

December 17, 2021

Dear West Sylvan Families,

We wish all of our families a wonderful winter break together! Thank you to all families who donated to our gift card drive! Thanks to all of the generous donations, the West Sylvan Community raised over \$5,000 and can support more than twenty separate families this year! This is the highest amount WSMS has ever raised! Additionally, two of our scholar-led affinity clubs, M.E.Ch.A. and A.S.U., sold over 2,300 Winter Candy Grams over the last weeks. Proceeds from the candy grams are going to the gift card drive as well as to help start a fund for our Asian Student Union.

We look forward to seeing your scholars back together in 2022! We look forward to many more rainbows together in the coming new year!

Notes of Appreciation?

Thank you to the families who have submitted some 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 WSMS adults support your scholars and your families! A little appreciation goes a long way and can really uplift someone's day!

Offices Closed at WSMS from 12/18- 1/2

All of our educators and office team will be on their winter break beginning Friday afternoon. There will be no offiereW*Tm039eak u, o(e)-3 4.384 Tm0 gu, o(e)-3 4.384 Tm4Te y

with WSMS staff via email or voicemail, please look forward to having them respond

and during lunchtime, they help staff with knowing who they are seeing in the hallways, and it will assist our transportation team to identify scholars as they enter and exit buses (if they ride transportation). Carrying a form of ID is a safety measure we will be encouraging with all scholars as we start 2022 together. Please help reinforce this idea at home.

WSMS Drama Production 2022:

We are so pleased to announce that Kacey CdeBaca will be working with our talented scholars to audition for and put on a spring play for 2022! The flyer is [here](#).

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." 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. 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;](#)

Test to Stay Program:

PPS plans to start the Test to Stay program in January. 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 attendance office window. More details will be shared from the district. Here are some key points from the expected Test to Stay plan. If a consent form is completed, any 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 could have been in close contact with someone on campus with a positive COVID-19 test, and pending a negative result, scholars would return to class, rather than automatically being advised to quarantine at home. [Here](#) is more information.

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Ages 5-11:

PPS has started to partner with local health agencies to provide school sites where families may choose to access the vaccination for scholars aged 5-11 now that they are approved to move forward. More details are [here](#).

OHSU COVID Screening Kit Information:

PPS has partnered with OHSU to arrange for weekly COVID-19 screening test kits, which arrived just before the Fall break. Test kits are for non-symptomatic home screening only. We are distributing these once a week on Thursdays, during the last few minutes of 7th period, to all scholars who opted-in to the program and submitted completed consent forms. Scholars may drop off signed forms to our attendance window, or families can scan and send them via email to jsolonche@pps.net. Testing kits will be distributed to

Yearbooks:

Our Yearbook staff is starting to collect 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 their 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. To order your yearbook, go to yearbookordercenter.com and enter code 6339.

School COVID updates:

Our standard operating procedure is to notify everyone when a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed through MESD, even if your scholar was not a close contact. Sharing a class does not meet the threshold for being a close contact. We also do not manage outside sports contacts or the notifications with private sports teams. We depend on families to self-report to our office in a timely manner when there is a positive COVID-19 case in the family. When a positive COVID-19 case is reported, the following may prevent a scholar from being identified as needing to quarantine, which is why it's so important that we all continue to be safe:

- Being fully vaccinated

- Wearing a mask correctly and consistently

- Practicing appropriate physical distancing

Anyone asked to quarantine is advised to stay home for 10 days from the date of the exposure when they are not fully vaccinated. If fully vaccinated, scholars and staff who are symptom-free are not required to quarantine. In addition to assigned classwork to complete remotely, this PPS website has been created with

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Picking Up Scholars:

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 avoid picking up your scholar between 3:15pm-3:45pm as 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 Secretary: jsolonche@pps.net (faculty, school business)

Kirsten Crombie, Secretary: kcrombie@pps.net (scholar/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, help with scholar laptops, withdrawals)

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

- Ø Winter Break: December 20-January 2nd
- Ø School Resumes: January 3, 2022. Families planning travel should notify Ms. Crombie via email if they will have extended absences beyond January 3rd due to travel.
- Ø Schools Closed for MLK Jr. Holiday: January 17th
- Ø End of 2nd Qtr/1st Semester: January 27th
- Ø No School for Scholars/Educator PD Day: January 28th
- Ø New Semester/Q tr 3 Begins: January 31st, Classes may change, depending on educators' schedules and electives for some scholars

Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben