

December 9, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

As we close out the final weeks of December, we continue to be grateful for all of our families and your trust in our school team to support your Scholars. We are halfway through the second quarter. The best way to stay connected to your Scholar's academic progress is to check Canvas and to communicate with Educators if there are questions.

On Thursday evening our WSMS Choir and Band Musicians had their first formal opportunity to perform for a live audience on our campus in several years! We thank all of our Scholars for their amazing performances, and we are especially grateful for Band Director Denley Arce and Choir Director Lindsey Wildman. We had a packed house for the showcase of talent on display Thursday! Enjoy the show [here](#) if you could not attend!

On Friday we rolled out our first day of clubs for all Scholars. In an effort to give our Scholars more chances to connect with each other through shared interests, each Educator, Counselor, Administrator, and some Volunteers all hosted clubs during the Advisory class period at the end of the day. The goal is to devote time each month on Fridays to continue with this bonding opportunity to create and foster new connections between Scholars. We want to bring some fun to Middle School!

Our Eighth Graders also went on their trip to Lincoln High School on Friday! They all had an opportunity to visit the remodeled campus and get a glimpse of the future. We are grateful that LHS hosted this event and planned a fun morning of visits and an assembly for our Scholars.



Appreciations?

If you would like to share a kind note of appreciation with any staff member, please [share here](#).

WSMS 2022-2023 Yearbook Orders:

Each year our Yearbook class, with Educator Mr. Gilley, creates the school yearbook. Go to yearbookordercenter.com, and enter code **6339** to order the 2022-23 yearbook. 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! Check out the latest Yearbook class video [here](#)!

Holiday Gift Drive Time!

It is time for our annual Holiday gift card drive. Donations go directly to West Sylvan Families in need. To purchase gift cards virtually click the link below. Email and print cards can be sent to Mr. Almeida at ralmeida@pps.net. Shipped cards can be sent directly to the Counseling Office. Please leave a note with the name of your Student and their Advisory Teacher.

***[Click Here to Order Gift Cards Virtually](#)

Physical gift cards or cash can be dropped off with your Student's Counselor, or at the Main Office or with their Advisory Teacher. Email Mr. Almeida with any questions at ralmeida@pps.net. Physical Gift Card Ideas: Target, Fred Meyer, Wal-Mart, Safeway, New Seasons, Starbucks, Best Buy

Last Call for West Sylvan Winter Warmth Drive Announcement from the WSMS Ethics Class:

We have an update on the Winter Warmth Drive contest! Sixth and Seventh Grades are tied for first place with 158 points each! Eighth Grade is in third place with 79 points.

- Sixth graders are donating new socks
- Seventh graders are donating like-new or new warm hats or scarves
- Eighth graders are donating like-new or new mittens or gloves.

This school-wide competition will support the Salvation Army West Women's and Children's Shelter for women and children struggling with domestic violence and the Portland Public Schools Clothing Closet helping students in need. Donations continue to be collected through next week. Thank you for helping those in need this Winter!

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

We are looking for PPS-approved volunteers to help run clubs with Students during Advisory period on Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering 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.

Family Activities:

If anyone is looking for a fun family activity this holiday season, the **Portland Panto Players** will be performing Peter Pan - the Musical Panto at the Alberta Abbey theater between December 10 and 18.

Current West Sylvan 8th Grader, Lily Mather, and West Sylvan Alum, Noah Clark, are both part of Portland Panto Players. Panto is a British holiday tradition and hugely popular in the UK with lots of popular songs, audience interaction and some "wink-wink jokes" for the adults.

This will be their fourth show and they are fast becoming a new holiday tradition for Portland audiences having sold out almost all prior shows. Tickets and more information available at Portlandpantoplayers.com

West Sylvan families and friends can Use promo code "**WestSylvan**" to get a \$3 per ticket discount. Hope to see you at the show!

Bus Expectations for Success:

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 while on the bus.

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. There are video cameras on each bus, and we request videos to investigate misbehavior so that Scholars and Families can be involved in correcting the issues.

School Volunteers:

We 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! 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 11:15AM-1:30PM and 2:30PM-3:45PM are most needed for Lunch recess help and Office assistance! [**Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during Lunches or in the Main Office in the afternoons\)!**](#)

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 December is “**Balanced.**” Scholars are spending this month discussing and demonstrating that trait. Our Educator team 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 High 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>. There is a deadline for applications, so please apply early if you are requesting a high school outside of your address boundaries.

8th Grade Families Interested in Benson H.S.?

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

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 limited supply of extra Chromebooks to loan out for individual class periods when our Scholars forget their devices at home. We currently have a lot of Chromebooks out for repair, and prioritize those students' need for loaners. Please remind your scholar to bring their charged device to school each day.

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 (students, attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

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

- ★ **Drama Performance:** Friday, December 16th at WSMS Lower Gym Stage: Donations for admission
- ★ **Winter Break:** Monday, December 19-Monday, January 2, 2023 (WSMS Offices/School Closed)
- ★ **No School:** Monday, January 16, 2023
- ★ **End of 1st Semester (2nd quarter) and Final Semester Grades are Submitted:** Thursday, January 26, 2023
- ★ **No School:** Planning day for Educators, Friday, January 27, 2023

Enjoy your weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben