

**April 1, 2022**

**Happy Friday West Sylvan Middle School Families,**

It has been an exciting week back after Spring Break, and we're so happy to have your scholars' smiling faces back in our lives each day! This week, we have been working with any of our scholars who have yet to forecast for the 2022-23 school year. For those who forgot to select options, we've been calling them to the Library in small groups to choose their electives, a PE option, and a World Language option for the upcoming school year. Also, today is the first day of Ramadan. For any of our scholars who observe Ramadan, we have a quiet space reserved for observance throughout the month.



**Forecasting** ends as of April 8th for the 2022-23 school year elective choices for our incoming 5th graders and our current 6th and 7th graders. Our counselors have visited all of our feeder schools to explain middle school and talk about the electives. The information is [here](#) from the message that was sent previously.

**Information fliers for elective forecasting have been sent home via Block classes for current 6th graders, and via Science classes for current 7th graders. Please access the comprehensive information on the West Sylvan [website](#) under the "Forecasting 2022-23" tab (next to Quick Links).**

**For 8th Grade Families:**

- **8th Grade Oaks Park Trip** (rides) on Wednesday, June 8th. Scholars who choose to attend will bus to Oaks Park from campus and return by dismissal. Scholars will need to be in good standing (no suspensions, referrals to administrators, patterns of unexcused absences, etc) to attend. This is a fun privilege, not an automatic right.
- **8th Grade Promotion** is at Lincoln High School on Thursday, June 9th at 6 p.m. so that you can start planning ahead. Each scholar will have two guest tickets for family members. More information will be shared as we get closer to the date.
- **WSMS Foundation Oaks Park Event for 8th graders:** This will be an optional evening event for our 8th graders hosted by our WSMS Foundation at Oaks Park on Friday, June 10th. Families will have to self-transport for this event, as it is a Foundation event. More information will be sent in the coming months for those who want to participate.
- **Yearbook** sales have ended. There are no additional yearbooks available for purchase.

**Mark your calendar now in preparation:**

**End of 3rd Quarter / Educator Planning/Grading Day:** Friday, April 8th - No School for Scholars

**4th Quarter Begins:** Monday, April 11th \*some electives will change, if they are quarter-long electives from our elective wheel

**Panoramic Picture for 8th Graders:** April 12th (outdoors and unmasked for those who choose to participate)

**6th Grade Outdoor School:** May 16-17th off campus *day* camps

**7th Grade WSMS Foundation Sponsored Event:** June 3rd WSMS Gym (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

**8th Grade Field Trip to Oaks Park:** Wednesday, June 8th (during school hours)

**8th Grade Promotion:** Thursday, June 9th 6 p.m. at Lincoln HS

**8th Grade WSMS Foundation Sponsored Oaks Park Party:** June 10th (evening)

### Resources for Family Extended Learning and Activities:

- **Sign your scholars up for spring athletics!** <https://www.pilathletics.com/>
- **VIBE of Portland** [Art Camps, Classes, No-School Workshops](#)
- **VIBE of Portland** [East Winds Summer Camp](#)
- **OSU** [Summer Reading Program](#)
- **Multnomah Early Childhood Program:** [\(English\)](#) [\(Spanish\)](#) [\(Vietnamese\)](#)
- **Portland Parks & Recreation Preschool** [2022-2023 Registration](#)
- **OSU STEM Academy** [AWSEM Club](#) (includes Spanish flyer)
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### Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Classes for 22-23:

We are looking for applicants to join our AVID elective for the 22-23 school year. Why is an AVID experience a good thing? AVID scholars have a history of proven excellence with 94% meeting all 4-year university requirements, 90% accepted directly to 4-year universities out of high school, 84% persist in the second year of university. If you are interested in having your scholar join AVID, and your scholar is also interested in joining AVID, please complete this interest [form](#).

### MYP News:

Our site is scheduled for an MYP consultation visit in April, leading up to our goal of an authorization visit next fall. The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme has been an advanced professional development that many of our educators have participated in and have used to design units and lessons over the last several school years. Many of our feeder schools engage in the IB Early Years Programme, and our feeder high school, Lincoln High School, offers an IB Diploma Programme. There was a small pause in MYP progress during CDL, and many members from our educator team have been re-engaging in MYP preparation and professional development work this school year, again. Mid-April, there will be a WSMS virtual site visit to gauge our school progress in preparation for a proposed authorization visit in fall of 2022. We are excited to be gaining momentum again in our professional development goals toward eventually being an authorized IB Middle Years Programme. [Please visit this slide deck for more updates on WSMS MYP implementation](#). If any parents are interested in speaking to the strengths of MYP units, the learning experiences emphasized in MYP (inquiry, discussion, analysis, critique and defense of work, critical thinking, investigation projects, and performance-based assessments) and the importance of developing the MYP Learner Profile (inquirers, knowledgeable, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, educational risk-takers, balanced, reflective), we have a sign-up for family feedback [here](#).

### Host Family for an Arabic Educator for 22-23 School Year:

WSMS has a wonderful opportunity to host an international educator for the 22-23 school year through an awarded grant. Through the American Councils for International Education, WSMS is *conditionally* approved for a fully-funded educator to join our team to teach Arabic for up to 20 hours a week as an

additional World Language option for the 22-23 school year. Pending final approvals, we are looking for a family willing to host the educator in their home. Through American Councils, the educator is given a living stipend to pay for living accommodations, if hosted by a private family. There would be two needs.

1. A host family to provide a comfortable space for the educator to stay for the first two weeks upon arrival in the U.S. while we secure housing (arriving on August 11, 2022).
2. A host family to provide a room for the educator for the school year (August-June, 2023) and help with transportation needs to and from WSMS for work, as the educator would not have their own transportation.

If you are interested in being a host family, please fill out the form [here](#).

### **Community Care and Neighborhood Safety:**

Our neighbors in the West Slope community have had recent incidents of property damage to their rock walls around their lawn from drivers picking up our scholars. They have now had their newly built stone wall damaged on *four* separate occasions by drivers who have not reported the damage. While parked and driving in the neighborhood, our neighbors ask that we all continue to practice care and kindness toward their property, and that we report any damage to the home-owners should an accident occur. They also ask that we please do not block their driveways during our pick-up and drop-off times. We appreciate all cooperation!

### **WSMS Foundation:**

Please support our WSMS Foundation! Every contribution helps our school by allowing us to fund educational opportunities and events for your scholars! Please consider donating to WSMS Foundation to help support important instructional additions for our scholars in the coming school year. Every donation helps!

You can donate and find out more information about our WSMS Foundation and their amazing work for our scholars [here](#). Also follow them on Instagram @[west.sylvan.foundation](#) and check out our West Sylvan students in their [school](#), [sports](#), [performances](#), [events](#)...

If you have a scholar event, announcements related to scholars and their achievements, or you'd like to advertise let us know. [Email Lisette Crepeaux at thecrepeauxs@gmail.com](mailto:thecrepeauxs@gmail.com).

### **Daily Loaner Laptops for Scholars:**

We no longer have a supply of daily loaner chromebooks to issue when scholars forget their chromebooks at home. Please help remind our scholars to take their \*fully charged\* PPS-issued chromebook to and from school each day. We distributed BumpArmor cases to all scholars, and we ask that you please encourage your scholar to use the case to protect and extend the life of their device.

### **Help with Cell Phones:**

Our catch phrase that we use at WSMS regarding cell phones during the school day is, “**Out of sight and away, unless we say.**” Any additional monitoring you can put in place to keep an eye on your scholars’ social media activity is also greatly appreciated! There are times when scholars may need to access their devices for family reasons or even in instructional settings, and we encourage speaking with an adult if such a need arises. Also, several families have had concerns with their scholars’ use of cell phones throughout the day for non-instructional reasons. We will continue to remind scholars of this expectation throughout their school day. If scholars post inappropriate content on social media, please report the account for review.

Some families have inquired about apps that can restrict various features on cell phones for scholars throughout the day so that they are not on social media and are not tempted to engage with others through

social media platforms. Here are some tips we have given families: **NY Times Article:** [The Best Apps for Managing Your Kids Phone](#); [Support for Apple](#); [Support Google](#); [Family Time Article & Tips](#); [Verizon Support](#).

### **Picking Up Scholars:**

Per Oregon law, *an approved adult is required to sign out any scholar* who leaves campus before the end of the school day. Our office has been experiencing heavy family traffic prior to our 3:45pm dismissal, due to daily early pick-ups. If possible, we ask that you avoid picking up your scholar between 3:15pm-3:45pm as you will not find parking, and our office staff is limited in the afternoons. Any planning around that time frame is appreciated.

### **COVID-19 Updates:**

There were no positive COVID-19 cases reported this week.

### **Scholar Counseling Supports (Counselors will move with grades for 22-23):**

**6th Grade:** Counselor: Kandice Abney: [kaabney@pps.net](mailto:kaabney@pps.net) &  
Administrator: Ben Keller, [bkeller@pps.net](mailto:bkeller@pps.net)

**7th Grade:** Counselor: Rebecca Cohen: [rcohen@pps.net](mailto:rcohen@pps.net) &  
Administrator: Evening Krauel, [ekrauel@pps.net](mailto:ekrauel@pps.net)

**8th Grade:** Counselor, Ricky Almeida: [ralmeida@pps.net](mailto:ralmeida@pps.net) &  
Administrator: Jill Hunt, [jihunt@pps.net](mailto:jihunt@pps.net)

### **General Questions:**

Jerda Solonche, Principal's Administrative Assistant: [jsolonche@pps.net](mailto:jsolonche@pps.net) (faculty, school business)

Kirsten Crombie, Administrative Assistant: [kcrombie@pps.net](mailto:kcrombie@pps.net) (scholar/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, help with scholar laptops, withdrawals)

### **Notes of Appreciation?**

The notes left for our educators really do brighten a lot of days for many of our team members! If you have a kind note to share, we'd love your feedback [here](#) to celebrate the ways in which WSMS adults support your scholars and your families! A little appreciation goes a long way and can really uplift someone's day!

**Enjoy the weekend! Go Wolfpack!**

Jill, Evening and Ben