

West Sylvan Family Communication

February 17, 2022

UPCOMING DATES

FEBRUARY

*Black History Month

Fri, FEB 17th: NO SCHOOL for Scholars / Educator Planning Day

Mon, FEB 20th: NO SCHOOL / Presidents' Day Holiday

MARCH

Mon, MAR 27th ~ Fri, MAR 31st: NO SCHOOL / Spring Break



[View the full 2022-23 District Calendar here](#)



Dear West Sylvan Families,

Last week was National School Counselors Week, and we want to thank our School Counselors, Kandice Abney, Ricky Almeida, and Rebecca Cohen for all they do for our school community! We are so grateful to have three School Counselors who can focus on a grade of Scholars and support needs in a personal way. We encourage you to show them your appreciation, too!

Enjoy your weekend,
Jill & Ben

Our “You Belong” Campaign continues with “You are loved” as our message throughout the week.



- *You belong.
- *You are valued.
- ***You are loved.**
- *You are able.
- *You are excellent.

AFTERNOON ADVISORY BELL SCHEDULE

SCHOOL SAFETY EDUCATION

Counseling SEL lessons began last week, and our School Counselors have been re-engaging our 7th and 8th Grade Scholars in anti-racist, upstander, and consent lessons. [These lessons will be taught](#) to all Scholars by School Counselors in small groups during Science classes. 6th Graders will have lessons next week. For additional information on PPS expectations for behavior, the most updated resources can be found [here](#). All schools follow the PPS Students Rights and Responsibilities guidelines for interventions and disciplinary outcomes.



GRATITUDE

Thank you to our Families who supported Spirit Week! The students really enjoyed all of the treats on Tuesday and had a chance to hear some music, snack, and have fun together throughout lunch.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- **How to get involved?** Join the West Sylvan Foundation. This is the group that also embodies what would have been a PTA at other schools. The group welcomes new members, and you can find the link [here](#).
- **Volunteer!** Ask Educators how you can volunteer to help in their classes, come help supervise lunches, join recess duties, volunteer in the Library and help monitor hallways

throughout the school day. [PPS approved volunteers are welcome!](#)

- **Initiate a parent group!** Several families are interested in leading work and educating WSMS families. If you have ideas, please reach out to Principal Jill Hunt.
- [Run a club! Clubs meet on Fridays from 3:15pm-3:45pm.](#)
- PPS District Committees for larger parent advocacy are [here](#).

ENROLLMENT & STAFFING NEWS

As you likely read in the communication from our District leaders, enrollment continues to decline throughout PPS. These PPS changes will impact our staffing next year, resulting in a reduction of two Educator positions. There will be an Instructional Coach position *added* at all Middle Schools throughout PPS next year. Enrollment numbers are below for this year and next year's projections.

	6th Grade Total	7th Grade Total	8th Grade Total	Total
22-23 School Year	268	239	259	766
23-24 School Year	248	268	239	755

***Includes DLI students in enrollment

DLI Spanish Immersion	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Total DLI
22-23 School Year	43	40	42	125
23-24 School Year	42	45	40	127

SUPPORTING OUR ISC TEAM

Our ISC (Intensive Skills Classroom) in Special Education has initiated a DonorsChoose project and the description is here: [ISC Learning & Sensory Needs Smorgasbord](#).

The students in our Intensive Skills Classroom have profoundly unique and exceptional ways of learning, communicating, and experiencing the world. They need access to sensory tools before they can fully engage and learn.

2023-24 PPS DISTRICT CALENDAR

PPS has shared out the approved calendar for next school year for your planning purposes.

INFORMATION FOR 8TH GRADE FAMILIES

Scholars should have received notification at home in Winter about next year's High School assignment. Assignments are based on families' current address. Should families believe there is an error in the High School assignment, contact the [Enrollment and Transfer office](#). Families who currently do not reside in PPS boundaries will need to apply to remain in PPS High Schools through the [Enrollment and Transfer office](#).

LHS MYP Information Night: February 22nd, 2023

Lincoln High School will be hosting an information night to talk about the IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) next Wednesday evening in Lincoln's library from 6:30PM to 8:00PM.

During this evening you will:

- sample some examples of MYP teaching and learning
- learn about how adopting MYP will complete our IB World School program in which all students are IB scholars
- ask questions about the benefits of MYP for our 9th and 10th Graders

Please [RSVP here](#) if you are interested in attending or have any questions. You can also learn more about the MYP program [here on Lincoln's website](#).

Ida B. Wells Forecasting for 2023-24: About 30 of our current 8th Graders are in the boundaries to attend Ida B. Wells for High School next year. [The forecasting items are here for these families](#).

SUMMER & EXTENDED LEARNING

Annual Reading Fair:

Kappa Delta Pi, the School of Education Honor Society, is once again hosting their annual Reading Fair and Family STEM Day on **Sunday, February 26th from 10:00am to 1:00pm** at the University of Portland Chiles Center. This FREE event is an opportunity for families and children to come spend an afternoon together and share their love of reading and STEM. Children of all ages are welcome to participate in fun hands-on activities.

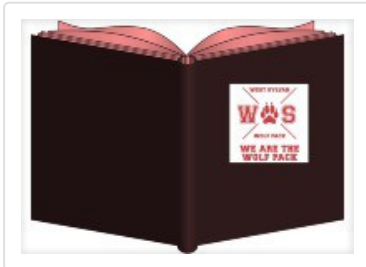
Summer Learning Program:

We have begun accepting applications for our annual Summer Learning Program! In this program, the learning focuses on the Oregon State Benchmarks appropriate for each child in Mathematics, Language Arts (reading, writing, and speaking), and any other subjects in which the student needs help. Our Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) candidates tutor/teach students according to their learning needs. There are usually 4-5 students per 2-3 MAT candidates.

- This year's program will run July 5 - August 3, Monday-Thursday, 9:30am-11:30am, and we welcome students entering grades 2 through 11 in 2023-24. The cost of the program is \$125, though scholarships are available.
- Online registration is now available [here](#). To request a printable PDF or registration packet via postal mail, please contact Amy Kwong-Kwapisz at kwongkwa@up.edu or 503-943-

Notes of Appreciation

If you would like to send a kind note of appreciation to any staff member, please share here. The kind notes go a long way in making our Staff members feel seen and thanked!



YEARBOOK ORDERS

Each year our Yearbook class, with Educator Mr. Gilley, creates the school yearbook. **To order the 2022-23 yearbook, go to yearbookordercenter.com and enter code 6339.** 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. *Don't miss your chance to get this keepsake for your scholar!* We only place orders based on the preorders so that we don't waste school funds. Please order your yearbook in advance.

STUDENT CHROMEBOOKS

Please encourage and remind your Scholar to bring their charged Chromebook to school each day. We have a very limited, and often depleted, number of loaner Chromebooks. Remembering to bring your PPS-issued Chromebook to school is crucial, as Chromebooks are needed for classes.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate all family members who have been volunteering in our Main Office, in 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 2:45PM-3:45PM are most needed for Lunch recess help and Office assistance!**

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

EXTENDED UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

After ten consecutive school days of non-attendance, Scholars are un-enrolled from WSMS. Please be sure to officially excuse absences when there is a lasting illness.

DLI 6TH GRADERS (2023-24)

All families who reside outside of WSMS feeder K-5 schools are being waitlisted for DLI admission for 6th Grade enrollment in 2023-24 due to reduced staffing for 2023-24. Priority placement is reserved for families who already have students in our K-5 public PPS feeder schools within our boundaries who are already in DLI classes.

"NO CELL PHONE" POLICY

Please help remind and reinforce our "No Cell Phone" policy during the school day in your discussions at home. This means that we ask that Scholars to either leave phones at home or put them in their lockers during the day so that they are not a temptation. If a Scholar has a phone out in class or around campus during the school day, it is confiscated and held in the Office. If a Scholar has three or more violations already this year, we will ask a Parent/Guardian to pick up the phone to help reinforce expectations. Please remember that Scholars do not have access to their phones during the day, and refrain from calling and/or texting them. **If you need to get an urgent message to your Scholar, you may call the Office at 503-916-5690 or send an email to westsylvanoffice@pps.net.**

ATTENDANCE

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.

SCHOLAR SUPPORTS

	COUNSELOR	ADMINISTRATOR
6 th Grade	Ricky Almeida ralmeida@pps.net	Jill Hunt & Ben Keller jihunt@pps.net bkeller@pps.net
7 th Grade	Kandice Abney kaabney@pps.net	Ben Keller bkeller@pps.net
8 th Grade	Rebecca Cohen rcohen@pps.net	Jill Hunt jihunt@pps.net

IB / MYP (Middle Years Programme)

We are submitting our application in the coming weeks to become an authorized Middle Years Programme (MYP) Middle School. If approved, we move to the final step toward Authorization. Our MYP Learner Trait for February is “**Communicators**.” Scholars are spending this month discussing and demonstrating that trait. To find out more about the WSMS International Baccalaureate MYP authorization journey, please click the image.



CONTACT US

MAIN OFFICE

westsylvanoffice@pps.net

(503) 916-5690

PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY

[Staff / Substitutes / Financial]

Jerda Solonche

jsolonche@pps.net

SCHOOL SECRETARY

[Students / Attendance / Enrollment]

Kirsten Crombie

kcrombie@pps.net

Go Wolfpack!