

September 16, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

Happy Friday, families! Yesterday was the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month! Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15th through October 15th. Did you know that WSMS has 12% of Scholars who identify as Hispanic and an additional 10% of Scholars who identify with multiple races? We proudly honor our diverse family community at WSMS!



\*\*\*Repost from PPS, Superintendent Guerrero

We are a couple of weeks into the 2022-23 school year, and we are looking forward to sharing items with families through a couple formats next week for **Back-To-School Night**. For those of you who have visited our campus, you already know how limited parking is, and we acknowledge that there will simply be *many* challenges with visiting campus on Wednesday evening due to the unfortunate lack of space to park in our school parking lot and in surrounding areas.

By Tuesday, we will share virtual slides from our Educators, our Administrative team, and our Counselors so that all families who prefer to avoid the traffic can hear information virtually. These will be pre-recorded videos/slides that families can watch on their own time, depending on their schedules.

For families visiting campus in-person, you will want to have access to ParentVue on your phone so that you can “follow” your scholar’s schedule to visit classes by period. There will be ten minutes per period to meet Educators (twenty minutes for Block classes), during which time you will hear an overview of the class offerings from the Educator. Later in the Fall there will be virtual Fall Conferences which are designed for individual student conferencing with Educators, so BTSN is not designed for individual conferences. It is an evening to see the campus, meet Educators, and to hear a larger overview about each class in your scholar’s schedule. Our Foundation members will have information to share about ways to get involved, and some student clubs may sell school merchandise.

## Seeking family members for School Site Council:

The School Site Council meets monthly to discuss school-related programs, budget items, data related to student achievement and to solicit input from a cross-section of family members, Educators, and School Staff members. We are seeking parents who would like to join the SSC for this school year. If interested, please complete the form [here](#).

### 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> ]

## Family Fun for WSMS?

Tomorrow, Saturday 9/17, our WSMS Foundation is leading efforts to beautify the center courtyard of campus from 9:00AM – 12:00PM. If you are interested, bring your outdoor tools and equipment, and come help make campus more beautiful!

## Transportation:

Please consider allowing your scholar to ride the bus rather than picking up and dropping off each day, as much as possible! Bus transportation has been much better this year than last year. There are still a couple buses that have been late on days while the drivers get accustomed to their routes or due to traffic. Educators do not penalize scholars for a late arrival on a bus.

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](http://pps.net/Domain/61). When buses are going to be late arriving in the afternoon, our office will send a mass communication to families so that you are not alarmed.

When dropping off or picking up scholars, please take care to respect our neighbors. Many of them post signs and even put out cones in front of their driveways to remind families to avoid parking in their driveways and trespassing on their property. No Parking zones and signs should be followed, as I just met with Beaverton PD and they will issue citations for ignoring the signage. Our neighbors ask for your cooperation and civility in drop-off and pick up so that families are not blocking their driveways and impeding traffic from passing in streets. Having scholars use the buses eliminates all need to interact with the neighbors!

## 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 held 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](mailto: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 they now feature bottle-filling stations.

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

### Afternoon Early Pick-Ups:

Our Office has been experiencing heavy family traffic prior to our 3:45PM dismissal, due to daily early pick-ups. Whenever possible, we ask that you avoid picking up your scholar between 3:15PM and 3:45PM, as our Office becomes overwhelmed with accommodating early pick-ups and Staff is limited in the afternoons. Any planning around that timeframe is appreciated. **If you need to pick up early, we kindly request that you try to arrive prior to 3:15PM.** Please be prepared to show your photo ID, as it is a legal requirement for picking up Scholars during school hours.

### Additional Clubs and Opportunities for Scholars:

- [Join the Morning Choir Club!](#)

Does your child like to sing? They are welcome to join the choir at West Sylvan Middle School! Choir at WSMS is a wonderful way to be involved in the Arts despite schedule limitations during the regular school day. 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 community of awesome kids who LOVE music. There is no experience necessary, no audition, and all are welcome to join!

#### Information:

Choir Director: Lindsey Wildman

2022-2023 [Sign-up form](#)

#### Rehearsals:

Nova Stella (6th grade choir):

Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:15-9:10am

Voce de Lupi (7th & 8th grade choir):

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15-9:10am

Rehearsals happen in the WSMS Choir room starting on **Monday, September 26th**. Parents and Students will receive email communication regarding any schedule changes as information becomes available. We look forward to a great year full of singing!

- **[Drama Club After School!](#)** Our Drama Club meets after school three days per week in the Lower Gym on the stage, as of Wednesday, Sept. 7th. Interested families and scholars can contact Drama Director, Mr. Kruse, at [lkruse@pps.net](mailto: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.
- **Morning Running Club:** Let's start our kids' days off right! Studies have shown that regular cardiovascular exercise relieves stress, eases anxiety, and improves mood and cognitive performance in adults and kids alike. With some parent volunteers, we could make movement a regular part of every week, kicking off our kids' days with a walk, run, stroll, sashay, crawl, or cartwheel around the park followed by a group breakfast. If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact parent Brenna Legaard at [brenna@legaard.net](mailto:brenna@legaard.net)
- **Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#)**

#### Opportunities for Family Connection:

- **[Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during lunches or in the front office in the afternoons\)!](#)**

- **New! 2022-2023 West Sylvan Family Directory organized by WSMS Foundation**

This year we are bringing back the West Sylvan Family Directory to help families connect with one another. The directory will be completely online and accessible from computer or via an App on your phone. It's easy to register and families can quickly enter and approve their information. The directory is only successful if the majority of our school community registers, so please take a few minutes and enter your information. Registering will also allow you to receive future communication directly from the Foundation about scholar and parent events and West Sylvan donation needs.

- **[REGISTER NOW!](#)** Visit <https://westsylvanfoundation.membershiptoolkit.com> to get started and follow the directions to register your family.
- Please note, when you create an account, an email invitation is sent from Membership Toolkit to verify that a valid email address has been entered. The email invitation for creating a new account is *only valid for 2 hours*, so if you are not able to access your email in that timeframe, you will have to start the process over again.
- Once you have registered, you will see opportunities to donate towards the Foundation and sign-up for one of many volunteer opportunities we will have this year.

We look forward to a wonderful 2022-2023 school year!

The 2022-2023 West Sylvan Foundation Board

***Follow WSMS Foundation! Contact us!***

#### 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) (attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

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

- ★ *Back To School Night: **Wednesday, September 21st*** at 5:00 PM -7:00 PM or Watch Virtual options available on Tuesday, September 20th (we will send a communication)
- ★ **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. 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.
- ★ *Outdoor School for 6th Graders: **October 23-28*** ~ Overnight camp returns! More details to come through 6th grade Educators in the coming weeks.

**Go Wolf Pack!**

Jill and Ben