

October 28, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope that the end of October is going well for your family! It's hard to believe that we're already nearing November! We wanted to say a big thank you to our West Sylvan Middle School Foundation, and to Mr. Denley Arce and all of the Scholar Musicians who made last Saturday a successful fundraiser event for the Music programs at WSMS! The support was certainly exceptional!



For those families who welcomed home your Sixth Graders from Outdoor School Friday, we hope that you hear wonderful stories about their time at their camps! This was the first group to experience overnight Outdoor School in several years, and we look forward to having the rest of our Sixth Graders back on Monday!

Spirit Week (at school Mon-Thurs next week):

SPIRIT WEEK

HALLOWEEN	GENERATION DAY	SPORTS DAY	COLOR WARS
<p>Wear your Halloween costume to school!!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No costume masks- No weapons 	<p>6th: Toddlers 7th: Adults 8th: Senior Citizens Staff: Middle Schoolers</p> 	<p>Dress up as your favorite sports player and support your team!</p> 	<p>Wear your grades color!</p> <p>6th grade: White 7th grade: Red 8th grade: Black</p> 
Monday Oct 31	Tuesday Nov 1	Wednesday Nov 2	Thursday Nov 3

Celebrations!

Congratulations to Arwen Danzmayr (Flute), Yui Naka (Violin) and Erin McDowell (Alto Voice), on their selections to the All State Band and Choir. To be accepted, they had to record and submit auditions. They were selected amongst hundreds of other musicians from around the state based on the quality of their auditions. From January 12-15, West Sylvan musicians who were accepted will have the opportunity to participate in intense rehearsals leading up to a concert with other accepted musicians from around the state. We celebrate all who applied for consideration for this honor!

Staffing News:



Mr. Spencer Crum, our PE and Health Educator, recently accepted an offer to become an Assistant Principal at Ockley Green Middle School in PPS. We are happy for Mr. Crum and his new role as a School Administrator within PPS. His final day at WSMS was Thursday 10/27. Our team will be interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Crum's promotion. While we search for a qualified replacement Educator, there will be substitute coverage for the PE/Health classes assigned to Mr. Crum.



Mr. Nathaniel Lee, Paraeducator, is joining the WSMS ISC team! We look forward to the additional support that Mr. Lee will bring to our Scholars in the Intensive Skills Class.

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 from 3:15PM-3:45PM on Fridays to run a club, [please complete the form here.](#)

WSMS 2022-2023 Yearbook Orders:

Each year our Yearbook class, with Educator Mr. Gilley, creates the school yearbook. Check out [this video](#) message from our Yearbook staff, go to yearbookordercenter.com, and enter code 6339 to order the 2022-23 yearbook as a memory for your scholar.

ParentVUE Yearly Verification:

Parents/Guardians are asked to review and update the information on file for their Students every year. This information can be reviewed, edited, and submitted online via the ParentVUE app.

The deadline for submitting online Yearly Verifications via ParentVUE was October 28, 2022.

Beginning Saturday, October 29, 2022, Parents/Guardians will need to complete the online verification in order to access ParentVUE. If Parents/Guardians have not submitted the online yearly verification, or have not completed the paper registration process, the following message will be seen upon login to ParentVUE:

- o *The Yearly Verification process must be complete to continue*
- o This is a hard stop to log in to ParentVUE. The only options are to click **Begin Yearly Verification** or to logout.

If you are unable to complete the Yearly Verification online, or if you have questions on using the mobile ParentVUE app, please contact the school office.

WSMS Foundation News:

Don't Miss Out! Sign-up for the West Sylvan Foundation Directory Today!

Interested in getting information about Foundation scholar and parent events, volunteering opportunities and ways to support West Sylvan? Then sign-up for the new Family Directory [here](#). It allows you to connect with the Foundation and other West Sylvan families and will begin to be the main way we share information. This is a big change from how we have communicated in previous years!

7th & 8th Grade families - many of you have not registered. There are events coming up for your scholars and registering ensures you get the information so your scholar can join the fun! Your information is not automatically entered - everyone has to do it themselves. You can also opt to just receive our emails about scholar events and Foundation activities and not share your information with others, if you choose.

Sign-up for the West Sylvan Family Directory [here](#)!

American Sign Language Morning Club :

Beginning October 27th in the Library at 8:30AM there will be a virtual club run by Lincoln High School's senior ASL students. The LHS students will meet with WSMS students over GoogleMeet to teach and practice basic ASL items, such as learning the alphabet and some simple signs. ASL is one of the languages offered at LHS, so this club could be a nice introduction to some basic ASL learning in preparation for a future class at LHS. [The poster with dates is here.](#) The teacher overseeing the students running the club is Ben Malbin, LHS Educator.

Lost and Found End of Quarter Clean Out:

With the end of the first quarter coming, it's time to clear out the Lost and Found. Any of our families who have volunteered or visited recently can attest to how full the Lost and Found is right now with many clothes, refillable water bottles, lunch packs, school supplies and all sorts of items. The Lost and Found is directly across from the upper gym, and it is visible and accessible to all Scholars each day. Anything unclaimed by Thursday, November 3rd will be donated to the WSMS Clothes Closet.

Bus Behavior:

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. 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.

School Volunteers:

Thank you to our family members who recently helped in 8th Grade classes with literature circles! We also sincerely 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!

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 October is “Principled.” Scholars are spending this month discussing and demonstrating that trait. Our Educator team just 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>

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.

- a) **8th Grade Information Night:** Benson's 8th grade night is **Wednesday, Nov.2 at 6:00PM**. We STRONGLY encourage families to attend this night. They will **NOT** be having shadow days this year so this is the **ONLY** time that students will be able to see the building, meet the teachers, etc. during the application period.
- b) [8th Grade Presentation/Flier](#)
- c) **Benson Rebuild:** In case anyone asks, Benson H.S. will be back to their location by Lloyd Center in **Fall 2024**. Only one year at the Marshall site for this current 8th grade class!

Benson Polytechnic is also inviting families to apply for their lottery, if interested.

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.

Attendance:

Parents and Guardians 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.

Reminder to Bring Charged Chromebooks and Chargers:

We have a very small supply of extra Chromebooks to loan out when our Scholars forget their devices at home. Please remind your scholar to bring their charged device to school each day so that they can use it to access MAP testing and to stay caught up.

- 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 (attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

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

- ★ School picture make-up day: **Tuesday, November 1st** **for those Students who missed the initial Picture Day in September.*
- ★ **Lincoln High School 8th Grade Open House** on **Wednesday, November 2nd**: This is an Open House **only** for 8th grade families who reside within the LHS attendance boundaries. [Additional information is here.](#) The event is from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
- ★ End of 1st Quarter (quarter classes end, and new quarter classes begin the following Monday): Thursday, November 3rd
- ★ **No school for Scholars**: Educator planning and grading day - **Friday, November 4th**
- ★ **No school for Scholars**: Optional Virtual Fall Conferences with Educators - **Monday-Tuesday, November 21-22** *(more details to follow in the coming weeks for signing up).*
- ★ **No school for Scholars and Educators**: Fall break (Offices are closed) - **Wednesday-Friday, November 23-26**

Enjoy your weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben