

## News Release Everett Public Schools



Everett Public Schools

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### **Parent focus groups during *High School and Beyond* events, Oct. 19-22**

**Parents asked about technology access that would help follow and support student learning**

On Oct. 19, 20 and 21, parents of students from kindergarten through high school will gather at their attendance area high schools to learn about helping their children achieve at all grade levels and how to prepare for success in high school and beyond.

“A huge part of each student’s success is determined at home, and we highly value family partnerships. In today’s busy world, it is important that parents have easy and quick access to how well students are doing in school and that they have information to help enhance learning at home,” notes Superintendent Gary Cohn.

“This community has supported educational technology that teachers use every day. That support has also helped build a technology infrastructure that makes it possible for a powerful and secure data system families can use to stay in touch with school – any time of the day or night. We are upgrading that system and are asking parents about how they use it now and would like to use it.”

Sometimes called a “parent portal,” parent access to school information now includes grades, test scores and attendance. Parents and students can access information with a secure login and password.

During three separate nights in October, each high school is hosting an informational evening for families. “Because families will already be gathered at the schools, we are inviting them to spend some time in focus groups designed to help upgrade the parent portal to meet their needs,” Cohn said.

Details about each school’s *High School and Beyond* activities and speakers are available below and from the [district’s homepage](#). Also on the homepage is a link to Dr. Susan Quattrociocchi’s latest book, *Help, I’ve got a Middle Schooler!* Dr. Quattrociocchi is Director of the Washington State Initiative, *A Call to Parents; How to Cut the High Costs and High Risks of Education after High School* and the [Northeast Tech Prep Consortium](#). She will be speaking at each of the high school events along with others who have information and tips about how to motivate and encourage students to plan and learn for their futures.

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Transportation details for families in each high school attendance area, [Cascade High School](#), [Everett High School](#) and [H.M. Jackson High School](#), are on the Web.

**Tues., Oct. 19, Cascade High School, 5-8:30 p.m.**

The evening begins with pizza and mingling and then kicks off with Anthony Kelley telling his story of overcoming many obstacles to attend college. As a University of Washington linebacker, Kelley was part of the 2001 Rose Bowl victory over Purdue. He is now the University of Washington Admissions Officer.

From 6:45-8:30 p.m., mini classes for parents of students from kindergarten through high school will outline specifics about college preparation, including *Giving children hope and skills for the 21st century*.

**Wed., Oct. 20, H.M. Jackson High School, 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

For H.M. Jackson High School, this will be the 10th annual High School and Beyond event. The evening starts off with more than 30 different colleges, universities and technical schools available for conversations and information about careers of the future and how students of all ages can plan today for their success after high school. At 6:30 high school students and families will be able to attend two mini break-out sessions from among a large variety of offerings. For elementary and middle school families, the events will get underway in the gym at 6:30 p.m. as they listen to special guest speaker Dr. Susan Quattrociocchi. From 7:15-8 p.m., elementary and middle school families may visit the college fair. This is a relaxed way to learn more about many colleges, and talk to representatives about any questions you may have.

**Thurs., Oct. 21, Everett High School, 6-8:30 p.m.**

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a pizza dinner. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., several mini classes will be held to empower parents and students to set education beyond high school as an achievable goal. Anthony Kelley, a former University of Washington linebacker who was a part of their 2001 Rose Bowl victory over Purdue University will be a workshop presenter. Dr. Susan Quattrociocchi will be the special guest speaker for elementary and middle school families. A college fair will also be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. (ongoing, drop in any time). Representatives from more than 30 different colleges, universities and technical schools will be available for conversations and information about careers of the future and how students of all ages can plan today for their success after high school. Free fun activities are planned for younger attendees.

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