

## 2020.12.09 ALL STAFF EMAIL

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Subject: **Asynchronous day built into secondary schedule**

Hello Everett Public Schools staff,

Thank you for all you are doing to keep each other and students safe while still providing quality education for our students. You are appreciated.

This announcement is primarily for secondary staff, but important for all staff to know. The district and Everett Education Association (EEA) have reached a tentative agreement to provide an asynchronous day built into the work week for middle and high school teachers and students. 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.

Consistent time will be built in the day for principals and leadership teams to design professional development that is timely, relevant and responsive to teachers' academic and social emotional needs arising from remote instruction.

This secondary asynchronous day will be on Wednesdays and would also change the Learning Improvement time established in the collective bargaining agreement from Fridays to Wednesdays for secondary schools. Similar language for moving the Learning Improvement time to Wednesday for elementary schools is being discussed but would not include an asynchronous day for elementary schools.

### **What this means for secondary staff and students:**

- Beginning Wednesday, January 6, Wednesdays will be teacher-directed independent learning (or asynchronous) for middle and high school students.
- 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 synchronously if teachers choose to schedule a synchronous activity; it will also provide structure for students to organize their teacher-directed independent learning throughout the day.

- Evidence of student attendance will be participation in the task or assignment provided or log-ins to the learning management system (e.g., Canvas) as is currently allowable by OSPI rules.
- All asynchronous work assignments and expectations are to be communicated by teachers.
- As of January 6, Learning Improvement days, currently scheduled on Fridays, will move to Wednesdays for secondary students.

The schedules as of January 4 will be: [middle school](#) [high school](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your supervisor. Again, thank you for all you do.