

November 10, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope that our families enjoy the Veterans' Day weekend. Thank you to all of our Veterans who have served! We have finished adjusting schedules for the Second Quarter. This Quarter ends at the conclusion of January, and final grades will be issued at that time. Report cards for the First Quarter have been mailed.

WSMS is participating as a partner in the [Sparrow Project](#) again this school year where our school community has the opportunity to do community service for a young child with a health condition. Our Sparrow will be introduced through the [PowerPoint here](#) next week and also through a whole school assembly next Friday morning. Given that the young child does have health challenges, we want families to have this information in advance if you may want your Scholar to opt out of the assembly. If you have concerns about your Scholar attending, please contact your School Counselor. We will have a space in the Library available for anyone who may be triggered by this Assembly.



Appreciations?

If you would like to share a kind note of appreciation with any staff member, please [share here](#).

Fall Virtual Conferences:

Fall conferences occur on Monday/Tuesday, November 21st and 22nd. Educators have sent families links to sign up for virtual conferences. These conferences are optional for families. If your Scholar(s) are doing well academically, you may not feel a need to meet with various Educators. Educators will prioritize meeting with families for Scholars who are in need of additional academic support first, and then will schedule additional conferences after those sign-ups are completed. Emails from our Educators have been sent to sign up, if you are interested.

TAG (Talented and Gifted) Identification:

We are excited to announce the TAG link has been condensed into just one form! If you are interested in exploring TAG for your child, please click [here](#) and complete the form **by 11/29/22**. Make sure to drop down to the PARENT option. If you have any questions, please email TAG coordinator Holly Graham at hgraham@pps.net. You can also visit the WSMS TAG website [here](#).

Winter Weather Clothing:

With the weather changing, please help your Scholar bring warm clothing to school along with a jacket on days when it rains. Often Scholars still want to play outdoors in the rain, and we want them to have warm clothing for the elements. Our WSMS Foundation is also starting a WSMS Clothing Closet. Should your scholar need to visit the Clothing Closet, they can see their Counselor for items. We are also accepting donations for lightly used or new clothing items that can fill the WSMS Clothes Closet.

West Sylvan Winter Warmth Drive Announcement from the WSMS Ethics Class:

Scholars in Ms. Melanie's Ethics class are proud to announce that starting November 29th and going through December 16th we are organizing a winter clothing drive called the *West Sylvan Winter Warmth Drive!*

Sixth graders will donate new socks, **seventh graders** will donate warm hats or scarves, and **eighth graders** will donate mittens or gloves.

This school-wide competition will support the Salvation Army West Women's and Children's Shelter for women and children struggling with domestic violence and the Portland Public Schools Clothing Closet helping students in need.

Socks should be new, but mittens/gloves, warm hats, and scarves can be lightly used (meaning clean and intact). All sizes are welcome from infant to adult!

Thank you for working with your Scholar to help those in need.

Interest in Virtual Scholars or Another Middle School?

While we want WSMS to remain the school our Scholars attend through the middle grades, there are times when families may want to look at other options, due to family needs and transportation needs. Other options, such as Virtual Scholars or another school site, may simply fit family needs in different ways. If you are seeking options, the website is [here](#). Families can submit a "Hardship Transfer" to request another school site. Applications for Virtual Scholars are also available currently.

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](#).

Marking Attendance through ParentVue!

Families 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.

WSMS 2022-2023 Yearbook Orders:

Each year, our Yearbook class, led by Educator, Mr. Gilley, creates the WSMS school yearbook. Information is [here](#) to order the 2022-23 yearbook as a memory for your scholar. All sales of the yearbook will be *pre-ordered* directly through an outside company and will not be available for purchase through the school at the end of the school year. Please order ahead of time!

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.

As of October 29th, Parents/Guardians 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.

American Sign Language Morning Club :

Our ASL club has started meeting once a week in the Library at 8:30AM. Scholars are participating in 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.

Bus Expectations for Success:

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 while on the bus.

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. There are video cameras on each bus, and we request videos to investigate misbehavior so that Scholars and Families can be involved in correcting the issues.

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 11:00AM-1:30PM and 2:30PM-3:45PM are most needed for Lunch recess help and Office assistance! **[Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during Lunches or in the Main Office in the afternoons\)!](#)**

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>. There is a deadline for applications, so please apply early if you are requesting a high school outside of your address boundaries.

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.

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.

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 (students, attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

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

- ★ **No school due to Veterans Day: Friday, November 11th**
- ★ **No school for Scholars:** *Optional* Virtual Family Fall Conferences with Educators - **Monday-Tuesday, November 21-22**
- ★ **Fall Break for Scholars:** Monday-Friday, November 21-25th
- ★ **8th Grade Visit to LHS:** Friday, December 9th

Enjoy your longer weekend, and go Wolf Pack!

Jill and Ben