

May 6, 2022

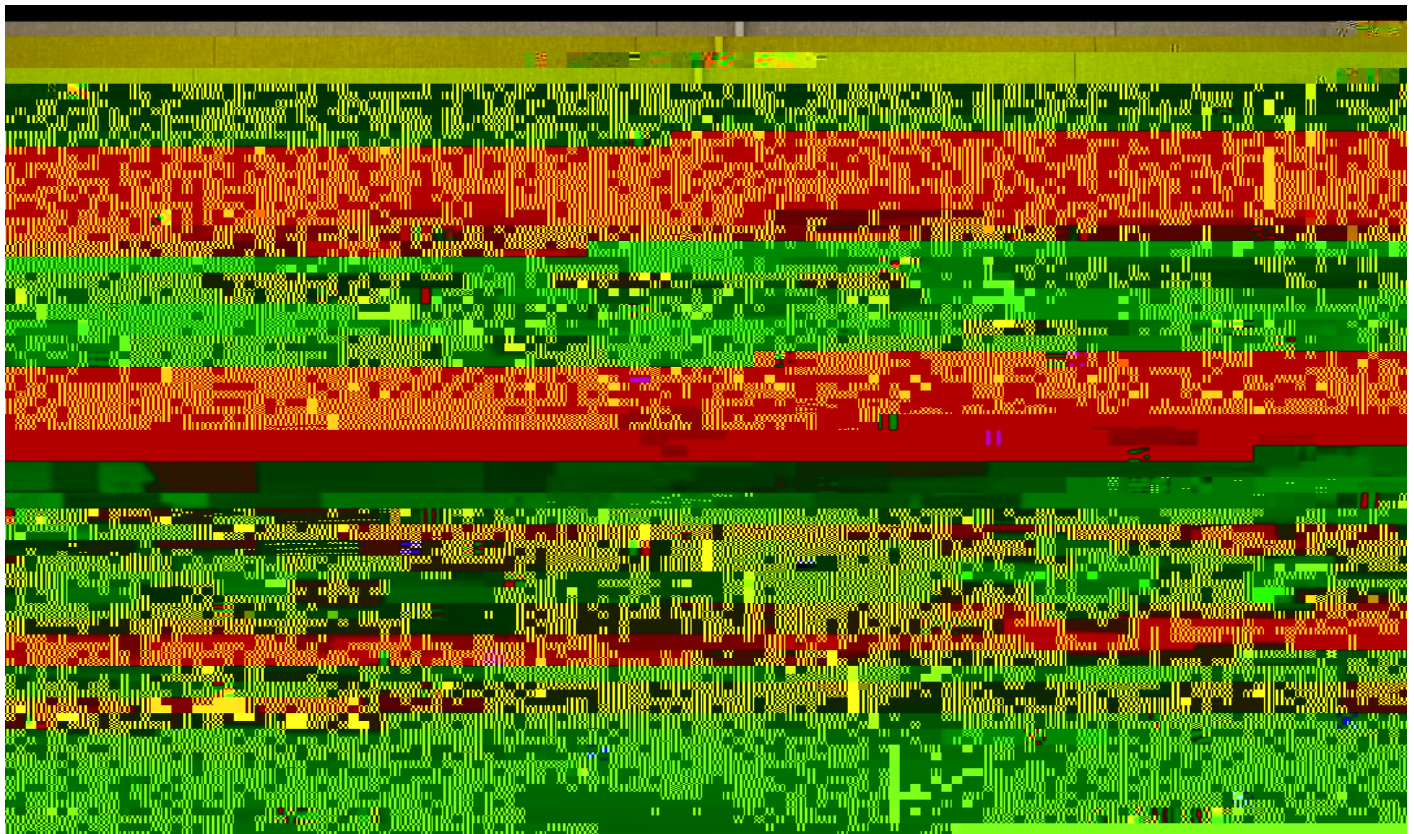
Happy Friday West Sylvan Middle School Families,

May is upon us, and we want to start by thanking all of our families for your support and appreciation efforts during our Appreciation Week! Our WSMS educators appreciated all of your planning and contributions to make the week extra special for them! Thank you!

The month of May is both Jewish American Heritage and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. We honor all of our families who celebrate their rich heritage throughout this month!

We are finishing up our OSAS testing during the month of May. As a reminder, this data often is not returned until fall, so we likely won't have these data for some time. We are continuing to recruit for our [WSMS Choir](#), led by Lindsey Wildman! Any current scholars or future Wolves should consider joining the choir club! Our first of two meetings for families with current 5th graders who will be 6th graders at WSMS next year will be Monday, May 9th. We will have some presentation items, an opportunity to purchase WSMS spirit wear and opportunities to take some informal tours around campus and ask questions.

As we continue to plan for next school year, we are hopeful that we can have more families involved in regular school activities such as volunteering on campus, taking part in our **WSMS Foundation**, and serving on **School Site Council** and **School Climate Committees**. If you may be interested in having a voice in one or more of these school groups, please sign up [here](#). Also, the [22-23 PPS approved calendar](#) is here for your future planning. We are still waiting to hear about whether the first day of school will be a day when all scholars attend or if there will be a modified schedule to allow 6th graders an orientation prior to the rest of our scholars joining for the the start of the year.



8th Grade Families:

8th Grade Oaks Park Trip (rides) on Wednesday, June 8th, chaperoned by educators and administrators. Scholars who choose to attend will bus to Oaks Park from campus and return by dismissal. Scholars will need to be in good standing (no suspensions, referrals to administrators, patterns of unexcused absences, etc.) to attend. This is a fun privilege, not an automatic right.

8th Grade Promotion is at Lincoln HighF1 11.04 cW4. Tm0.1 0 4(r)-3(al[])TJET@.00000912 0 612 792 reW

Geometry for 8th grade, **contact your current math teacher**: they will first confirm whether or not your MAP math assessment data **falls in the range for eligibility**. If SSA *is* recommended, families will meet **virtually** to fill out the SSA application **with** the student's current math teacher. For more information, see the [PPS TAG SSA](#) page or the [West Sylvan TAG page](#).

[SSA Parent Guide](#)

[WGA Parent Guide](#)

Whole Grade Acceleration (WGA) - Applications open April 15-May 15. [See information about WGA from PPS TAG here](#). Please contact the West Sylvan TAG Coordinator, Laurel Richards, at lrichards@pps.net for **next steps**.

Interested in Volunteering?

Become an approved PPS volunteer by following the information [here](#). Our library and classrooms are spaces where we can use family volunteers through the end of the school year. Once your application is approved, please contact school administration to see how you can help.

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: May

Jewish American Heritage Month: May

6th Grade Outdoor School: May 16-17th off campus

scholars to be inquirers, knowledgeable, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, educational risk-takers, balanced and reflective learners. Our families can also learn more about our work toward MYP authorization [here](#).

Host Family Needed for an Arabic Educator for 22-23 School Year:

Through the American Councils for International Education, WSMS has been awarded a grant for a fully-

Help with Cell Phones:

Our catch phrase that we use at WSMS regarding cell phones during the school day is,

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](#).

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 avoid picking up your scholar between 3:15pm-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.

COVID-19 Updates:

There were four COVID-19 cases confirmed this week who had been *on campus*.

Resources for Family Extended Learning and Activities:

[Summer Acceleration Academy](#) webpage

[PIL Math Trajectory Summer Program](#) (McDaniel)

[PIL Math Trajectory Summer Program](#) (Roosevelt)

Benson Tech Youth United Multi-Sport Summer Camp

Adapted PE Field Day (K-8 flier) (9-12 flier)

Cognizart 360 Arts Summer Camp

Verselandia! (April 28, 2022 Flier) (Educator Invitation)

OSU STEM Academy

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)

Notes of Appreciation?

The notes left for our educators really do brighten a lot of days for many of our team members! 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!

Enjoy the weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Ben and Evening