

January 21, 2022

## Happy Friday West Sylvan Families,

With the end of the first semester just a week away, we look forward to a strong finish for our scholars as we wrap up our first cycle of grades for the 21-22 school year! As we have watched many of our neighboring schools and school districts transition to remote learning temporarily, we continue to be grateful for the hard work of our families and our educators to help keep us safely learning from our campus. As was recently voted on by our PPS School Board, there are two upcoming dates where scholars do not have school, the previously planned educator grading date of Friday, January 28th and the new addition of Monday, January 31st, which will be a climate and professional development day for educators on campuses. Campus will be closed on both dates.

We thank all of our families for all that you are doing to perform daily health screenings of your scholars! Please continue to keep scholars home when you may have health concerns. Please be sure that you are notifying our attendance office directly about absences, whether COVID-19 related, or otherwise. The quarantine period for a positive COVID-19 case has been reduced to 5 days, with the first date of symptoms counting as "day 0." Assuming that a scholar has been fever-free for 24 hours after the five days, they are cleared to return to campus. Educators can be contacted via email to see how to access missed assignments remotely while absent.



### Test to Stay Program

The Test-to-Stay program is in action. If your family has yet to complete the consent forms [here](#), please complete them and either scan them to [nhartman@mesd.k12.or.us](mailto:nhartman@mesd.k12.or.us) or have your scholar return them to the attendance office window. If a consent form is completed, any unvaccinated, non-symptomatic scholar who may have been exposed to an individual with a positive COVID-19 result on campus could test to stay on campus. We would give the BinaxNOW rapid nasal swab test on campus to non-symptomatic scholars who could have been in close contact with someone on campus with a positive COVID-19 test, and pending a negative result, scholars would return to class, rather than automatically being advised to quarantine at home. There would be one more necessary test on campus within 5-7 days from the initial close contact, also. [Here](#) is more information.

### OHSU COVID-19 Screening Kit Information

An easy and free way to test weekly! Due to the short week next week, screening kits will go home on Wednesday 1/26, rather than Thursday. For this week only, they should be returned with the saliva sample on Thursday morning. Test kits are for non-symptomatic home screening only. Especially while tests are hard to find in stores, this is an easy and free way to have your scholars tested weekly for your own family's knowledge. Scholars will do the saliva test at home and return the kits the following day at the Main Office. OHSU picks up the kits the day after distribution, processes them, and sends results directly to families. Scholars may drop off signed forms to our attendance window, or families can scan and send them via email to [jsolonche@pps.net](mailto:jsolonche@pps.net). If you haven't signed up and are still interested, the forms are below.

Consent forms to sign and return to West Sylvan:

- [OHSU Weekly Screening Authorization Form](#)

• [General Consent School Opt-In Form](#)

### **Uploading Proof of Vaccinations**

Families can also upload their scholars' vaccination status when they complete the yearly registration verification processes. Directions to upload items are [here](#) for ParentVUE. When families have items uploaded, this information shows up in ParentVUE under the documents tab on the scholar page for internal administrative review.

### **Notes of Appreciation?**

Thank you to the families who have submitted notes to WSMS team members! These notes really do brighten the days of our educators! If you have a kind note to share, we'd love your feedback [here](#) to celebrate the ways in which WSMS adults support your scholars and your families! A little appreciation goes a long way and can really uplift someone's day!

### **Educator Welcomes**

One of our beloved math educators, Ms. Katy Yarlott, needs to be home with family and will be on leave for the remainder of the school year. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Bruce Morrison to the WSMS 6th grade team to take over Ms. Yarlott's classes. Mr. Morrison will collaborate with Ms. Yarlott to help with the transition, and we look forward to continuing to foster our 6th graders' love of math under Mr. Morrison's guidance.

### **Yearbooks: LAST CALL!**

Our Yearbook staff is still collecting pictures for this year's issue. Did you know it's easy to share photos to be included in the Yearbook? Just go to [hjeshare.com](http://hjeshare.com) and enter the code sylvan22 to upload your photos (use all lower case for the code). MASKS OFF please. We want to see our scholars' shining faces in the yearbook! Be sure to accurately label each photo with the scholar's name and grade. There's no guarantee every photo will be included in the book, but we will try our best. [Tutorial for using eShare](#). [Tutorial for using eShare from your phone](#).

All sales of yearbooks will be pre-ordered directly through an outside company. Yearbooks will not be purchased through the school. If you do not preorder, we will likely run out of yearbooks, and there will be no opportunity to get one later in the year, as the company only prints a set number of copies, which are determined through preorders. To order your yearbook, go to [yearbookordercenter.com](http://yearbookordercenter.com) and enter code 6339. Yearbooks are \$35 currently. We want all of our scholars to have a visual memory of their time back on campus during the 21-22 school year.

### **8th Grade Promotion Planning**

Thank you to anyone who indicated an interest in helping plan the 8th grade promotion! Mark your calendar now for the evening of June 9th for a culminating promotion at Lincoln HS. In past years, there was a PPS year-end culminating activity at Oaks Park. This is not allowed for the 21-22 year through our schools due to the unknowns related to COVID-19. Parties and events sponsored by our WSMS Foundation, however, could still proceed. Anyone interested in either helping plan events, set up events, or simply donate to help purchase items to make 8th grade promotion special for our 8th graders is encouraged to complete this interest [form](#). We will start meeting in February, 2022. All details related to specifics about the evening of June 9th are still pending and are dependent on COVID-19 protocols and restrictions.

### **WSMS Foundation**

Please support our WSMS Foundation! Every contribution helps our school by allowing us to fund educational opportunities and events for your scholars! Please consider donating to WSMS Foundation to help support important instructional additions for our scholars in the coming school year. Every donation helps!

You can donate and find out more information about our WSMS Foundation and their amazing work for our scholars [here](#). Also follow them on Instagram @west.sylvan.foundation and check out our West Sylvan students in their school, sports, performances, events...

If you have a scholar event, announcements related to scholars and their achievements, or you'd like to advertise let us know. Email Lisette Crepeaux at [thecrepeauxs@gmail.com](mailto:thecrepeauxs@gmail.com).

### **Daily Loaner Laptops for Scholars**

We have a very limited (five!) supply of loaner laptops when scholars forget their laptops at home. Please help remind our scholars to take their school laptop to and from school each day.

### **WSMS Drama Production 2022**

We are so pleased to announce that Kacey CdeBaca will be working with our talented scholars to audition for and put on a spring play for 2022! Auditions will begin February 7th, with a free audition workshop held the week before auditions. More information can be found on the flyer [here](#) or you can email [dramawestsylvan@gmail.com](mailto:dramawestsylvan@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **Help with Cell Phones**

Our catch phrase that we use at WSMS regarding cell phones during the school day is, "Out of sight and away, unless we say." There are times when scholars may need to access their devices for family reasons or even in instructional settings, and we encourage speaking with an adult if such a need arises. Also, several families have had concerns with their scholars' use of cell phones throughout the day for non-instructional reasons. Some families have inquired about apps that can restrict various features on cell phones for scholars throughout the day so that they are not on social media and are not tempted to engage with others through social media platforms. Here are some tips we have given families: NY Times Article: [The Best Apps for Managing Your Kids Phone](#); [Support for Apple](#); [Support Google](#); [Family Time Article & Tips](#); [Verizon Support](#). We will continue to remind scholars of this expectation throughout their school day.

### **Food Service and Lunches**

Breakfast and lunches continue to be free for all scholars throughout the year. As the temperatures have dropped, all scholars who want to remain indoors have indoor options for both eating and their free time during lunch. After eating, there are several alternate locations scholars spread out in such as the library, the lower gym, classrooms for lunch clubs, and our outdoor patio spaces. Regardless of the temperature, many scholars still feel most comfortable both eating outdoors and remaining outdoors throughout recess to engage in outdoor play. Please encourage your scholar to dress for the weather if they are choosing to play outdoors in colder temperatures. Understanding that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to this unstructured lunch time, we are allowing scholars to choose indoors or outdoors, assuming that it is not pouring down rain.

### **Picking Up Scholars**

Per Oregon law, *an approved adult is required to sign out any scholar who leaves campus*. Our office has been experiencing heavy family traffic prior to our 3:45pm dismissal, due to daily early pick-ups. If possible, we ask that you do not pick up your scholar between 3:00pm-3:45pm as you will not find parking, and our office staff is limited in the afternoons. Any planning around that time frame is appreciated.

Scholar Counseling Supports:

6th Grade: Counselor: Kandice Abney: [kaabney@pps.net](mailto:kaabney@pps.net) &

Administrator: Ben Keller, [bkeller@pps.net](mailto:bkeller@pps.net)

7th Grade: Counselor: Rebecca Cohen: [rcohen@pps.net](mailto:rcohen@pps.net) &

Administrator: Evening Krauel, [ekrauel@pps.net](mailto:ekrauel@pps.net)

8th Grade: Counselor, Ricky Almeida: [ralmeida@pps.net](mailto:ralmeida@pps.net) &

Administrator: Jill Hunt, [jihunt@pps.net](mailto:jihunt@pps.net)

General Questions:

Jerda Solonche, Principal's Secretary: [jsolonche@pps.net](mailto:jsolonche@pps.net) (faculty, school business)

Kirsten Crombie, Secretary: [kcrombie@pps.net](mailto:kcrombie@pps.net) (scholar/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, help with scholar laptops, withdrawals)

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

End of 2nd Qtr/1st Semester: January 27th (final day for grades)

No School for Scholars/Educator Professional Planning Day: Friday, January 28th

No School for Scholars: January 31st, School Climate and Educator PD Day

2nd Semester/3rd Quarter Begins: February 1, 2022. Some classes may change due to changes in quarter-based electives, educator changes and class size balancing.

**Enjoy the weekend! Go Wolfpack!**

Jill, Ben and Evening