



September 14, 2020

Good afternoon Everett Public Schools families,

While the school year is just getting started, it feels like we have already come so far. I am incredibly proud of our first few days of learning. Last week, I challenged you to be courageous and to do your best, and you did that and more. We all came together and made remote learning work. Our teachers have been planning all summer leading up to this new way of teaching and they are outstanding. Teachers are connecting and engaging students and it will just get better and better.

We have some important updates for you below. All this information and more can also be found on our website, everettsd.org.

COVID-19

As you may know, COVID-19 transmission rates are declining throughout our state. On Friday, Snohomish Health District shared [updated recommendations for schools](#). They recommend monitoring Covid cases during the next few weeks for any spikes due to Labor Day gatherings or contacts, and if there is no spike, the Snohomish Health District recommends school districts may begin planning for in-person learning for some elementary school students, as well as special needs and high needs students of any grade level. They continue to recommend middle and high school students remain in full remote learning.

Please look for more updates in the coming weeks as the district weighs the latest recommendations, our current health and safety protocols and other recommendations from the Department of Health and the Office of the State Superintendent of Instruction. We are excited by the thought of bringing students back into schools but will do so carefully and thoughtfully. Families who want to continue 100 percent distance learning will have the option to do so. We will give at least two weeks' notice before a change to hybrid learning and will include the specifics of who will be brought back to classrooms in stage 2.

Student privacy protection

While learning is taking place in your homes rather than inside classrooms, I want to remind you student privacy protection laws still apply. Please help us protect students'

privacy by NOT taking or sharing photos or videos of your child which include Zoom class meetings where other student images or names are visible.

Internet safety

As the use of the internet increases for remote learning, we would like to remind you to take an active role in monitoring your student's online activity, including social media activity, and regularly talk about internet safety as a family. The district uses filtering software to help keep students safe on district-issued devices. This year we will be using *Go Guardian* for K-8 students and *Class Policy* in high school.

Social Emotional Learning

We know the importance of relationships and have built social emotional learning (SEL) into your student's school day. Leading with SEL is essential not only because children need social and emotional support as they navigate the unprecedented challenges of remote learning, but because it also helps students access academic content through building essential self-management skills, resilience and connections. Teachers and staff will reach out to students and families if they notice changes in behavior or attendance.

Counseling and advocacy

School staff are here to support the success of you and your child. As people feel more depressed and anxious about getting their needs met, our school counselors, social support specialists, family advocates and advocacy teams are available to support you. We are here for you and can get you connected with solutions, resources, supports and community partners.

We are looking forward to a great year and appreciate your support. Keep staying focused and learning.

Be well,

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman
Superintendent