href="mailto:rcohen@pps.net">rcohen@pps.net</a> ]
	Administrator:	Jill Hunt [ <a href="mailto:jihunt@pps.net">jihunt@pps.net</a> ]

## MYP and WSMS:

Our MYP Learner Trait for December is "**Balanced.**" Scholars are spending 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!](#) January's Learner Trait will be "**Thinkers.**"



### 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](mailto:westsylvanoffice@pps.net)

Jerda Solonche, Administrative Assistant: [jsolonche@pps.net](mailto:jsolonche@pps.net) (Staff, financial)

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

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

- ★ **Winter Break:** Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 (WSMS Offices/School Closed)
- ★ **School Resumes:** Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ★ **No School:** Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>
- ★ **End of 1st Semester (2nd quarter) and Final Semester Grades are Submitted:** Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>
- ★ **No School:** Planning day for Educators, Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>
- ★ **2nd Semester/3rd Quarter Begins:** (some classes may change): Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

### Enjoy your vacation, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben