

Our Schools

FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER



FEATURE ARTICLES

- Two committees forming to plan for growth and a 2020 bond
- Making school relevant today and tomorrow
- Halfway point in 1:1 technology for students



Safety and security projects almost complete

An important project funded by the 2016 capital levy is safety and security improvements at many schools. A visitor video intercom system has been installed at the main entrance of 18 schools last spring and summer.

Visitors are now identified by video and then “buzzed in” by office staff. A badge reader is also installed, allowing only staff access through the front door.

North Middle and Woodside Elementary schools will receive their new video intercom systems as part of their modernizations. Four elementary schools received rebuilt entryways to better control access to the campus. The total cost of the video intercom systems and new entryways was \$1.2 million.

“We are committed to fostering a safe and nurturing learning environment for all of our students,” shared Penny Creek Principal Maggie Heater. “The new safety and security upgrades are helping us achieve our goal.”

Is your family prepared?

Does your family have a plan in case of bad weather, school closure or delay? Who will pick up your student, if needed? How will your student communicate with you if phone lines are jammed? Do you have needed emergency supplies in your car and at home?

Snohomish County Emergency Management (www.snohomishcountywa.gov/622/Preparedness) has helpful online resources to help you create, practice and communicate emergency response plans with your family and neighborhood.



REPORT SCHOOL SAFETY CONCERNS IN 3 EASY WAYS



TEXT OR CALL
855.637.2095



EMAIL
1350@alert1.us



ONLINE
<http://1350.alert1.us>

If there is a reason for concern about safety on a designated walkway to school, call the transportation department at 425-385-4144 for help.

Student safety is a priority for all of us. Working together, we can help make our neighborhoods and schools nurturing places for students to safely learn and grow.

Two committees forming to plan for growth and a 2020 Bond

Approximately 20,000 students learn in more than 1,038 classrooms in Everett Public Schools. In another 10 years, 1,858 more will move here with their families. Snohomish County is the second fastest growing county in the state, and Everett Public Schools is growing faster than any other school district in the county.

All that growth is evident in schools with portable classrooms and congested parking lots and city streets during pick-up and drop-off times. In fact, the district's 26 schools are home to 140 portables – most of those on schools in the district's southern region where growth is accelerating fastest.

Snohomish County is the second fastest growing county in the state, and Everett Public Schools is growing faster than any other school district in the county.

This growth and the need to modernize existing school structures are among the reasons the board is considering a school construction bond in 2020. At their September 25, 2018 meeting, the board passed Resolution No 1187 forming a Capital Bond Planning Committee (<http://bit.ly/BondPlanning>).

The committee will include approximately 24 community members, and will also have staff and student representation. Their work will be to develop a recommendation by early summer 2019 on whether the district should propose a bond in 2020, and if so, what should be part of that bond.

Another committee currently engaging community members is the High School Growth Mitigation Planning Committee (<http://bit.ly/HSgrowthcommittee>). This committee was created to address the overcrowding at Jackson High School, also a result of the district's rapid growth. This committee will provide a recommendation on how to revise high school enrollment boundaries beginning fall 2020 to reduce enrollment at Jackson High School, as well as complementary and practical program changes, portable classroom, and minor schedule changes.

North Middle School rendering

North Middle School

Students began school this fall in the interim layout in place for the 2018-19 school year. Building foundations for the new building are about 25 percent complete. To allow students to cross the street safely and to join the construction area with the construction staging area, 26th street has been closed from Rainier Ave. West to the edge of the temporary parking lot. Next fall, students will start school in the new main building while the rest of the campus, parking lot and playfields are completed in 2019-20.

“Students and staff are becoming more curious and excited about the progress they see each day,” North Middle School Principal Mitch Entler shared. “Students and staff are focused on the end goal and learning from this process as it unfolds in front of us. Our strong partnership with the construction team has led to unique learning opportunities.”

Entler added that some classes are using the building blueprints in their math lessons.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS



Elementary 18 - What's in a name?

If you live in the south end of the school district, you may have noticed a lot of action happening in the area around Sunset Road and 180th St. SE, the site of the new elementary school. Since the June groundbreaking, there has been nonstop construction. So far, 8' diameter corrugated metal pipes were installed under the parking lot for the underground storm water detention system. The two-story structure is taking shape with metal framing and concrete floors.

Celia O'Connor-Weaver will be the principal of the new elementary school when it opens next fall. A committee of staff and community members have begun the process of recommending a school name for the board to consider in December. Hiring staff for the new school will begin in early 2019.

PROJECT SCHEDULE STATUS



Elementary School No. 18 rendering



Making school relevant today and tomorrow

One way Everett Public Schools delivers important learning opportunities to students is through career exploration and training.


Our students explore career options in a variety of ways during their K-12 education to develop their awareness of and interest in career opportunities. This approach, called career connected learning, weaves together school-based learning, extended learning, and work-based learning, and in our district it begins as early as kindergarten.

Elementary students experience school-based career learning through guest speakers as well as project-based learning, as they have for many years. In middle school, students can begin taking Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that emphasize academics as well as real-world skills. High school classrooms are changing too – we just added a virtual welding machine at Cascade High School, a “green screen” setup at Everett High School, and will renovate the Everett High School vocational building to better provide contemporary training spaces for students.

Extended learning experiences, those that go beyond the regular school day such as robotics and CTE student organizations,

complement school-based learning by providing leadership opportunities and improving academic performance. More importantly, they can inspire students to discover their passions.

Just last month, our district sponsored several annual events to help students learn about careers.



Youth apprenticeships and internships offer students opportunities to work with industry professionals and acquire work-related knowledge and skills. Everett’s students can graduate with one foot already into a career of their choice, ready to earn a livable wage.

We are making progress in strengthening partnerships with local businesses, industry, government, and post-high school education and training organizations. We are investing in extended learning opportunities emphasizing regionally high-demand and high/middle skill career opportunities. That means more students will be able to live and work in this community and that means a more stable, stronger community for all.

Pictured top: The new green screen studio at Everett High School supports video media arts studies.

Annual events:

Career Up

A new event for us this year, high school CTE classes heard short presentations from community members about their careers, professional paths, and words of advice.

Trade Up: Cascade High's parking lot filled with high school students as they received hands-on experience with different trades while they hear from professionals in that field. Imagine a student smoothing cement, operating a back hoe, or working with power line transformers (the power is off, of course).

Closing for Good

At Everett and Jackson high schools, BECU employee volunteers hosted Closing for Good, an interactive financial literacy event. This unique experience started with assigning students a career, family situation, and starting salary. Students completed a budget and made choices to stay within their budget to help build healthy financial habits that serve for a lifetime.

High School and Beyond Family Nights

Each of our comprehensive high schools hosted an evening event for students in all grades, and their families, to explore high school and the next steps after graduation, including higher education and career options. Each night featured a keynote speaker, career fair, financial aid information, translators, and free pizza!

Manufacturing Day Boeing Tour

Students in grades 9 and 10 had a special tour of The Boeing Company's manufacturing floor. They tried electrical wiring, riveting, and other manufacturing processes. For some students, this experience has been the "rivet in the sheet metal" that nudged them into choosing a manufacturing career.

Manufacturing Day at Everett Community College

Everett High School students celebrated National Manufacturing Day by touring Everett Community College's Advanced Manufacturing Training & Education Center. The tour included live manufacturing demonstrations and hands-on projects.



CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING



Learn more about these programs at:
www.everettsd.org/page/8455

If you know of an internship or youth apprenticeship opportunity, please contact our career connected learning team at careerconnectedlearning@everettsd.org, or 425-385-4081.

Half-way point in 1:1 technology for students

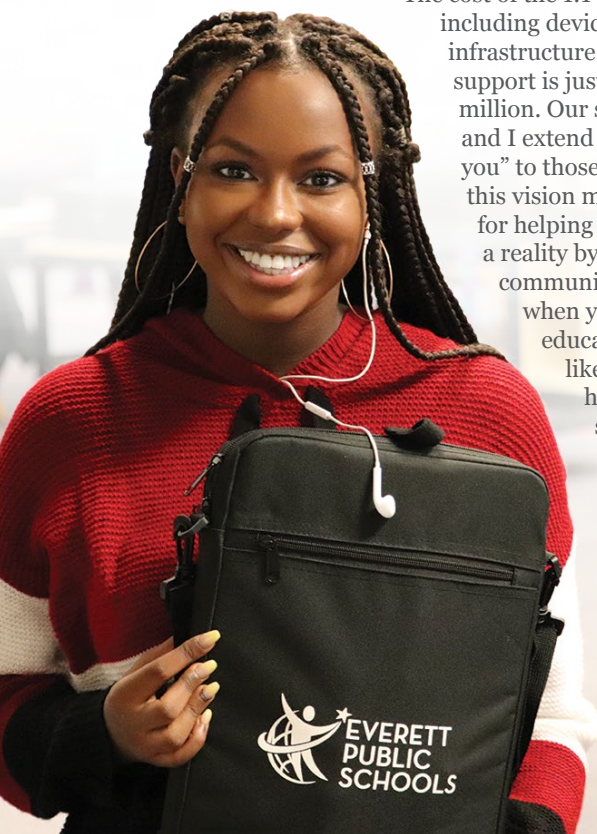
In 2016, district voters said “yes” to a capital levy and paved the way for each student in Everett Public Schools to use a personal computer for their learning – no more lining up for a row of computers at the back of a classroom or waiting for next week in the computer lab down the hall. That’s just not the work world our kids will soon enter.

Mastering technology to access information, to store and use information to solve problems and create solutions – these are key to students graduating with skills and abilities to compete in tomorrow’s world. As parents, students, and staff have repeatedly told us, this 1:1 access – at home and at school – is a “game changer.”

“Not only is it limitless in the projects they can do, but it is limitless in what I have as material to give them to help them learn,” shared Megan Klinich, an AP Environmental Science and Biology teacher at Jackson High School.

Last year, Everett and Sequoia high schools and Garfield, Lowell and Monroe elementary schools received devices. High school students received digital inking tablets that go to and from school each day and elementary students received Chromebooks that stay at school. This fall Jackson and Cascade high schools and Cedar Wood, Jackson and Whittier elementary schools became 1:1 technology schools. We have reached the half-way point in ensuring every student has equitable access to a learning device – a learning tool as “basic” today as were pencils in yesterday’s schools.

The cost of the 1:1 initiative so far, including devices, training, infrastructure and staff support is just under \$10 million. Our school board, staff, and I extend a grateful “thank you” to those who established this vision many years ago and for helping make the dream a reality by supporting our communities’ children when you said “yes” to educational opportunities like this that make a huge difference in students’ futures.



District mobile app

Download the free app for easy access to:

- Grades and test scores
- Staff directory
- Bus route information
- Checked out library items
- School and district calendars
- Communications preferences
- Attendance and class schedules
- Customized social media stream
- Language options



For download information go to:
www.everettsd.org/Page/4744



*Information in
the palm of
your hand!*

Don't have a student in the district? No problem. The app features many handy tools and easy-to-find resources for community members as well.

Budget update

Everett Public Schools has a long record of strong financial management. This fall, the district once again earned a Certificate of Excellence from the state's school business officers' association. Only three other school districts in Washington earned this award for 2017-18.

In addition, Everett Public Schools has earned one of the highest bond ratings in the state for public schools. Moody's upgraded the district's rating in 2016 from Aa2 to Aa1. This September, Standard and Poor's affirmed their AA+/stable long-term rating of the district. Great ratings translate into better interest rates which equals savings for taxpayers.

Superior financial stewardship is cumulative. We build it over the long haul, and it allows the district to continue to spend more money on teaching (teachers, paraeducators, teacher-librarians, supplies, health services, etc.) than most school districts our size.

The district spent **73.5 percent** of its budget on teaching in 2016-17 compared to the average of **71.4 percent**.



This exceptional financial management has prepared us well as we face new budget challenges this year. Although legislators provided increased funding for school employees' compensation this year as a result of the McCleary decision, they also reduced the amount school districts could collect through a local operating levy. This reduction, if not fixed in the upcoming legislative session, will result in a significant shortfall in the district's 2019-20 budget. That, along with the inadequate funding for special education and other factors, could make it necessary to begin making some aggressive budget cuts this spring, as we are seeing announced by other Washington school districts.

Thank you for your support of Everett Public Schools and stay tuned as further updates will be available on our website, www.everettsd.org.

Garfield Elementary named School of Distinction again

Continuous improvement has earned Garfield this award four years in a row.

Garfield Elementary School, for the fourth year in a row, has earned a School of Distinction award from the Center of Educational Effectiveness. The award recognizes schools for sustained improvement in English Language Arts and math over a five-year period. Garfield is one of 91 schools in Washington state to earn the award this year.

"Improving scores one or two years in a row is an accomplishment," notes Superintendent Gary Cohn. "Holding and achieving continuous improvement for what amounts to nine years is a very remarkable accomplishment. Such sustained improvement means the students, their families and the staff are working incredibly well together to provide quality instruction, and to maintain high expectations in an environment of high support."



"...sustained improvement means the students, their families and the staff are working incredibly well together."

Nearly seven out of 10 students at Garfield qualify for free or reduced lunch. Nearly 20 percent speak a language other than English. Those characteristics make it more challenging to reach this level of achievement year after year. So what does Garfield staff do that is making the difference for students?

Garfield Principal Monique Beane shared, "As with staff across the district, Garfield staff members work hard to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of our students. We are dedicated to high expectations for students and believe that, with the right supports, all students can achieve."

Superintendent Cohn echoes Ms. Beane's praise for the staff, noting, "This school is a superb example of quality staff using a well-understood instructional model, a continuous improvement model, investing in standards-aligned professional development together, working in collaborative teams, and just plain never giving up on a student."

PO BOX 2098
Everett, WA 98213



Board of Directors: (back row) Caroline Mason, Jamyang Dorjee Nhangkar, Carol Andrews (front row) Traci Mitchell, Pam LeSesne

Board welcomes Jamyang Dorjee Nhangkar

On Sept. 12, the board voted to appoint Jamyang Dorjee Nhangkar to Position 1. Mr. Nhangkar will serve as a member of the Board of Directors until that term ends in 2019. At that time, he may choose whether to run for election to serve another term.

It was a difficult decision for the board as there were many qualified candidates. The applicants were screened through written applications and interviews for comparative qualifications, experience and potential fit. They had competing strengths and many qualifications which contributed to the difficulty of the board's decision.

"The breadth and depth of the applicants' qualifications made this a very difficult decision," said Caroline Mason, board president. "I am thankful for the director's time and commitment to the selections process."

"We are grateful for everyone who stepped up and participated in the process. We appreciate seeing so many outstanding citizens committed to the work of the district," said Gary Cohn, district superintendent.



Board of Directors

- Caroline Mason
- Carol Andrews
- Traci Mitchell
- Pam LeSesne
- Jamyang Dorjee Nhangkar

Superintendent

- Dr. Gary Cohn

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

Affirmative Action Officer
Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org
425-385-4104

504 Coordinator
Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org
425-385-4063

Title IX Officer
Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org
425-385-4106

ADA Coordinator
Becky Clifford, rclifford@everettsd.org
425-385-5250

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, veteran or military status, the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a student with a disability.

School closure and delay resources

- **FlashAlert.net** You can subscribe to receive notices at the same time those notices are sent to media outlets, or you can bookmark this site to check for a listing of regional school emergency schedule information.
- **Media news reports** (Media get information from FlashAlert)
- **Everett Public Schools website** www.everettsd.org
- **Mass communication system** messages to school families typically beginning at 5:45 a.m.
- **Everett Public Schools social media** Facebook and Twitter pages.



"No announcement" means schools have normal schedules.
More resources are available at www.everettsd.org/safety.

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Our mission is to inspire, educate, and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community, and thrive in a global society.