

April 8, 2022

Happy Friday West Sylan Middle School Families,

There is no school for our scholars today, Friday, April 8, while our educators work on quarter grades and plan for the upcoming quarter. We hope that you enjoy the three-day weekend together. Any classes that are quarter-long electives will change on Monday, April 11 for the final nine weeks of the 2021-22 school year.

Forecasting for elective classes ends TODAY, April 8th. Our Counselors have visited all of our feeder schools to explain Middle School and talk about the electives. Please click [here](#) to view the full message that was sent previously. We are adding one new elective, Arabic, for a high school credit world language option for 22-23. If your scholar previously selected another world language and would like to switch to Arabic, please send the request [here](#).

Please access the comprehensive information on the West Sylan [website](#) under the “Forecasting 2022-23” tab (next to Quick Links).

For 8th Grade Families:

- **DLI Students: Assessment for High School Credit:** Find more information [here](#) about STAMP 4S exam for high school credit by proficiency
- **8th Grade Oaks Park Trip** (rides) on Wednesday, June 8th, chaperoned by educators and administrators. 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 **four** 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-sponsored 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.

For 6th Grade Families:

Outdoor School permission packets will be coming home through Science classes next week. Outdoor school will be on **May 16th and May 17th, off-site**. There will be two day trips to off-site locations for a modified outdoor school experience. The day trips will have school bus transportation, leaving WSMS at 9:30 a.m. and returning to WSMS around 6:30 p.m. both evenings. We anticipate that some families may have concerns about the evening pick-up and may need assistance. If you will be unable to arrange for pick-up those two nights, please respond [here](#). We are working on an alternative transportation option for any families in need of assistance those two nights.

Interested in Volunteering?

Become an approved PPS volunteer by following the information [here](#). Our library and classrooms are spaces where we can use family volunteers through the end of the school year. Once your application is approved, please contact school administration to see how you can help.

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

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

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 during 7th period (outdoors and unmasked for those who choose to participate)

6th Grade Outdoor School: May 16-17th off campus *day* camps, returning at 6:30 p.m.

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 2022-23 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 Needed for an Arabic Educator for 22-23 School Year:

Through the American Councils for International Education, WSMS has been awarded a grant 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. We are looking for a family willing to host the educator, who is coming from Egypt, and will be joining the WSMS team. 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](#).

Drop-off and pick-up:

We have family concerns about fellow family members who are driving unsafely in our parking lot and in the streets near campus during drop-off and pick up. Please drive slowly, watch out for the various scholars who are likely not looking at the movement of vehicles, and yield to humans as they cross.

Free Immunization Clinic Ahead of Exclusion Date:

Each year, the state of Oregon has an “exclusion date” by which students must receive the required vaccinations. During the 2020-21 school year, the exclusion date was waived as classes were held online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year’s date was originally February 16, but was pushed back two months because of the pandemic. Families with students who are not fully immunized will have received an exclusion letter on March 2. Our health lead, Nic Hartman, has made many contacts with families who still are missing proof of immunizations for scholars. **The final date for school exclusion is Wednesday, April 20th.** Anyone still missing proof of immunizations on that date has to be excluded from school on campus. Portland Public Schools will host a free immunization clinic for students who are not up to date on required vaccines. Under Oregon law, students who have not received required immunizations by the exclusion date of April 20th will not be able to attend school until they do so or receive an approved exemption.

Immunization Clinic Information:

- **Where:** McDaniel High School, 2735 NE 82nd Ave.
- **Date:** Wednesday, April 13
- **Hours:** 3:45 to 6:30 p.m.

The required immunizations cover a variety of diseases and are important tools to keep communicable diseases from becoming major issues. In 2019, for example, immunization was an important tool in containing an [outbreak of measles](#) in the area.

- [See the full list of required immunizations](#)

Although the COVID-19 vaccination is not on the current list of required immunizations, COVID-19 vaccine shots will be available at the clinic, which will be co-sponsored by the Multnomah County Health Department and Multnomah Education Service District.

In addition to the McDaniel clinic, an immunization clinic will be held at David Douglas High School on Saturday, April 16. Immunizations are also available at student health centers at six PPS high schools: Roosevelt, Jefferson, McDaniel, Franklin, Benson and Cleveland. Please view the flier here for more information.

For information on your student's immunization records, please contact the school. The state allows medical or nonmedical exemptions from immunizations; learn more at the [Oregon Health Authority website](#).

Community Care and Neighborhood Safety:

Our neighbors in the West Slope community ask that while parked and driving in the neighborhood we all continue to practice care and kindness toward their property, and that we report any damage to the homeowners 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 your 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:Lisette.Crepeaux@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 was one COVID-19 case reported this week.

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

6th Grade: Counselor: Kandice Abney: kaabney@pps.net &

Administrator: Ben Keller, bkeller@pps.net

7th Grade: Counselor: Rebecca Cohen: rcohen@pps.net &

Administrator: Evening Krauel, ekrauel@pps.net

8th Grade: Counselor, Ricky Almeida: ralmeida@pps.net &

Administrator: Jill Hunt, jihunt@pps.net

General Questions:

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

Kirsten Crombie, Administrative Assistant: 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 longer weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben