

October 21, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope that you have had a wonderful week! This weekend will be busy at WSMS, as Saturday is the Music Fundraiser from 12:00PM – 3:00PM. This event is sponsored and run by the WSMS Foundation. Families are invited to come to campus, hear scholars showcase their musical talents, and drop off any unwanted electronics items for recycling. If you cannot join, and would like to donate, you can also do so through the information provided on the flier. [Music Fundraising landing page](#) and the Music Fundraising [Donation Page with the Donor Levels](#) are included in the links.



6th Grade Outdoor School:

Scholars who are going to 6th Grade Outdoor School are gathering on campus this Sunday at 2:30PM to load buses and head off to campus for a week of outdoor learning. Buses will leave promptly at 3:00PM. Anyone who has decided not to attend will have items they can do on campus, overseen by substitute teachers throughout the week, Monday through Friday.

WSMS Foundation News:

Don't Miss Out! Sign-up for the West Sylvan Foundation Directory Today!

Interested in getting information about Foundation scholar and parent events, volunteering opportunities, and ways to support West Sylvan? Then sign-up for the new Family Directory [here](#). It allows you to connect with the Foundation and other West Sylvan families and will begin to be the main way we share information. This is a big change from how we have communicated in previous years!

7th & 8th Grade families - many of you have not registered! There are events coming up for your scholars and registering ensures you get the information so your scholar can join the fun! Your information is not automatically entered - everyone has to do it themselves. You can also opt to just receive our emails about scholar events and Foundation activities and not share your information with others, if you choose.

Sign-up for the West Sylvan Family Directory [here!](#)

American Sign Language Morning Club:

Beginning October 27th in the Library at 8:30AM, there will be a virtual club run by Lincoln High School's senior ASL students. The LHS students will meet with WSMS students over GoogleMeet to teach and practice basic ASL items, such as learning the alphabet and some simple signs. ASL is one of the languages offered at LHS, so this club could be a nice introduction to some basic ASL learning in preparation for a future class at LHS. The Teacher overseeing the students running the club is Ben Malbin, LHS Educator.



Lost and Found End of Quarter Clean Out:

With the end of the First Quarter coming, it's time to clear out the Lost & Found. Any of our families who have volunteered or visited recently can attest to how full the Lost & Found is right now with many clothes, lunch packs, school supplies and all sorts of items. The Lost & Found is directly across from the Upper Gym, and it is visible and accessible to all Scholars each day. Anything unclaimed by Thursday, November 3rd will be donated to the PPS Clothes Closet.

School Volunteers:

Thank you to our family members who recently helped in 8th Grade classes with Literature circles! We also sincerely 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!

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]

MYP and WSMS:

Our MYP Learner Trait for October is “Principled.” 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!](#)



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 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>

8th Grade Families Interested in Benson HS?

Applying to Benson Lottery for the 2023-24 School Year: We will be accepting applications for Benson from Tuesday, November 15th to Friday, December 16th. Students only have to complete one online 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.

- a) **8th Grade Information Night:** Benson's 8th Grade night is **Wednesday, Nov.2 at 6:00PM.** We **STRONGLY** encourage families to attend this night. We will **NOT** be having shadow days this year so this is the **ONLY** time that students will be able to see the building, meet the teachers, etc. during the application period.
- b) **8th Grade Presentation/Flier:** If possible, we would like ALL 8th Graders to see our [presentation linked here](#), in which we have embedded a video about our school and CTE.
- c) **Benson Rebuild:** In case anyone asks, we will be back to our location by Lloyd Center in **Fall 2024.** Only one year at the Marshall site for this current 8th Grade class!

Benson Polytechnic is also inviting families to apply for their lottery, if interested.

Safety Updates

Bus behavior:

Several school bus drivers are submitting referrals for Scholars due to inappropriate behavior on the school buses. The bus ride to and from the campus is considered part of the school day, and all PPS Conduct and Discipline policies apply during those periods. If Scholars receive bus referrals and are creating an unsafe environment on the bus, they may be suspended from riding the school bus. Families would have to transport Scholars if bus rules cannot be respected. While we want everyone to have a transportation option to school, the ride experience must be safe for all. Families are being contacted if bus safety is compromised to discuss next steps for their individual Scholars.

Food/Candy Sales on Campus:

Several Scholars have attempted to sell food, candy, and gum recently for their own personal profits during the school day on campus. These sales are prohibited. Scholars are reminded of the rule, and their items are held in the Office until the end of the day. For repeated issues, families will be contacted to pick up their items.

Reporting Safety Concerns:

We continue referring scholars to Counseling and mental health providers when needs are identified. [The SafeOregon](#) reporting site is another way to report concerns so that they are investigated.

Reminder to Bring Charged Chromebooks and Chargers:

We have a very small supply of extra Chromebooks to loan out when our Scholars forget their devices at home. Please remind your scholar to bring their charged device to school each day so that they can use it to access MAP testing and to stay caught up.

- Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#)

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

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:

- ★ School picture **make-up day**: Tuesday, November 1st **for those Students who missed the initial Picture Day in September.*
- ★ **Lincoln High School 8th Grade Open House** on Wednesday, November 2nd: This is an Open House only for 8th grade families who reside within the LHS attendance boundaries. [Additional information is here.](#) The event is from 5:30-8 p.m.
- ★ End of 1st Quarter (quarter classes end, and new quarter classes begin the following Monday): Thursday, November 3rd
- ★ **No school for Scholars**, Educator planning and grading day: **Friday, November 4th**
- ★ **No school for Scholars**, Optional Virtual Fall Conferences with Educators: **Monday-Tuesday, November 21-22** (*more details to follow in the coming weeks for signing up*).
- ★ **No school for Scholars and Educators: Fall break from November 23-26** (*Offices are closed*).

Enjoy your weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben