

Learning & Information Technology Services

EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



September 8, 2020

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

Technology News

Monthly Newsletter

Welcome back everyone! This is the first edition of the Technology News for the 2020-21 school year and includes information to assist you in starting off the school year remotely with our students. The Learning and Information Technology Services (LITS) department is committed to supporting our amazing staff, students, and parents as we work together for distance learning.

Reminder: Publish your Canvas course so students can see on log in!

District VPN connection now operational

For the new school year, employees working remotely using a school district supplied computer (Windows 10 only) can now securely connect to the district network from home as if they are working on-site in their office or classroom by using the EPS Virtual Private Network connection or VPN. See this fun [video](#) for an introduction on how a VPN works. The EPS VPN will connect to the district network automatically when you login to your computer with an Internet connection from any location worldwide. Please contact the Help Desk if you any questions.

It's time to change your password

As the new school year begins all staff will need to change their computer password by September 15. You will get pesky reminders on your computer until your password is changed. For strong password guidelines click [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Help Desk.

Computer webcams and microphones

Given the extensive use of Zoom, Teams, and other online communication tools you may need a good webcam or microphone for your computer. If you do, please see the [EPS Technology equipment standards list](#) for approved devices. For security and privacy concerns, no other devices are permitted.

Working with Vendors on Issues

- **Pearson – now Savvas**
Our Pearson Successnet and Realize platforms are now managed by Savvas. Access is now routed through Clever. [Update link in Canvas and navigate to EasyBridge](#).
- **SpringBoard through Canvas**
Work is being done with SpringBoard since their update about access using the Canvas integration. Currently access requires going through Clever until issue is resolved.
- **StemScopes**
Access issues are actively being addressed with the vendor. When resolved, staff will be notified.

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Virtual Learning Key Four



Everett Public Schools is working to create a sustainable and fully supported digital environment. Part of that work involves the key areas of virtual learning providing our staff and family partners in remote learning with centralized support, training and troubleshooting. The launch of this key four began with focused professional learning offered throughout August including publishing the [Parent University](#) on the website. A series of resources for families, students and staff will continue to evolve over the course of the year and will be available in the Digital Tools Portal within Canvas.

Virtual Classroom

- *Canvas* will serve as the information source for families and the place for daily check ins. It will serve as the hub to other platforms

Synchronous Engagement

- *Zoom* will continue to be our live meeting platform. Licenses have been assigned to teachers and administrators so they will continue to have no time limits and a 300-participant cap. Licensed accounts offer polling as well and alternative hosts in scheduling. Authenticated meetings with secondary students are also in the works. Stay current by visiting the Staff Zoom webpage for guidance and [reviewing the latest guidelines](#).

Asynchronous Engagement

- *Canvas Studio* is our resource for staff screenrecording and uploading video it creates a library that is easily shared within Canvas along with allowing for interactive quizzes and inline comments. For more produced WeVideo is already part of Canvas courses. Simply enable from course navigation.
 - [Canvas Studio guidelines](#)

Creation and Collaboration

- *Office 365 and Google Apps* offer a wide variety of applications and extensions supported by Microsoft and Google that offer our students creative and collaborative power. Among the tools in these kits are FlipGrid, Sway, Drawing, Google Maps, OneNote along side word processing, presentation and data collection and analytics.

Changes in 2020 – directions and updates hosted in Digital Tools Portal

- **Reach for Reading MyNGConnect Set-Up**
This year will be set up by teachers within Canvas in HRM or REA and will be supported by ELA coaches.
- **GoGuardian- new Chromebook management tool**
GoGuardian has a proven way for management of school-issued devices so the district has moved away from Blocksi. The onboarding of GoGuardian and training for middle and elementary schools will begin in mid-September
- **Hoonuit** is being discontinued this year
- **Elementary email- launched last spring**
Elementary email accounts are now enabled for specific uses - receive automated one-way notifications from teachers and our adopted learning platforms and will allow elementary students to use Adobe Spark.
 - **Sending emails:** Students will not be able to send emails to any internal or external email addresses. Any messages they send will be held in quarantine, but not delivered.
 - **Receiving emails:** Students will only be able to receive automated notification emails from adopted platforms. They will also be able to receive emails from teachers and staff (@everettsd.org accounts).
- For families: [Elementary students how to log in to retrieve emails and notifications](#)
- For staff: [Staff exporting class list of student email addresses directions](#)



New in 2020 – find out more in the Digital Tools Portal

- **Adobe Creative Cloud**

Teacher staff will have an Adobe Creative Cloud license for this academic year..[Adobe Creative Cloud log in for teachers](#) will be supported by more information in the Digital Tools Portal.

- **SeeSaw**

Optional use for licensed SeeSaw is set up for preschool, kindergarten and first grade along with life skill and extended resource room staff at elementary schools. SeeSaw will augment Canvas and teachers should expect these classes to be rostered in Clever and an automated email from SeeSaw sent telling how staff sign in and start working in classes Please do not create any new content for the 2020-2021 year before that email arrives.

- **Website New Look: Fall 2020**

Throughout September staff will be asked to focus on updates of their website in anticipation of shifting to a new look October 1st. Best practices and updated standards will be a focus for departments and schools. Find out more by logging in to the district website and looking under Staff tab for Website Updating Project 2020 at <https://www.everettsd.org/Page/36276>.

Remind *You may have received this message from your building principal as well.*

Everett Public Schools is rolling out [Remind](#) district-wide for both voice calls and texting. If you're not already familiar with Remind, it's a classroom messaging tool that helps you engage students and parents. As part of this rollout, official accounts will be created for all the educators, parents, and students. Once your account is created, you'll receive an email from Remind with further instructions. **Be on the lookout for this email this week.**

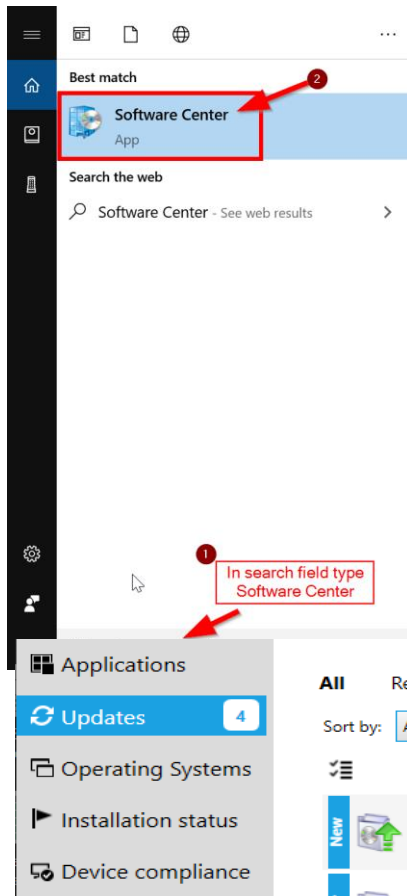
The district will formally integrate employees, teachers, classes, students, and guardians with Remind. After the accounts are created, staff can access their accounts using the "Log-in with Google" option and their district Google account – [ID#@apps.everettsd.org](#). More information on this process and claiming your classes can be found here.

If you have already starting using Remind with a free account using your EPS email address, you will not lose your existing classes. Once our access is enabled, you will have access to rostered classes that are synced with eSchool. In addition, the students in these rostered classes will be automatically connected to their families using the guardian information provided and housed in eSchool. Although you can choose to continue using the free classes you set up, these new classes will provide automatic roster updates and family communication. In addition, these rostered classes will provide full access to all Remind tools, including voice calling.

If you have been using Remind with a free account that is not connected to your EPS email address, you will now have two separate accounts- your free one, and your new EPS account with rostered classes. You can merge these two accounts. [Here are instructions for that process.](#)



Updating laptops



There are updates the district pushes out automatically to our devices. However, there are applications **you** need to update **manually** yourself **each month**.

To start, you will navigate to the **Software Center** by typing the words: **Software Center** in the search bar (bottom left of the screen).

Select the **Software Center** option (do not select the option to search the web). The **Software Center** is where you will find information about both required and available updates to install for applications, software and operating systems.

Next, select **Updates** from the menu on the left (*above*). You will see listed here any updates that need to be completed. It will list if it is past due or not. Make sure to update everything listed to avoid disruption in using your device and for security.

Then select the "Install All" blue button. The install will run in the background, you can continue working on other items

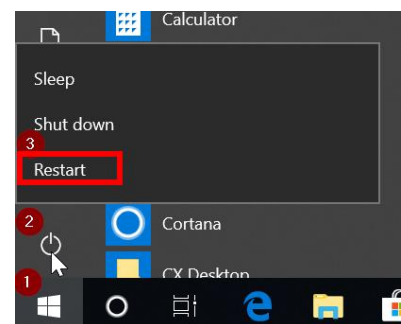


*****This step is very important! DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP**

This step can be done at home****

To complete the entire install and make sure your computer is running properly, you **MUST RESTART** your device. To do this

1. Select **Windows** Icon
2. Then select the **Power** icon and
3. Finally, select **Restart**



Have questions about items in this issue of Technology News? Email technology@everettsd.org for clarifying information.

Need technology support? Please open a [HelpDesk Web ticket](#).