

September 9, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

This week, we shifted Advisory to the conclusion of the school day. The plan is to continue with this schedule throughout September as we gauge both Educator and Scholar input about the content, the timing, and the effectiveness of the Advisory pieces. PIL sports have started already, and several groups are practicing at our building after school. PIL teams run themselves separately from the school team, so all questions related to PIL sports, meeting times or locations should be sent to the leaders of the various teams. [For information on how to get your scholar-athlete involved in PIL sports, visit this website.](#)

Drama is still recruiting for their after school club! [Please contact Mr. Kruse for more information, and the flier is here.](#) Also, Choir will start near the end of the month as a morning (before school) club. Ms. Wildman can be contacted for more information on [signing up for the Choir Club.](#) While we are not given funding for full-time Educators for these critical arts experiences, we continue to build avenues for the arts through clubs for our Scholars. Family donations keep these experiences available!

Lifetouch

PICTURE DAY
IS COMING

Thursday, September 15, 2022
West Sylvan Middle School



Order your school pictures today on
mylifetouch.com

Enter your Picture Day ID
EVTRHNMWV

Order your perfect package—
and don't worry about returning
anything on Picture Day!

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](#).

Schedule Questions:

Our Administrative team has been working through the schedule issues that were sent to us at westsylvanoffice@pps.net. The goal was to finalize all schedule changes today so that we can limit disruptions to Scholars' and Educators' schedules. If an incorrect placement still exists, please use the office email to send the message for review.

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]

Back-To-School-Night:

We will host an in-person Back-To-School Night on Wednesday, September 21st from 5:00PM – 7:00PM. Prior to that evening, we will share a virtual welcome video along with virtual slides from our Educators, as we understand that many families may not be able to join us. As you know, our parking is also very limited and will be quite a challenge if you plan to join that evening. There will be time to visit each class on your Scholars' schedule to hear from Educators for ten minutes per class. This night is intended to offer an informal introduction to our Educators, our school building, and to allow families time to hear about classes. This evening is not intended to be time for individual conferences between Educators and families about specific Scholar issues, as there simply will not be time for individual conferencing. Later in the Fall, there will be dedicated evenings for conferences, should families desire more individualized conversations.

Transportation:

Bus transportation has improved from last year. There are still several buses that have been late while the drivers get accustomed to their routes. 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. When we are made aware of buses arriving late in the afternoon, our Office will send a mass communication to families so that you are not alarmed.

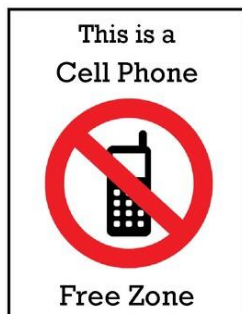
When dropping off or picking up Scholars, please take care to respect our neighbors. Many of them post signs to remind families to avoid parking in their driveways. No Parking zones and signs should be followed, as Beaverton PD will issue citations for ignoring the signage. Our neighbors ask for your cooperation in drop-off and pick-up so that families are not blocking their driveways and impeding traffic from passing in streets.

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](#). Anyone reporting a positive case of COVID-19 will be required to quarantine from school for five days. Due to changes in District guidelines, larger community messages will not be sent about each case reported. We will continue to send community messages if an "outbreak" affecting 10% or more of a class is determined.

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 9:00AM - 3:45PM 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 lunch periods). 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 Scholars 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 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

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, which we have been following since 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

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-3:45pm as our Office can become overwhelmed with accommodating early pick-ups and Staff is limited in the afternoons. Any planning around that time frame is appreciated. 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 26**. There are a few exceptions to this – Parents/Guardians and Students will receive email communication regarding 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 the Drama Director, Mr. Kruse, at lkruse@pps.net.
- **Morning ASL club:** The ASL 5-6 class from LHS would like to start a virtual ASL club in the mornings. More information is coming soon, and the introductory flier is here.
- **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
- **Visit our Counseling Corner** [at this link!](#)

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 ~**
Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We're so happy to have you as part of our parent community. We are the West Sylvan Foundation, a group of parents organized to build community and fundraise to fill the gaps in PPS budget shortfalls.

The Foundation was formed as a 501(c)3 in 1994 by a group of parents in a time of financial crisis. In 2021, the Foundation and the PTA merged to form one committee. We continue to be a parent driven nonprofit that supports the 700+ Scholars and 50+ Staff members at West Sylvan Middle School.

Support the Foundation! Your generous donations directly support Scholars and staff by reducing class size and enhancing the educational experience. We look forward to hosting many great events with the West Sylvan community in the coming year! You can support the Foundation by participating in future events or by donating directly [here](#).

New! 2022-2023 West Sylvan Family Directory

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 Family 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 us! Contact us!



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:

- ★ *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 Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben