

## Happy New Year, West Sylvan Families!

We are so happy to all be back together after the winter break! We hope that you all had a joyful and peaceful time together. We started this week with Advisory lessons every morning to reestablish community, to review our WSMS strategies for success, and to get back into the routines of being at school after a couple of weeks away. There are just a few weeks left in the quarter prior to finishing second quarter grades. We are encouraging all of our scholars to do their very best to achieve at their personal level of success this quarter. If absent due to illness, please call our attendance line and also contact your scholar's educators to see how to make up work after the absence.

Just prior to winter break, our WSMS Choir joined forces with the Lincoln choirs for a winter performance. If you haven't seen it, you can view a short description of the evening on [YouTube](#) and see performances [here](#).



### Notes of Appreciation?

Thank you to the families who have submitted some 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 WSMS adults support your scholars and your families! A little appreciation goes a long way and can really uplift someone's day!

### Yearbooks

Our Yearbook staff is starting to collect 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. To order your yearbook, go to [yearbookordercenter.com](http://yearbookordercenter.com) and enter code 6339. Yearbooks are \$30 currently, but the price will go up after January 15th. We want all of our scholars to have a visual memory of their time back on campus during the 21-22 school year.

### Test to Stay Program

We launched the Test to Stay program on Wednesday. If your family has yet to complete the consent form [here](#), please complete and either scan them to [nhartman@mesd.k12.or.us](mailto:nhartman@mesd.k12.or.us) or have your scholar

return them to the school's Main 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 are not fully vaccinated and could have been in close contact with someone on campus with a positive COVID-19 test. 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 Screening Kit Information**

PPS has partnered with OHSU to arrange for weekly COVID-19 screening test kits, which arrived just before the Fall break. Test kits are for non-symptomatic home screening only. We are distributing these once a week on Thursdays, during the last few minutes of 7th period, to all scholars who opted-in to the program and submitted completed consent forms. 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). Testing kits will be distributed to participating scholars once a week on Thursdays. Scholars will do the saliva test at home the next morning and return the kits on Friday morning at the Main Office. OHSU picks up the kits each Friday, processes them, and sends results directly to families. 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.

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

We have a very limited (less than 10) supply of loaner laptops for use when scholars forget their laptops at home. Please help remind our scholars to take their \*fully charged\* school laptop to and from school each day.

### **ID Cards**

All scholars who took a school picture should have their new school ID card on a lanyard with a protective case. We are asking scholars to wear their IDs throughout the day while on campus. This is helpful to quickly identify our scholars throughout the building. Also, the IDs assist with checking out materials in the library and during lunchtime, they help staff know who they are seeing in the hallways, and they will assist our transportation team to identify scholars as they enter and exit buses (if they ride transportation). Carrying a form of ID is a safety measure we will be encouraging with all scholars as we start 2022 together. Please help reinforce this safety practice at home of carrying an ID.

### **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! The flyer is [here](#).

## **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;](#)

## **8th Grade Promotion Planning**

We are seeking interested volunteers to help plan our final culminating event, promotion, for our 8th graders. 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 <https://forms.gle/Gi3NaW3dNDFK8fNK8>. We will start meeting in 2022. All details related to dates, locations and activities are still pending.

## **WSMS Foundation**

Please support our WSMS Foundation! Every contribution helps our school by allowing us to fund important staff positions, as well as educational opportunities for your scholars! We had funding for two important foreign languages, Mandarin and Arabic, cut last year. Contributions to our WSMS Foundation could help us bring these language teachers back for the 22-23 school year.

Additionally, we'd like to have a full-time choir director for next year. All of the success of our choir this year was possible due to donated time by the Lincoln Choir Director, Lisa Riffel, and the support of the Lincoln High School team. Please consider donating to WSMS Foundation to help support these important instructional additions for our scholars in the coming school year. Funds raised this school year will be used to support instructional needs for your scholars for the 22-23 school year.

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).

## **School COVID updates**

We made it two months without a positive COVID-19 case reported on campus, but have confirmed four new individuals who have tested positive since the winter break. The upside with the recent reports is that there are very few to no "close contacts" needing to quarantine since many scholars are fully vaccinated. Our standard operating procedure is to notify everyone when a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed through MESD, even if your scholar was not a close contact. Sharing a class does not meet the threshold for being a close contact. We depend on families to self-report to our office in a timely manner when there is a positive COVID-19 case in the family. When a positive COVID-19 case is reported, the

following may prevent a scholar from being identified as needing to quarantine, which is why it's so important that we all continue to be safe:

Being fully vaccinated  
Wearing a mask correctly and consistently  
Practicing appropriate physical distancing

Though the CDC recently advised that a 5 day quarantine was acceptable, we are still following the 10 day guidelines in Oregon, until local health authorities determine otherwise. Anyone asked to quarantine is advised to stay home for 10 days from the date of the exposure when they are not fully vaccinated. If fully vaccinated, scholars and staff who are symptom-free are not required to quarantine. In addition to assigned classwork to complete remotely, this PPS website has been created with a variety of resources for continued remote learning [here](#), in the case of a recommended quarantine.

### **Food Services 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**

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 avoid picking up your scholar between 3:15pm-3:45pm as 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:

Schools Closed for MLK Jr. Holiday: January 17th

End of 2nd Qtr/1st Semester: January 27th

No School for Scholars/Educator PD Day: January 28th

New Semester/Qtr 3 Begins: January 31st, Classes may change, depending on educators' schedules and electives for some scholars

Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben