

Dear West Sylvan families,

Schedule

Thank you all for continuing to work with your students to transition into our Virtual Schedule. Last week the district sent out clarifications about the middle school schedule. That clarification supported teachers in making instructional decisions during the Wednesday through Friday session, including whole class, small group, asynchronous. That will increase the amount of synchronous instruction students receive during the week and ensure that educators are able to design the instructional model that best introduces content, allows students to collaborate and work to make meaning, and receive feedback. In a rich distance learning environment – all of these play an important role in learning.


The clarification also reminded students that each of the period specific class times is a required event. It could be a class meeting, it could be an assignment posted in canvas, and it could be office hours/small groups. In every case, every student will have something to work on. I am hoping that will clear up the misunderstanding that there are only two days of classes. In a response from teacher requests, I have updated the schedule with the new language as well as highlighting sessions when students are required to be engaged in specific course content, as directed by the teacher. This document is attached to the email.

Distance Learning in a 4-Day Week

With a few weeks under our belts, we are coming up on a four-day week and the changes that entails. In cases of a short week the “Wednesday” will be removed in order to ensure consistent instructional time for each period for the week. Please review the schedule below with your child.

Time	Monday Oct. 5th	Tuesday Oct. 6th	Wednesday Oct. 7th	Thursday Oct. 8th
9:30 - 10:15a	Period 1 (whole class synchronous)	Period 5 (whole class synchronous)	Period 1 (whole class, small group, office hours, asynchronous)	Period 5 (whole class, small group, office hours, asynchronous)
10:30a - 11:15a	Period 2 (whole class synchronous)	Period 6 (whole class synchronous)	Period 2 (whole class, small group, office hours, asynchronous)	Period 6 (whole class, small group, office hours, asynchronous)
11:30a - 12:15p	Period 3 (whole class synchronous)	Period 7 (whole class synchronous)	Period 3 (whole class, small group, office hours, asynchronous)	Period 7 (whole class, small group, office hours, asynchronous)
Lunch				
1:00p - 1:45	Advisory	Small Groups	Advisory	Small Groups
1:45p - 2:30p	Applied Learning	Applied Learning	Applied Learning	Applied Learning
2:30p - 3:15p	Applied Learning	Applied Learning	Applied Learning	Applied Learning
3:15p – 4:00p	Applied Learning	Applied Learning	Applied Learning	Applied Learning

IB Learner Profile & Advisory

	<p>A strength of the MYP program is its focus on teaching skills the skills that are needed to be a learner. This week in advisory we focused on the Learner Profile. Students worked collaboratively to learn more about each of these traits while at the same time continuing to practice collaboration in the distance format and learning google slides.</p> <p>A Focus on: CARING Students show empathy, compassion and respect. They have a commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and the world around them.</p>
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Library

Back to School Night

If you haven't had an opportunity to check out the Back to School Night resources, they are still available on our website.

Shadowing Courses on Canvas

If you haven't had the chance to do this yet, shadowing your student is a great way to keep up to date on class assignments, grades, and expectations. We understand that learning to navigate Canvas can be a challenge and that many parents are interested in accessing Canvas to guide students, check on assignments, and monitor progress. In order for parents to access and view student courses, they must first be "paired" to their student's account. This is a two-step process. First, the student must provide the parent with a pairing code. Second, the parent can use that code to create their account and become an observer in their student's courses. These step-by-step directions are outlined in the attachment.

Sincerely,
Cherie Kinnersley, Ed.D.
West Sylvan Middle School Principal