

January 28, 2022

Greetings West Sylvan Middle School Families,

We did it with teamwork! Yesterday marked the end of our first semester of the 21-22 school year back in-person with our scholars! Just a reminder, that this is a four-day weekend *for our scholars* with today being an Educator Planning Day and Monday being the recently adopted School Climate and Educator PD day. While educators will be working, the campus will be closed to the community Friday 1/28 and Monday 1/31, and all emails and calls will be returned next week.

Thank you for continuing the daily health screenings with your scholars! 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.

February 1st Marks the New Semester and Qtr. 3:

Due to various Educator changes which have been announced, and the change in the Quarter, there will be various changes to schedules. With new Educators joining the team, there is also an opportunity to reduce some class sizes in some of our offerings.

Dear Families,

As you might know, reducing class sizes is one of our highest priorities in supporting student access to curriculum. Due to a few staffing adjustments for the second semester, we have found the opportunity to add an extra 6th and 8th grade Math course that will significantly reduce class sizes in two periods.

We are also making some adjustments with our World Culture classes, as Dr. Graham steps into her new class as an 8th grade Social Studies teacher, AND as we reduce Ms. Yarlott's Games and

Uploading Proof of Vaccinations:

locked one in the Main Office for valuable items. The items in the general Lost and Found will be

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 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 about apps 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](#);**

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

No School for Scholars/Educator Professional Planning Day: Friday, January 28th

No School for Scholars: January 31st, School Climate and Educator PD Day

2nd Semester/3rd Quarter Begins: February 1st. Some classes may change due to changes in quarter-based electives, educator changes and class size balancing.

No School for Scholars:: February 21st

Spring Break: March 21-25th

Enjoy the weekend! Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben