

**NEWS RELEASE****January 2, 2008****For more information:****Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049****Middle school boundaries change for 2008-09; variance deadline is Feb. 1**

Attendance boundaries for Everett district middle schools will change beginning September 2008. Each district family of current fifth- through seventh-graders was reminded in December of the upcoming boundary change. Families of next year's eighth-graders have the option of applying for a special priority variance if they wish to provide their own transportation and complete eighth grade at their current middle school.

Those families will also receive phone call messages from their new middle school principal this month. Principal messages are one more way families will be reminded of the pending boundary changes. To help acquaint each family with its new middle school, principals will invite them to orientation meetings planned later this spring.

"Not every family with middle school students will change attendance areas," said Superintendent Carol Whitehead. "The boundary committee that worked for several months in the winter of 2007 looked closely at ways to reduce current and future overcrowding at our middle schools. However, to achieve that enrollment balance meant moving some students in some neighborhoods to other schools."

The district made special variances available this school year to students who wanted to make the move a year early - to start their sixth-grade year in 2007-08 at the middle school they would have moved to anyway for 2008-09.

"We are making special priority variances possible for next year's eighth-grade students also," said Whitehead. "Families who wish to have next year's eighth-grade students stay at their current middle school can complete a variance application no later than Friday, Feb. 1, 2008." District officials remind parents that transportation is the responsibility of all families with students on variances. Families seeking variances for next year's eighth-graders, will be notified about the variance status by March 1, 2008.

Information about variances is available by calling 425-385-4070. Maps of the new middle school boundaries are on the district home page at [www.everett.k12.wa.us](http://www.everett.k12.wa.us) under "About our District" then "District Map." Variance applications are available under the "Parents" tab on the district home page.