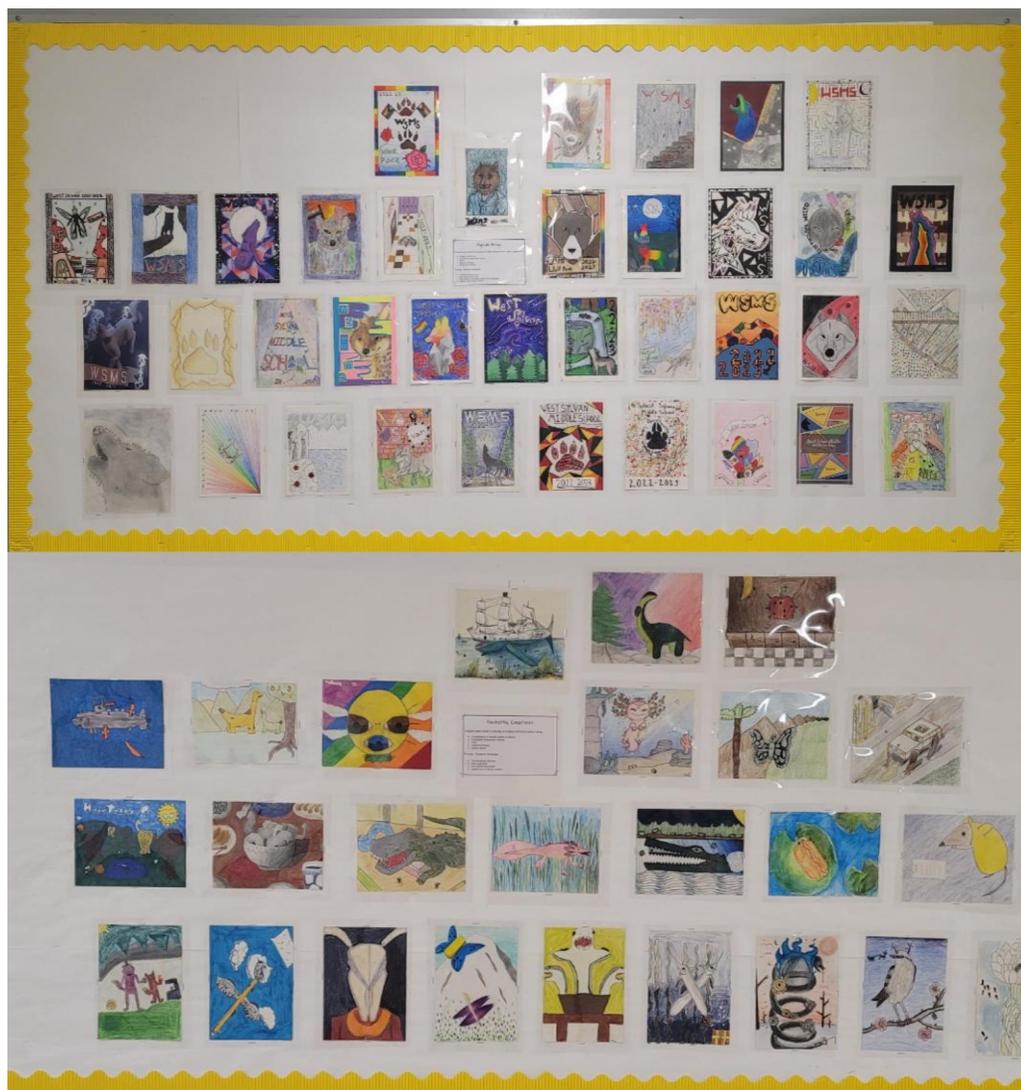


**March 18, 2022**

**Happy Friday West Sylvan Middle School Families,**

We hope that your family is looking forward to Spring Break! This Spirit Week was lots of fun, and was all for a wonderful cause. Also, our 8th graders had their first field trip in two years, when they visited Lincoln High School yesterday. They had an opportunity to see the school prior to the older buildings being demolished this summer. It was an exciting day together, and the trip has many of our scholars thinking ahead to the next step after WSMS. We wish everyone a safe week away from WSMS together. School offices will be closed to the public during the **week of March 21-25**. If you have questions or needs which arise over the break, staff will do their best to respond *after* the break is over, as the week is a non-work period for our educator team. Please enjoy the view of our scholars' drafts for next year's agenda graphics.



**Forecasting** began this last week for the 2022-23 school year elective choices for our incoming 5th graders and our current 6th and 7th graders. Our counselors have visited all of our feeder schools to explain Middle School and talk about the electives. The information is [here](#) from the message that was sent this week.

Information fliers for elective forecasting have been sent home via Block classes for current 6th graders, and via Science classes for current 7th graders. Please access the comprehensive information on the West Sylvan [website](#) under the “Forecasting 2022-23” tab (next to Quick Links).

Forecasting will close on April 8th. The district extended the deadline, but please do not wait! If no selections were chosen, we will reach out to individual scholars to inquire about their choices.

#### For 8th Grade Families:

- **8th Grade Oaks Park Trip** (rides) on Wednesday, June 8th. 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.
- **8th Grade Promotion** is at Lincoln High School on Thursday, June 9th at 6 p.m. so that you can start planning ahead. Each scholar will have two guest tickets for family members. More information will be shared as we get closer to the date.
- **WSMS Foundation Oaks Park Event for 8th graders:** This will be an optional evening event for our 8th graders hosted by our WSMS Foundation at Oaks Park on Friday, June 10th. Families will have to self-transport for this event, as it is a Foundation event. More information will be sent in the coming months for those who want to participate.
- **Yearbook** sales have ended. There are no additional yearbooks available for purchase.

#### Mark your calendar now in preparation:

**Spring Break:** March 21st-25th

**End of 3rd Quarter / Planning Day:** Friday, April 8th - No School for Scholars

**4th Quarter Begins:** Monday, April 11th *\*(some electives will change, if they are Quarter-long electives)*

**Panoramic Picture for 8th Graders:** April 12th *\*(outdoors and unmasked for those who choose to participate)*

**6th Grade Outdoor School:** May 16-17th off campus *day camps*

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

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

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

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

#### Resources for Family Extended Learning and Activities:

- Sign your scholars up for athletics! <https://www.pilathletics.com/>
- 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](#)
- OSU STEM Academy [AWSEM Club](#) (includes Spanish flyer)

#### COVID-19 Updates:

There were no positive COVID-19 cases reported this week.

### **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 thecrepeaux@gmail.com](mailto:thecrepeaux@gmail.com).

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

We no longer have a supply of daily loaner chromebooks to issue when scholars forget their chromebooks at home. Please help remind our scholars to take their \*fully charged\* PPS-issued chromebook to and from school each day. We distributed BumpArmor cases to all scholars, and we ask that you please encourage your scholar to use the case to protect and extend the life of their device.

### **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.**” 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 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. 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.

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.

### **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 Administrative Assistant: [jsolonche@pps.net](mailto:jsolonche@pps.net) (faculty, school business)

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

**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!

**Enjoy the weekend, and have a wonderful Spring Break! Go Wolfpack!**

Jill, Evening and Ben