

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information:

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049

Schools host parent meetings for non-English speaking families

Everett School District parents use Web-based tools to stay informed about student school performance. Depending upon student grade levels, parents find different information through the *Parent Access Center* online. Middle and high school parents see attendance, discipline records, progress reports and classes students are taking. "*Parent Access Center* is a vital communications link that enables parents to have the information they need to fully support what students are learning in school," says Superintendent Carol Whitehead.

However, non-English speaking families need help learning how to use the system. Two years ago North Middle School and Everett High School partnered to help these parents. This year Cascade High School will join the partnership to host parent trainings on how to use the *Parent Access Center* in three different languages.

"IMS is an excellent resource for families to have information about their student's progress, attendance and assessments. We are offering the training to families whose first language is other than English so that they can learn the system and support their children's education," says Kelly Shepherd, principal of North Middle. "When we did this training two years ago the response from families was very positive."

Parents who attend will learn about graduation requirements and the U.S. grading system - both of which can be very different from what parents might have experienced in another country. The sessions, to be held in Spanish, Russian and Arabic are scheduled for:

When:

October 10, 2007, 7 - 8:30 p.m. - Spanish Speakers

October 18, 2007, 7 - 8:30 p.m. - Russian Speakers

November 1, 2007, 7 - 8:30 p.m. - Arabic Speakers

Where: Everett High School (main building, in the library), 2416 Colby Avenue, Everett, WA 98201

"We have a wonderful online system through which parents can partner with schools by monitoring student attendance, grades, transcripts, assessment scores and discipline," says Catherine Matthews, principal of Everett High School. "Our evening programs are focused on helping parents who speak languages other than English to access this system so that they can support students in their families. We are very excited to have this opportunity and we are looking forward to a good turnout!"

Matthews and Shepherd will join the principal of Cascade High School, Ms. Cathy Woods, to teach attendees how to use the computer to view student information. "All parents, whether English speaking or not, who want to learn more about *Parent Access Center* are encouraged to come to a session," said Matthews.

More information is available by calling North Middle School at (425) 385-4800, Cascade High School at (425) 385-6000 and Everett High School at (425) 384-4400.