

June 3rd, 2022

Happy Friday West Sylvan Middle School Families,

It's hard to believe that we have one final week in the 2021-22 school year, and we are so happy that we have all made it together in-person throughout this exceptional year! Statewide testing deadlines were extended to June 10th to allow for make- up testing from absences, so final testing is still wrapping up in the coming week for some Math and Science classes. Initial locker cleanouts occurred this week, and we have sent home these permission slips just for current 6th and 7th graders who wish to keep their chromebook over the Summer. Current 6th and 7th graders may only keep their Chromebooks over the Summer break with a signed permission slip. All other Chromebooks will be collected next week and sent for any repairs over the summer break. Various grades will have culminating activities next week as we finalize our year together. The following events are *just* for WSMS scholars and are happening thanks to the West Sylvan Foundation:

- **Tonight: 7th Grade Neon Nights Glow Party sponsored by WSMS Foundation:** Friday, June 3rd in WSMS Gym from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sign up at the link [here](#), and pay in advance to attend. Please recruit a parent friend or two (or three) and sign up [here](#) to help host our first in-person 7th Grade community event! *These events are only for WSMS scholars.*
- **8th Grade Oaks Park Field Trip** (rides) on Wednesday, June 8th, chaperoned by Educators and Administrators. **Parent chaperones are still needed for this OAKS PARK field trip. Sign up here.** Scholars who choose to attend will bus to Oaks Park from campus and return by dismissal. Scholars will need to be in good standing (no suspensions, referrals to administrators, patterns of unexcused absences, etc.) to attend. This is a fun privilege, not an automatic right. **Permission slips** went home with students last week, and must be signed and returned to the school or the student will not be allowed to attend. If you did not see the permission slip, you may download a copy [here](#).
- **6th Grade Skate Party** hosted by the West Sylvan Foundation! Wednesday, June 8th, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the [Oaks Park Roller Rink](#). *These events are only for WSMS scholars.*
- **8th Grade Graduation Party at Oaks Park** hosted by the West Sylvan Foundation! This will be an **optional** evening event for our 8th graders hosted by our Foundation at Oaks Park on the evening of Friday, June 10th. Families will have to self-transport for this event, as it is a Foundation-sponsored event. Sign up at [this link](#), where more information can be found for those who want to participate. Parents sign up [here](#) to help with the event. *These events are only for WSMS scholars.*



***Pictured above are performers from classes with Jessica Hollyfield-Melz.

COVID-19 Updates

We continued to have daily reports this week of positive COVID-19 cases, leaving scholars and staff members home for five days from the onset of symptoms (with the first day counting as day zero). For any scholars who are home, we encourage you to check class Canvas pages, and to email Educators for any work that can be done remotely. In total, we had 20 reported cases this week confirmed by our MESD partners, which include both staff and student reports. While local and school guidance has not changed at this time, you can review the best practices to stay safe and keep your scholars safe [here](#), and **masking is recommended**.

Counseling Supports

If your scholars are feeling anxious about the summer vacation break, please encourage them to speak with a counselor. Counselors will be unavailable throughout the summer months due to their contractual vacation period. Their last day will be June 10th.

For 8th Grade Families:

- **Promotion Announcements:** You should have received a Save the Date card to the address that we have in our Synergy records.
- **Promotion Yard Signs:** Signs were offered to 8th graders as they left school on Wednesday. Many opted not to pick one up, so if your 8th grader came home without a sign, they may have chosen not to pick one up. There are many signs still left in the Main Office, if you would like to override that decision.
- **Promotion Tickets:** Each family will have four tickets, which will be given to your Scholar by their 7th period Teacher and sent home on Monday 6/6. Should you be unable to attend or do not need all four tickets, you are welcome to give them to other families who may want the additional tickets. The school office will not have the capacity to manage those exchanges.
- **8th Grade Promotion** is at Lincoln High School on Thursday, June 9th at 6 p.m. Each scholar will receive **four** guest tickets for family members, due to limited capacity.

For Families with 5th Graders Coming to WSMS in 2022-23:

We shared a slidedeck of similar information on our WSMS website so that anyone who could not attend the evening sessions could also review the information. For a preview “walk-thru” of West Sylvan’s building, you can view a new **virtual tour** [here](#). Thank you to one of our WSMS Foundation parents, Giovanni Cafiso, for creating this virtual tour!

Mr. Almeida will be the Counselor working directly with 6th graders in the 2022-23 school year. If you have questions about classes or support for 6th grade, please email Mr. Almeida at ralmeida@pps.net. Mr. Almeida is currently the Counselor for our 8th graders, so please give him time to respond, as he has a very full and busy schedule wrapping up the year with our current 8th graders.

Host Family Needed for an Arabic Educator for 22-23 School Year:

We are still looking for a family willing to host the Educator, who is coming from Egypt, and will be joining the WSMS team. Through American Councils, the Educator is given a living stipend of approximately \$1000/month to pay for living accommodations, if hosted by a private family. There would be two separate needs:

1. A host family to provide a comfortable space for the Educator to stay for a short-term stay during the first two weeks upon arrival in the U.S. while we secure housing (arriving on August 11, 2022).
2. A host family to provide a room for the Educator for the school year (August-June, 2023) and possibly help with transportation needs to and from WSMS for work, as the Educator would not have their own transportation.

If you are interested in being a host family in one or both of these capacities and would like more information, please fill out the form [here](#).

Chromebook Laptop Updates:

Due to end of year collection, we will no longer be sending off chromebooks for repairs, and we will not be giving out loaners to take home. Any chromebooks in need of repair should be turned in to Ms. Crombie in the Office, and scholars will be issued a new chromebook in the Fall. Current 6th and 7th graders were given a permission slip to bring home for you to sign and return if your scholar will be keeping their chromebook over summer. Permission slips are available from the Main Office, if it was not shared with you.

West Sylvan Handbook 2022-23

The new West Sylvan Handbook for the 2022-23 school year is updated and can be found [here](#). Please review all of the information with your student(s) prior to returning to school on August 30th, 2022. Thank you!

Campus Closed for Summer Dates:

Starting on **Monday, June 13th**, campus will be closed to the public. Educators have a few contractual days to work on final grading and end-of-year items *in private*, and the building will not be open to visitors. We will also have some remodeling of our ISC special education classroom occurring over summer, so the building will be partially taken over by construction. Additionally, all office staff leaves for summer by June 24th. Phones will not be answered in their absence, as the offices are closed during the summer months. Staff will return messages and emails beginning in August. Counselors and Educators will be on Summer break until school resumes for Educators on August 24th. Administrators work sporadically throughout the summer months, as there is also allotted vacation time. Emails will be the best way to reach out for questions over summer, and thank you for your patience in understanding the summer break allowance after a very challenging school year.

Interested in Volunteering and Being More Involved?

Become an approved PPS volunteer by following the information [here](#). Our Library and classrooms are spaces where we can use family volunteers through the end of the school year, **especially during our lunch period of time from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. each day**. The Library can use help from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily. Once your application is approved, please contact the Main Office to see how and when you can be of service.

As we continue to plan for next school year, we are hopeful that we can have more families involved in regular school activities such as volunteering on campus, taking part in our **West Sylvan Foundation**, and serving on **School Site Council** and **School Climate Committees**. If you may be interested in having a voice in one or more of these school groups, please sign up [here](#). Also, the [22-23 PPS approved calendar](#) is here for your future planning. We are still waiting to hear about whether the first day of school will be a day when all scholars attend, or if there will be a modified schedule to allow 6th graders an orientation day on their own prior to the rest of our scholars joining for the the start of the year.

Student Chromebooks For Summer:

Thank you for everyone's help with the new One-to-One chromebooks this year. It is now time to inventory/return/repair them. Please read the section below that pertains to your students' grade level:

8th Graders:

All eighth grade students will turn in their WSMS chromebooks and chargers on Wednesday, June 8th. They will receive PPS chromebooks next fall at Lincoln High School, or any other PPS High School they attend. Please have your students remove any stickers, drawings, art work, etc. before returning their device. Lysol wipes seem to work well for this task. If the chromebooks are broken, please tell the folks collecting the chromebooks.

6th and 7th Graders:

If your child needs their chromebook over the summer, please fill out the permission slip and return it to Ms. Crombie in the Office. Please read the information/responsibility sheet carefully. If you and your student are not willing to abide by these responsibilities, please have your student turn in their chromebooks and chargers on the following days: Monday, June 6th for sixth graders; Tuesday, June

7th for seventh graders.

Any school-issued chromebooks that are kept without turning in a permission slip will be deactivated by PPS and will not be functional during the Summer.

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

Pride Month: June

7th Grade WSMS Foundation Sponsored Event: Friday, June 3rd in the WSMS Gym (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

8th Grade Field Trip to Oaks Park: Wednesday, June 8th (during school hours)

6th Grade Oaks Park 80s Skate Party: Sponsored by WSMS Foundation on Wednesday, June 8th 7-9 p.m.

8th Grade Promotion: Thursday, June 9th 6 p.m. at Lincoln HS

Final School Day 21-22: Friday, June 10th (grades finalized by the next week)

8th Grade WSMS Foundation Sponsored Oaks Park Party: June 10th (evening)

All: [22-23 PPS approved calendar](#) is here for your future planning.

MYP News:

We are excited to be gaining momentum again in our professional development goals toward eventually being an authorized IB Middle Years Programme. [Please visit this slide deck for more updates on WSMS MYP implementation.](#) MYP lessons and units focus on inquiry, discussion, analysis, critique and defense of work, critical thinking, investigation projects, and performance-based assessments. Developing the MYP Learner Profile means an emphasis on teaching scholars to be inquirers, knowledgeable, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, educational risk-takers, balanced and reflective learners. Our families can also learn more about our work toward MYP authorization [here](#). We look forward to advancing our work at WSMS and applying for authorization in 22-23! Thank you to our WSMS Foundation for fundraising and supporting the staffing needs that help us continue to make progress toward becoming an approved MYP school program.

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).

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.”** **For the 2022-23 school year, we are revising our cell phone policy to address the constant issues with phones as distractions in the learning setting.** Any additional monitoring you can put in place to keep an eye on your scholars’ social media activity is also greatly appreciated! There are times when scholars may need to access their devices for family reasons or even in instructional settings, and they should speak 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. We will continue to

remind scholars of this expectation throughout their school day. If scholars post inappropriate content on social media, please report the account for review and help them take down inappropriate items and shut down their access.

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](#).**

Picking Up Scholars:

Per Oregon law, *an approved adult is required to sign out any scholar* who leaves campus before the end of the school day. 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 you will not find parking, and our office staff is limited in the afternoons. Any planning around that time frame is appreciated.

Resources for Family Extended Learning, Support and Activities:

Writing Your Way:

**Summer Middle School Writing Workshop
with Oregon Writing Project Coaches--
Anabel Muñana and Jayme Causey**

In this writing workshop, Middle School students will turn their notebooks to a new page. They will locate the stories they carry, take risks in writing, learn to turn memory into fiction, fiction into poetry. They will write to a wide variety of prompts while honing their writing skills through craft lessons that build both language dexterity and knowledge of genres.

Students will join OWP writing coaches Beaumont Middle School teacher, Anabel Muñana, or Jefferson teacher, Jayme Causey in the writing journey. After reading and discussing prompts, students will write. During class time, learners will also have time to share their writing with other students and conference with the instructor to get feedback and support in their writing.

Program Details

Classes will be held from 9 am - 12 pm at Beaumont Middle School, room 140*

Session A: Tuesday-Friday, June 21-24

Session B: Monday-Friday, June 27-July 1

Cost: Free. This workshop is sponsored by Oregon Writing Project. We will hold the numbers to 15 students per session, so register early.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/mFshm9yzLL7TfrKM7>

About the Instructors

All Oregon Writing Project college workshop instructors are full-time school educators. They have completed an intensive four-week summer institute on the teaching of writing, plus three follow-up college classes that lead to the Certificate in the Teaching of Writing. These courses focus on learning effective teaching strategies, prompts, and pacing.

The **Oregon Writing Project** (OWP), is a nonprofit collaboration program between Lewis & Clark and metropolitan or rural area schools and districts, and offers programs designed to improve the writing of Oregon's K-12 students and teachers.

Please contact, OWP Director, Linda Christensen at lmc@lclark.edu if you have any questions or to sign your child up for this class.

*Please note that families will need to provide transportation to and from Beaumont Middle School, located at 4043 NE Fremont St, Portland, OR 97212. Food will not be provided. Students will be required to wear masks.

You may donate to OWP by using this donation portal to continue our work:

<https://mylc.lclark.edu/graduate/give/now> (type in "Oregon Writing Project" as the recipient for the donation).

- [PPS Summer Enrichment Opportunities](#) (multilingual)
- **Arleta Triangle Square [Community Survey](#)**
- **VIBE of Portland [Lift Youth Voices Summer Mural Project](#)**
- Bustin' Barriers [Summer Camps for Kids Experiencing Disability](#)
- Saturday Academy [Summer STEAM Camps & Classes](#)
- Portland Metro [Fire Summer Camp](#)
- Benson Tech Youth United [Multi-Sport Summer Camp](#) (FLIER UPDATED)
 - Cognizart [360 Arts Summer Camp](#)
- VIBE of Portland [Art Camps, Classes, No-School Workshops](#)
- VIBE of Portland [East Winds Summer Camp](#)
- OSU [Summer Reading Program](#)
- Multnomah Early Childhood Program ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) ([Vietnamese](#))
- Portland Parks & Recreation Preschool [2022-2023 Registration](#)

Scholar Counseling Supports (Counselors will move with grades for 22-23):

6th Grade: Counselor: Kandice Abney: kaabney@pps.net &
Administrator: Ben Keller, bkeller@pps.net

7th Grade: Counselor: Rebecca Cohen: rcohen@pps.net &
Administrator: Evening Krauel, ekrauel@pps.net

8th Grade: Counselor, Ricky Almeida: ralmeida@pps.net &
Administrator: Jill Hunt, jihunt@pps.net

General Questions:

Jerda Solonche, Principal's Administrative Assistant: jsolonche@pps.net (faculty, school business)

Kirsten Crombie, Administrative Assistant: kcrombie@pps.net (scholar/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, help with scholar laptops, withdrawals)

Notes of Appreciation?

The notes left for our Educators really do brighten a lot of days for many of our team members! 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!

Enjoy the weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Ben and Evening