

**May 27, 2022**

**Happy Friday West Sylvan Middle School Families,**

We are nearing the end of the school year, and are hopeful that our families are weathering this latest wave of various illnesses. We continue to recommend masks as a defense mechanism against spreading illness. As a reminder, this is a long weekend due to the federal Memorial Day holiday on Monday 5/30.

With just a couple weeks left in the school year, Educators will be wrapping up final units, completing some final statewide testing and encouraging scholars to do their very best to finish out the year successfully. We will be engaging in our year-end check-in processes in the coming weeks: collecting textbooks, library books, cleaning out lockers, and preparing our scholars for their summer vacation, which begins on June 11th. Summer can be an exciting time for some, and for others, Summer can mean a loss of routine, stability, the known schedule of a school-day, and the contact with friends and adults who have been a support all year. If your scholar is feeling anxious about Summer, please encourage them to talk with our Counseling team.

We enjoyed a second night of 5th grade family visits on Monday and a 5th grade field trip to WSMS on Wednesday during the school day morning. It was wonderful for our team to meet families and 5th graders in person and show them around our campus! We look forward to inviting our newest group of learners into the WSMS community in August! Also, our Band and our Choir had opportunities to perform this week at LHS, and they did a remarkable job showcasing their skills. Our band warm(he)14(m)-3( )g0 8( )-4(sp)-4(ba)3(b)5(ou

this time, you can review the best practices to stay safe and keep your scholars safe [here](#), and **masking is recommended**.

### Counseling Supports

the previous tragedies in Buffalo, we reach out to our Educator team to alert them about the ways to support scholars with additional social-emotional needs. On Wednesday, our Educator team had resources shared to help with conversations about the most recent acts of violence, and our Counselors have been available to meet with scholars throughout the week for additional support. Outreach from families for help connecting our scholars to Counselors also helps us to provide services in a timely manner. An additional district message went out yesterday to families, which articulates the various steps that our district takes for safety. The message is [here](#), if you missed the correspondence.

### For 8th Grade Families:

**Promotion Announcements:** You should have received a Save the Date card to the address that we have in our Synergy records.

**Promotion Yard Signs:** These are now available in the Main Office for 8th grade family pick-up **beginning on Tuesday, May 31st**. We know, so we account for them accordingly.

**Promotion Tickets:** Each family will have **four tickets**, which will be given to your Scholar by their 7th period Teacher and sent home the week prior to the promotion ceremony. Should you be unable to attend or do not need all four tickets, you are welcome to give them to other families who may want additional tickets. The school office will not have the capacity to manage those exchanges.

**8th Grade Oaks Park Trip** (rides) on Wednesday, June 8th, chaperoned by Educators and Administrators. **Parent chaperones are still needed for this OAKS PARK field trip. Sign up here.** 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.

**Permission slips**

**For Families with 5th Graders Coming to WSMS in 2022-23:**

We enjoyed seeing many families in person! Also, the short visit to WSMS was a quick way for classes to see campus in person and experience some fun activities. We also shared a slidedeck of similar information on our school website so that anyone who could not attend the evening sessions can also review the information. For a picture gallery, please visit [Virtual tour here](#). Thank you to one of our WSMS Foundation parents, Giovanni Cafiso, for creating this virtual tour!

Mr. Almeida will be the Counselor working directly with 6th graders in the 2022-23 school year. If you have questions about classes or supports for 6th grade, please email Mr. Almeida at [ralmeida@pps.net](mailto:ralmeida@pps.net). Mr. Almeida is currently the Counselor for our 8th graders, so please give him time to respond, as he has a very full and busy schedule wrapping up the year with our current 8th graders.

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

We are still looking for a family willing to host the Educator, who is coming from Egypt, and will be joining the WSMS team. Through American Councils, the Educator is given a living stipend of approximately \$1000/month to pay for living accommodations, if hosted by a private family. There would be two separate needs:

1. A host family to provide a comfortable space for the Educator to stay for a short-term stay during the





VIBE of Portland [Lift Youth Voices Summer Mural Project](#)  
Bustin' Barriers [Summer Camps for Kids Experiencing Disability](#)  
Saturday Academy [Summer STEAM Camps & Classes](#)  
Portland Metro [Fire Summer Camp](#)  
Benson Tech Youth United [Multi-Sport Summer Camp](#) (FLIER UPDATED)  
Cognizart [360 Arts Summer Camp](#)  
VIBE of Portland [Art Camps, Classes, No-School Workshops](#)  
VIBE of Portland [East Winds Summer Camp](#)  
OSU [Summer Reading Program](#)  
Multnomah Early Childhood Program ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) ([Vietnamese](#))  
Portland Parks & Recreation Preschool [2022-2023 Registration](#)

**Scholar Counseling Supports (Counselors will move with grades for 22-23):**

**6th Grade:** Counselor: Kandice Abney: [kaabney@pps.net](mailto:kaabney@pps.net) &  
Administrator: Ben Keller, [bkeller@pps.net](mailto:bkeller@pps.net)  
**7th Grade:** Counselor: Rebecca Cohen: [rcohen@pps.net](mailto:rcohen@pps.net) &  
Administrator: Evening Krauel, [ekrauel@pps.net](mailto:ekrauel@pps.net)  
**8th Grade:** Counselor, Ricky Almeida: [ralmeida@pps.net](mailto:ralmeida@pps.net) &  
Administrator: Jill Hunt, [jihunt@pps.net](mailto:jihunt@pps.net)

**General Questions:**

[rsolonche@pps.net](mailto:rsolonche@pps.net) (faculty, school business)

enrollment, help with scholar laptops, withdrawals)

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