

February 3, 2023

Dear West Sylvan Families,

February marks Black History Month! Our Black Student Union (an Equity Affinity scholar group), and our Leadership classes are actively planning ways to celebrate Black excellence throughout the month. Additionally, our Affinity Scholar groups have partnered with the organization Black Excellence to roll out a celebration campaign throughout the month. Each week there will be highlights and celebrations, outlined with the messaging below:

- *You belong.**
- *You are valued.**
- *You are loved.**
- *You are able.**
- *You are excellent.**



Gratitude for our Families:

Thank you to our Families for your continued support of our Educators and First Friday luncheons. These Fridays are a bright spot in every month and are greatly appreciated!

Team Response Update:

A Team Response is a signal we use to keep all Scholars in classes and to signal that we are responding to an immediate need in the building where we do not want other Scholars to interact with that situation. We called a team response on Wednesday when a Scholar, who was no longer enrolled at WSMS, was accidentally brought to WSMS by a DHS worker. The Scholar became very upset at the adult mistake, and BPD was called when the Scholar could not be contained calmly to a single space on campus. Prior to BPD's arrival, the Scholar was able to de-escalate and was able to wait calmly for the DHS worker to pick up and take the Scholar to the correct school.

Grades:

Semester report cards are in the mail. Second semester brings new opportunities for growth and learning and continued success and improvement.

Supporting our ISC Team:

Our ISC (Intensive Skills Class) in special education, has initiated a GoFundMe project, and the description is here: [ISC Learning & Sensory Needs Smorgasbord](#).

The students in our intensive skills center have profoundly unique and exceptional ways of learning, communicating, and experiencing the world. They need access to sensory tools before they can fully engage and learn.

Connectivity Interruptions with District Devices:

Throughout the week, the [OTIS department in PPS](#) has been trying to address district-wide interruptions with our wi-fi and District-issued devices (Scholars' chromebooks and Educators' devices). This has impacted our attempts to complete MAP testing and deliver various instructional items throughout the District. We are hopeful that the issues will be resolved soon, and that our Scholars and Educators can resume use of devices without interruptions.

School Safety Education:

Next week, our School Counselors will be re-engaging our Scholars in anti-racist, upstander, and consent lessons, beginning with our 8th graders. [These lessons will be taught](#) to all Scholars by School Counselors in small groups during Science classes. For additional information on PPS expectations for behavior, the most updated resources can be found [here](#).

2023-2024 PPS District Calendar:

PPS has shared out the [approved calendar](#) for next school year for your planning purposes.

8th Grade-Specific Items:

- Scholars should have received notification at home in Winter about next year's High School assignment. Assignments are based on families' current address. Should families believe there is an error in the High School assignment, contact the [Enrollment and Transfer office](#).
- [LHS forecasting](#) is open for those Scholars who are in LHS boundaries. The forecasting is due by February 6th.

Interactive Course Guide**4-year plan**

Check out the [FAQ](#)

How To Enter Your Forecasting in Synergy Video

StudentVue Link: [PPS StudentVue](#)

LHS Counseling Website

- Ida B. Wells Forecasting for 23-24: About 30 of our current 8th graders are in the boundaries to attend Ida B. Wells for High School next year. The forecasting items are here for these families.
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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 collecting all unclaimed items from the Lost & Found today, **Friday, February 3rd**, for donation. Many announcements have been made to Scholars to remind them, and there are a ton of items still unclaimed. The Lost & Found is visible and accessible throughout the day to all Scholars and is 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. We have a few extra days to finish MAP make-up testing due to District-wide issues with wi-fi and internet access over the last week. The OTIS PPS team is working hard to resolve the network disruptions that have affected the entire School District.

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 11:00AM-1:30PM and 2:45PM-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:	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 schedule a review 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 February is "**Communicators**." 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:

- ★ **Black History Month:** February
- ★ **No School:** Friday, February 17th *Educator planning day
- ★ **No School:** Monday, February 20th, Presidents Day
- ★ **Spring Break, No School:** Monday, March 27 - Friday, March 31st, 2023

Enjoy your weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben