

January 13, 2023

Dear West Sylvan Families,

Happy long weekend to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! There is no school on Monday 1/16, and we'll see our Scholars on Tuesday!

We are underway with our Winter MAP tests in English and Math to assess progress between the Fall administration session and Winter. English classes have begun testing, and in some cases completed, their MAP testing, and Math classes will test over the next two weeks. There will also be designated time to make-up tests for anyone who was absent. To help prepare your Scholar for MAP testing, [here is a link](#) to a number of family resources. Math placements and requests for acceleration through the TAG department are heavily dependent on MAP test scores for Math. It is crucial that Scholars put forth their best effort when they engage in these assessments.



***Student Art

Notes of Appreciation?

If you would like to send a kind note of appreciation to any Staff member, please [share here](#). The kind notes go a long way in making our Staff members feel seen and thanked!

Coming Prepared for School:

Please encourage and remind your Scholar to bring their charged Chromebook to school each day. We have a very limited, and often depleted, number of loaner Chromebooks. Remembering to bring your PPS-issued Chromebook to school is crucial, as Chromebooks are needed for classes and MAP testing. We want everyone to be able to access their curriculum in a timely manner and in real time.

WSMS 2022-2023 Yearbook Orders:

Each year our Yearbook class, with Educator Mr. Gilley, creates the school yearbook. To order the 2022-23 yearbook, go to yearbookordercenter.com and enter code 6339. **All sales of the yearbook will be pre-ordered directly through an outside company and will not be available for purchase through the school at the end of the school year.** Don't miss your chance to get this keepsake for your scholar! We only place orders based on the preorders so that we don't waste school funds. Please order your yearbook in advance.

School Volunteers:

We appreciate all family members who have been volunteering in our Main Office, in 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! If you are already an approved PPS volunteer, you are welcome to come to campus any day of the week when your schedule permits, and we will find a way that you can help on campus! The periods from 11:30AM-2:00PM and 3:00PM-3:45PM are most needed for Lunch recess help and Office assistance! **[Sign up to Volunteer!](#)** **[We want your help \(especially during Lunches or in the Main Office in the afternoons\)!](#)**

No Cell Phone Policy:

Please help remind and reinforce our “No Cell Phone” policy during the school day in your discussions at home. This means that we ask that Scholars either leave phones at home or put them in their lockers during the day so that they are not a temptation. If a Scholar has a phone out in class or around campus during the school day, it is confiscated and held in the office. If a Scholar has three or more violations already this year, we will ask a Parent/Guardian to pick up the phone to help reinforce expectations. Please remember that Scholars do not have access to their phones during the day, and refrain from calling and/or texting them. If you need to get an urgent message to your Scholar, you may call the Office at 503-916-5690 or send an email to westsylvanoffice@pps.net.

Run a club! Family Volunteers to Run Clubs on Fridays!

We had our first several days of club meetings during Friday Advisory, and we are looking for PPS-approved volunteers to help run clubs with Students. If you are interested in volunteering to run a club during the Advisory class period on Fridays from 9:15AM - 9:45AM, [please complete the form here](#).

Marking Attendance through ParentVue

Families are now able to record future absences for their Students directly in ParentVUE without needing to contact the Main Office. Please remember, if a student is going to miss multiple days, it is up to the Student and/or Parent/Guardian to communicate absences with each teacher and make a plan for missing work and assignments.

If your Student is going to be Absent for a FULL DAY:

Log in to the ParentVUE website or download and open the phone application. In either case, look for the ‘Report Absence’ button to the right of your Student’s photograph. Select start date, end date, and a reason from the drop-down list. Remember to click SAVE, and you should receive a popup confirmation.

If your Student is Absent for a PARTIAL DAY:

Send an email to westsylvanoffice@pps.net with the date, times, and reason.

No internet access? Call West Sylvan’s main line at 503-916-5690 and select the Attendance option.

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:

We are submitting our application in the coming weeks to become an authorized Middle Years Programme (MYP) Middle School. If approved, we move to the final step toward Authorization. Our MYP Learner Trait for January is “**Thinkers**.” Scholars are spending this month discussing and demonstrating that trait. To find out more about the WSMS International Baccalaureate MYP authorization journey, [please visit this website!](#)



General Questions:

Office Email: westsylvanoffice@pps.net

Jerda Solonche, Administrative Assistant: jsolonche@pps.net (Staff, financial)

Kirsten Crombie, Administrative Assistant: kcrombie@pps.net (students, attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

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

- ★ **Winter MAP Benchmark Assessment Window: January, 2023**
- ★ **No School:** Monday, January 16, 2023
- ★ **Successful Schools Survey Window Opens:** Monday, January 23, 2023
- ★ **End of 1st Semester (2nd quarter) and Final Semester Grades are Submitted:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 and mailed the following week
- ★ **No School:** Friday, January 27, 2023 *Planning day for Educators
- ★ **Start of Semester 2/Quarter 3:** Monday, January 30, 2023

Enjoy your longer weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben