

January 27, 2023

Dear West Sylvan Families,

Enjoy your longer weekend! Monday marks the start of the third Quarter, and all second Quarter grades are being finalized today by Educators. Report cards will be mailed out next week. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing in Math will also conclude next week. Quarter- and Semester-long elective courses will shift starting Monday, January 30th.

WSMS has been using an improvement-science model with our Advisory implementation. Scholars have had Advisory at both the start and the end of this day this year. We've surveyed the Scholars, ninety families gave feedback to the survey, and our Educators have been surveyed about the timing of Advisory. Educators were split on their preference, and the majority of families and Scholars prefer the afternoon timing for Advisory so that they have dedicated time at the conclusion of each day to work on homework, seek help from Educators, and have clubs with their peers at the conclusion of a school day. [The Afternoon Advisory bell schedule is here](#), which we will be following **beginning Monday, January 30th** and throughout the remainder of the school year.

School Safety Education:

Throughout the coming weeks and months, our School Counselors will be re-engaging our Scholars in anti-racist, upstander, and consent lessons. These lessons will be taught to all Scholars by School Counselors in small groups during Science classes. As a school, district, and community, [we will not tolerate or accept any type of hateful act at our school](#). We value and respect everyone in our school community and believe that our diversity is what makes us stronger. Every student deserves a positive educational experience where they feel safe, secure and a sense of pride. The anti-racist, upstander, and Title IX lessons ahead will reteach and reinforce these expectations to *all* Scholars. For additional information on PPS expectations for behavior, the most updated resources can be found [here](#). We will also be reaching out to our families to engage you in conversations about school safety and student behavior.

Welcome to Mr. Azuma Bearden!

Mr. Azuma Bearden recently joined our WSMS Educator team to teach P.E. and Health. We are very happy to have Mr. Bearden with us at WSMS, and we look forward to his work with our Scholars through P.E. and Health classes.

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!

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.

Lost & Found Donations:

We will be donating all unclaimed items from the Lost & Found again next Friday, February 3rd. The Lost & Found area is very full, and if your Scholar has lost items, please remind them to check the Lost & Found, located directly across from the Upper Gym doors.

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.

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 to 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 clubs, and we are looking for PPS-approved volunteers to help run clubs with Students during our Advisory class period on Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering from 3:15PM - 3:45PM on Fridays to run a club, [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:

[ralmeida@pps.net]

[jihunt@pps.net]

7th Grade:

[kaabney@pps.net]

[bkeller@pps.net]

8th Grade:

[rcohen@pps.net]

[jihunt@pps.net]

Counselor: Ricky Almeida

Administrators: Jill Hunt

Ben Keller [bkeller@pps.net]

Counselor: Kandice Abney

Administrator: Ben Keller

Counselor: Rebecca Cohen

Administrator: Jill Hunt

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:** Friday, January 27, 2023 *Planning day for Educators
- ★ **Start of Semester 2/Quarter 3:** Monday, January 30, 2023
- ★ **Black History Month:** February
- ★ **No School:** Friday, February 17th *Educator planning day

Enjoy your longer weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben