

Happy New Year, West Sylvan Families!

We are so happy to all be back together after the winter break! We hope that you all had a joyful and peaceful time together. We started this week with Advisory lessons every morning to reestablish community, to review our WSMS strategies for success, and to get back into the routines of being at school after a couple of weeks away. There are just a few weeks left in the quarter prior to finishing second quarter grades. We are encouraging all of our scholars to do their very best to achieve at their personal level of success this quarter. If absent due to illness, please call our attendance line and also contact

return them to the school's Main Office window. If a consent form is completed, any unvaccinated, non-symptomatic scholar who may have been exposed to an individual with a positive COVID-19 result on campus could test to stay on campus. We would give the BinaxNOW rapid nasal swab test on campus to non-symptomatic scholars who are not fully vaccinated and could have been in close contact with someone on campus with a positive COVID-19 test. Pending a negative result, scholars would return to class, rather than automatically being advised to quarantine at home. There would be one more necessary test on campus within 5-7 days from the initial close contact, also. [Here](#) is more information.

OHSU COVID Screening Kit Information

PPS has partnered with OHSU to arrange for weekly COVID-19 screening test kits, which arrived just before the Fall break. Test kits are for non-symptomatic home screening only. We are distributing these once a week on Thursdays, during the last few minutes of 7th period, to all scholars who opted-in to the program and submitted completed consent forms. Scholars may drop off signed forms to our attendance window, or families can scan and send them via email to jsolonche@pps.net. Testing kits will

following may prevent a scholar from being identified as needing to quarantine, which is why it's so important that we all continue to be safe:

Being fully vaccinated
Wearing a mask correctly and consistently
Practicing appropriate physical distancing

Though the CDC recently advised that a 5 day quarantine was acceptable, we are still following the 10 day guidelines in Oregon, until local health authorities determine otherwise. Anyone asked to quarantine is advised to stay home for 10 days from the date of the exposure when they are not fully vaccinated. If fully vaccinated, scholars and staff who are symptom-free are not required to quarantine. In addition to assigned classwork to complete remotely, this PPS website has been created with a variety of resources for continued remote learning [here](#), in the case of a recommended quarantine.

Food Services and Lunches

Breakfast and lunches continue to be free for all scholars throughout the year. As the temperatures have dropped, all scholars who want to remain indoors have indoor options for both eating and their free time during lunch. After eating, there are several alternate locations scholars spread out in such as the library, the lower gym, classrooms for lunch clubs, and our outdoor patio spaces. Regardless of the temperature, many scholars still feel most comfortable both eating outdoors and remaining outdoors throughout recess to engage in outdoor play. Please encourage your scholar to dress for the weather if they are choosing to play outdoors in colder temperatures. Understanding that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to this unstructured lunch time, we are allowing scholars to choose indoors or outdoors, assuming that it is not pouring down rain.

Picking Up Scholars

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 our office staff is limited in the afternoons. Any planning around that time frame is appreciated.

Scholar Counseling Supports:

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

General Questions:

Jerda Solonche, Principal's Secretary: jsolonche@pps.net (faculty, school business)
Kirsten Crombie, Secretary: kcrombie@pps.net (scholar/parent concerns, attendance, enrollment, help with scholar laptops, withdrawals)

Mark your calendar now in preparation:

Schools Closed for MLK Jr. Holiday: January 17th
End of 2nd Qtr/1st Semester: January 27th
No School for Scholars/Educator PD Day: January 28th

New Semester/Quarter 3 Begins: January 31st, Classes may change, depending on educators' schedules and electives for some scholars

Go Wolfpack!

Jill, Evening and Ben