

From: [Superintendent](#)
To: [Communications](#)
Subject: Election Day tomorrow
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 2:05:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear staff,

I want to check in and see how you are doing. Feelings are heavy as we continue to deal with what has become one of the most stressful years of our lives. From the COVID-19 pandemic, to the current social justice climate, and now the 2020 Election, we are dealing with a lot.

I want to encourage each of you to make sure you are taking care of yourselves. If we aren't taking care of ourselves, it makes it even more difficult to care for the students and staff we serve, as well as our own families.

With 2020 Election Day tomorrow, we find our country sharply divided along political lines on almost every topic and issue. There is no doubt discussions about the election and events in our country are surfacing in our classrooms and between staff, and will continue to do so even after Election Day. I ask that you please remember the expectation of civility during these divided times and remember that under district policy the district's instructional program is to respect the right of students to face issues, to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice and to form, and to hold and express their own opinions without personal prejudice or discrimination. District policy requires that teachers guide discussions and procedures with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint students with the need to recognize opposing viewpoints, the importance of fact, the value of judgment and the virtue of respect for conflicting opinions.

We understand we are at a time when people are more sensitive about political topics, and tensions can increase. It is each of our responsibility to remain neutral and unbiased while working with students and families, as we represent the entire Everett School District.

I expect our schools to continue to be productive and supportive environments allowing for the free flow of ideas and, at the same time, we must be careful not to use our positions or resources in any way that could be perceived as supporting a candidate, a campaign, or ballot measure.

No matter the outcome of the election and where you may stand on issues and candidates, I appreciate your commitment to continuing your hard work to serve *all* students, *all* families and *all* fellow staff members.

Be safe and be well, and remember to vote

Ian



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