

# West Sylvan Family Communication

March 3, 2023

## UPCOMING DATES

### MARCH

\*Women's History Month

\*Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

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



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

## Dear West Sylvan Families,

We hope that our families are doing well as we enter into March! Our WSMS Wolves are half-way through the third quarter, and we know many families are looking forward to Spring Break at the end of March. Thank you to WSMS Foundation's Giovanni Cafiso and Inhabit Real Estate for catering the First Friday luncheon for WSMS Educators today!

We have some celebrations below for student groups at WSMS, also! If you have celebrations that you would like shared out about the successes of our students, please send items to the main office at [westsylvanoffice@pps.net](mailto:westsylvanoffice@pps.net).

Enjoy your weekend,  
Jill & Ben

**LINCOLN  
CARDINALS  
6TH GRADE  
GIRLS  
BASKETBALL**



We wish our student-athletes a wonderful trip! Congratulations to the following students who are going to State this weekend!

Alli Varnado

AJ Planey

Bailey Greene

Campbell Qualls

Elia Keenan

Greta DeKoker

Gwen Dunbar

Liesl Raab

Lily Sachse

Raegan Boderman

Tess Groom



# LINCOLN CARDINALS 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL



We wish our student-athletes a wonderful trip! Congratulations to the following students who are going to State this weekend!

Ava Dinsmoor  
Sadie Copeland  
Olivia Hornbrook  
Calla Wildgrube  
Eva Keenan  
Hannah Greene  
Riya Karmarkar  
Maddie Goldberg  
Mese Schmidt  
Hana Fares  
Kelsey Hill  
Avery Fischer





## AFTERNOON ADVISORY BELL SCHEDULE

### WELCOME

We'd like to welcome our newest member of the WSMS team beginning next week, **Mr. Alonzo Parnell**. Mr. Parnell will be our Campus Safety Associate. A Campus Safety Associate, or CSA, is another adult who helps monitor the building, make connections with students, and help enforce the expectations for safe behavior during school hours. We look forward to having another staff member to help with campus supervision throughout the school day.

### SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATES

- There was a community message about a phone call with a vague threat on Tuesday. The call was prompted by a series of Twitter comments encouraging people to call the school office and demand answers. Beaverton Police have investigated and found it to be a low-level concern. They have traced the number to a number in New York and, with colleagues in NY, have concluded that

the call was a low level concern.

- Some of you may have seen a BPD officer parked in the school parking lot this morning. There is no need for additional alarm. The team at BPD stops by to talk with families and students when they request to meet in a school building to share concerns. Since WSMS is part of the Beaverton Police Department zone, that team supports all family needs with our students when issues are brought to police attention.
- There were two separate physical fights between students this week, one with two 7th grade boys and one with two 6th grade boys. We are working with the families of the students involved in these situations through restorative practices between the students and with additional counseling supports. When students are resorting to physical violence when frustrated, there are disciplinary consequences for these decisions, and we follow the [PPS Student Rights Responsibilities and Discipline Handbook guidelines](#). If your students have witnessed these poor decisions and would like to speak to a School Counselor, please reach out to the School Counselor. The added element that accompanies these bad choices is that families have the right to then file police reports against each other. BPD is responding to complaints forwarded to them from families.

## MYP NEWS

Our March MYP Learner trait is *Inquirers*. Throughout the month, students will be nominated for demonstrating this trait. We celebrate nominations at the monthly assemblies and through our school nomination posters.

## SCHOOL COUNSELING EDUCATION

Counseling SEL (Social & Emotional Learning) lessons have occurred with all three grade levels, 6th-8th Grades, throughout February. [These lessons will be taught](#) to all Scholars by School Counselors in small groups when School Counselors go to classes to do group teaching. The next round of lessons will focus on "How to be an upstander." All three grades will be engaging in these lessons with School Counselors throughout March.

## RESOURCES FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- **PPS Center for Black Student Excellence:**  
[Center for Black Student Excellence \(CBSE\) – Learning Journey](#)  
[CBSE Project Timeline + FAQs](#)
- **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 adult support, and you can find the link [here](#). This is also a way to share your voice about how WSMS fundraising is used for school needs.
- **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 sharing and educating each other. If you have ideas, please reach out to Jill Hunt at [jihunt@pps.net](mailto:jihunt@pps.net). We would love to start a parent-led family series of educational nights.
- PPS Parent and Student [focus group for LGBTQIA+](#)
- **Run a club!** Clubs meet on Fridays from 3:15pm-3:45pm.
- PPS District Committees for larger parent advocacy are [here](#).

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

WSMS has recently contracted with BlackExcellenceGroup.Org, and we are joining forces with [No Place for Hate](#). We look forward to having these additional community partners work with our students and families to make WSMS even better for all students throughout this school year and in the 23-24 school year.



## 2023-24 PPS DISTRICT CALENDAR

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



## GRATITUDE

The Staff enjoyed another delicious First Friday Lunch, thanks to the generosity of Foundation member Giovanni Cafiso and all of the families who helped host a beverage bar and provided a bit of pre-St Patrick's Day fun. Thank you for your continued support of our Educators and Staff!

## 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](#). Anyone residing out-of-district will need approval to be released from their resident district to apply to remain in PPS for high school. Families who currently do not reside in PPS boundaries will also need to apply to remain in PPS High Schools through the Enrollment and Transfer office.

**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 LEARNING PROGRAM

University of Portland has begun accepting applications for their 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. 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 they 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](mailto:kwongkwa@up.edu) or 503-943-7752.

## 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](http://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. **The deadline to order is coming soon!**

## 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.

## FAMILY 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 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM and 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM 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.

## **"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](mailto: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](mailto: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 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<b>Ricky Almeida</b> ralmeida@pps.net	<b>Jill Hunt &amp; Ben Keller</b> jihunt@pps.net bkeller@pps.net
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<b>Kandice Abney</b> kaabney@pps.net	<b>Ben Keller</b> bkeller@pps.net
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<b>Rebecca Cohen</b> rcohen@pps.net	<b>Jill Hunt</b> jihunt@pps.net

All-Grade School Climate Specialist: **Shawn McVicar** [[smcvicar@pps.net](mailto:smcvicar@pps.net)]

## IB / MYP (Middle Years Programme)

We are submitting our application in the coming weeks to schedule a review 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 March is **"Inquirers."** 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](mailto:westsylvanoffice@pps.net)

(503) 916-5690

### PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY

[Staff / Substitutes / Financial]

**Jerda Solonche**

[jsolonche@pps.net](mailto:jsolonche@pps.net)

### SCHOOL SECRETARY

[Students / Attendance / Enrollment]

**Kirsten Crombie**

Go Wolfpack!