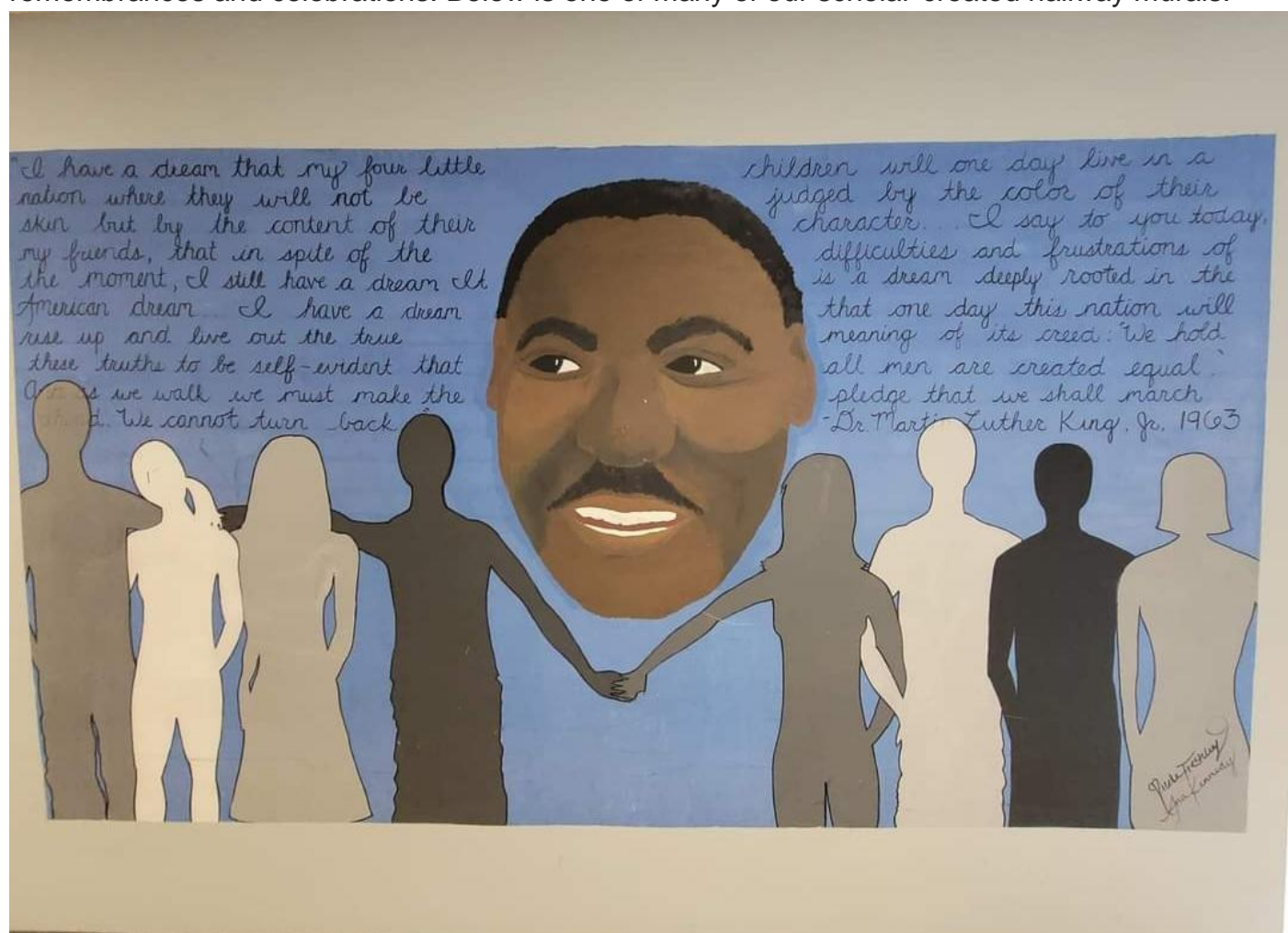


February 4, 2022

Greetings West Sylvan Middle School Families,

We hope that the first week of the second semester has gone well for your scholars! Our counselors are available for support as we move through the new semester together. The second semester is a fresh start for grades, and we encourage all scholars to take advantage of the new opportunities to learn and excel in their classes. In honor of our diverse and rich family backgrounds at WSMS, we'd like to honor the recent International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Lunar New Year, and Black History Month. We have several student-led groups that will continue to honor these important cultural remembrances and celebrations throughout the month. Educators may also be incorporating lessons throughout the month in curriculum in honor of these remembrances and celebrations. Below is one of many of our scholar-created hallway murals.



Thank you for continuing the daily health screenings with your scholars! There were two confirmed cases of on-campus COVID-19 this school week. Anyone who may have been near those cases was already notified. Please keep scholars home when you may have health concerns, and notify our attendance office directly about absences, whether COVID-19 related, or otherwise. Educators can be contacted via email to see how to access missed assignments remotely while absent.

Resources for Family Learning:

- OSU Discover the Scientist Within February Workshop ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- OSU [Summer Reading Program](#)
- OSU STEM Academy [AWSEM Club](#) (includes Spanish flyer)

MAP Testing:

Our spring MAP testing will continue next week. We will use an assembly schedule next week to accommodate the testing in classes throughout the week. There is no additional preparation needed for these tests, as they simply measure knowledge and skills that our scholars currently have from their prior learning and the skills that they have continued to develop over the course of the school year.

Test to Stay Program:

The Test-to-Stay program is in action. If your family has yet to complete the consent forms [here](#), please complete them and either scan them to 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-19 Screening Kit Information:

An easy and free way to test weekly! Especially while tests are hard to find in stores, this is an easy and free way to have your scholars tested weekly for your own family's knowledge. Scholars will do the saliva test at home and return the kits the following day at the Main Office. For scholars who opted-in to the program and submitted completed consent forms, we are distributing the at-home saliva test kits once a week on Thursdays, during the last few minutes of 7th period. 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 the day after distribution, processes them, and sends results directly to families. **If you do not receive an email with your scholar's results, please check all spam/bulk email folders and then contact OHSU via their family support email at k12covidtesting@ohsu.edu or call 833-376-1027 between 8am-5pm, Monday to Friday.** The school does not have access to any of the testing results. Please note, OHSU advises that you suspend participation in the screening program *if your scholar has had a positive test for Covid-19 in the last 90 days*, as the test will likely be inaccurate. Scholars may drop off signed forms to our attendance window, or families can scan and send them via email to jsolonche@pps.net. 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.

COVID-19 Updates:

There were two positive cases reported on campus this week. Anyone immediately involved was notified directly.

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!

Yearbooks: LAST CALL!

Our Yearbook staff is still collecting 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 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. If you do not preorder, we will likely run out of yearbooks, and there will be no opportunity to get one later in the year, as the company only prints a set number of copies, which are determined through preorders . To order your yearbook, go to yearbookordercenter.com and enter code 6339. Yearbooks are \$35 currently. We want all of our scholars to have a visual memory of their time back on campus during the 21-22 school year.

Lost and Found clean out:

Please remind your scholars to check the lost and found for missing items. We have two Lost and Found areas on campus - one for general items, which is located by the steps to the Gym, and a locked one in the Main Office for valuable items. The items in the general Lost and Found will be completely cleaned out on Friday, February 18. Items will be donated to the PPS PTA Clothing Closet at Marshall.

8th Graders Attending Lincoln HS 2022-23:

Any 8th grader who is enrolled to attend LHS next year may start their online forecasting for course selections on Monday, January 31st. Please see the information attached [here](#), and check your emails regularly for updates from the LHS team if your scholar will be a Cardinal next school year. A counselor from LHS will be on our WSMS campus on February 9th for 22-23 to consult with 8th

graders who are unsure how to complete the forecasting. Please watch the tutorial videos provided and contact the LHS counseling team with any questions as you proceed with forecasting online as a family.

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).

Daily Loaner Laptops for Scholars:

We have a very limited (only two!) supply of loaner laptops 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.

WSMS Drama Production 2022:

Based on ongoing concerns related to group safety and a lack of adult volunteer support, Kacey CdeBaca will not be putting on a Spring play for 2022. We look for better days ahead when a drama production may return to WSMS. You can email dramawestsylvan@gmail.com with any questions.

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](#).

Food Services and Lunches:

Breakfast and lunches continue to be free for all scholars throughout the year. During lunches, scholars who want to remain indoors have indoor options for both eating and their free time. After eating, there are several alternate locations scholars may visit to spread out such as the library, the lower gym, classrooms for lunch clubs, and our outdoor patio spaces and field area. 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:

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 do not pick up your scholar between 3:00pm-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 &
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)

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

Black History Month: February

Successful Schools Survey to Families: Access to the survey will be open Feb. 26-March 4th. More details will come as we near the access window.

No School for Scholars: February 21st

Forecasting for next year: Late-February - March scholars will have opportunities to select elective choices for the 22-23 school year

Spring Break: March 21-25th

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

Enjoy the weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben