

2020.12.09 Email to all secondary families

Dear Everett Public Schools' middle and high school families,

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. We know that remote learning is challenging and appreciate your understanding as we continue to refine our work to best fit the needs of students and staff.

When middle and high school (secondary) students return from winter break, their schedules will look a little different. Starting January 6, Wednesdays will be scheduled as a teacher-directed (or asynchronous) independent learning day. This means there will be no required live instruction, although there may be some time scheduled at the teacher's discretion. Asynchronous learning is a benefit to many students as it allows lessons to be accessible at any time and as often as needed. Students may benefit from revisiting concepts they struggle with and taking extra time on specific tasks. This schedule change is being made to allow students the extra time they need as well as providing time for teachers to plan, evaluate student work and collaborate with colleagues.

This results in a change to the Learning Improvement Friday as well. The Learning Improvement time for middle and high school students will move from Fridays to Wednesdays beginning Wednesday, January 6.

Moving the Learning Improvement time to Wednesday for elementary schools is being discussed, but would not include an independent learning day for elementary students.

What this means for secondary students:

- Beginning Wednesday, January 6, Wednesdays will be scheduled teacher-directed independent learning (or asynchronous) for middle and high school students. (see new schedules: [middle school](#), [high school](#))
- Teachers will use this Wednesday to plan, evaluate student work and collaborate with colleagues.
- Teachers may choose to check in live with students on the Wednesday, but it is not a scheduled requirement.
 - There will be a period schedule in place to provide a predictable time for teachers and students to connect live if teachers choose to schedule a live activity; it will also provide structure for students to organize their teacher-directed independent learning throughout the day.
- All independent work assignments and expectations will be communicated by teachers.
- Student attendance will be taken and measured by participation in the task or assignment provided or log-ins to the learning management system (Canvas).
- As of January 6, Learning Improvement days, currently scheduled on Fridays, will move to Wednesdays for secondary students.

If you have any questions, please contact your school. Again, thank you for your partnership and stay healthy and well.

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman