

November 4, 2022

Dear West Sylvan Families,

The first quarter of the 2022-23 school year is now over! Scholars have a longer weekend so that Educators can plan for next quarter and complete report cards for the first quarter. Next week, there may be some schedule shifts for any courses that were only quarter-long courses. If a schedule is incorrect, our team will be working on making updates next week. Educators submit final grades by the end of Monday, and report cards are mailed next week.

We had a fun end to the week, with another assembly and -- based on Scholar suggestions -- we have introduced our new mascot to WSMS! Scholars will work on naming our mascot in the coming month. Thank you to our WSMS Foundation and families for the First Friday Luncheon yesterday to end the quarter!

Notes of Appreciation?

If you would like to share a kind note of appreciation with any staff member, please [share here](#).

Fall Virtual Conferences:

Fall conferences occur on **Monday-Tuesday, November 21st and 22nd**. Next week, Educators will be sending families links to sign up for virtual conferences. These conferences are optional for families. Educators will prioritize meeting with families for Scholars who are in need of additional academic support first, and then will schedule additional conferences after those sign-ups are completed. Look for emails from our Educators by Thursday of next week to sign up, if you are interested. If your Scholar is performing well in classes, there may not be a need to meet with Educators at this time.

TAG (Talented & Gifted) Identification:

We are excited to announce the TAG link has been condensed into just one form! If you are interested in exploring TAG for your child, please click [here](#) and complete the form **by Tuesday 11/29/22**. Make sure to drop down to the PARENT option. If you have any questions, please email TAG coordinator Holly Graham: hgraham@pps.net. You can also visit the WSMS TAG website [here](#).

Winter Weather Clothing:

With the weather change, please help your Scholar bring warm clothing to school along with a jacket on days when it rains. Often Scholars still want to play outdoors in the rain, and we want them to have warm clothing for the elements. Our WSMS Foundation is also starting a WSMS Clothing Closet. Should your scholar need to visit the Clothing Closet, they can see their Counselor for items.

Outdoor School Lost & Found: Grade 6

Thank you all for the positive feedback about Outdoor School. We have included [a link here](#) to the remaining items in the Lost & Found. If any of these items look familiar to you, please contact Holly Graham (hgraham@pps.net) if your child went to Camp Angelos, or Carla Oesterle (coesterl@pps.net) if your child went to Camp Collins.

Interest in Virtual Scholars or Another Middle School?

While we want WSMS to remain the school our Scholars attend through the middle grades, there are times when families may want to look at other options, due to family needs and transportation needs. Other options, such as Virtual Scholars or another school site, may simply fit family needs in different ways. If you are seeking options, the website is [here](#). Applications for Virtual Scholars are also available currently.

Run a club! Family Volunteers to Run Clubs on Fridays!

We are looking for PPS-approved volunteers to help run clubs with Students during Advisory period on Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering from 3:15PM-3:45PM on Fridays to run a club, [please complete the form here](#).

Marking Attendance through ParentVue!

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
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 with the date, times, and reason.

Call (724) 838-7000 or (724) 838-7000 and select the Attendance option.

WSMS 2022-2023 Yearbook Orders:

Each year, our Yearbook class, led by Educator, Mr. Gilley, creates the WSMS school yearbook. Check out [this video](#) message, go to yearbookordercenter.com and enter code **6339** to order the 2022-23 yearbook.

All sales of yearbooks will be

School Volunteers:

Thank you to our family members who recently helped in 8th Grade classes with literature circles! We also sincerely appreciate all family members who have been volunteering in our Main Office, our Library, and

need to be submitted by the deadline for consideration for any school outside of your normal PPS neighborhood boundary: <https://www.pps.net/schoolchoice>. There is a deadline for applications, so please apply early if you are requesting a High School outside of your address boundaries.

8th Grade Families Interested in Benson H.S.?

Applying to Benson Lottery for the 2023-24 School Year: We will be accepting applications for Benson from Tuesday, November 15 to Friday, December 16th. Students only have to complete one on-

Jill and Ben