

## News release



Everett Public Schools

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### **Science class includes community experts in learning**

***Environmental Systems Design is a new high school class, using newly approved texts***

Last year Everett Public Schools introduced *Environmental Systems Design* as a new project-based science class for high schools students. The course engages students in environmental sustainability concepts by using Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Teachers and students use [Investigations in Environmental Science](#) as the classroom learning materials.

Community connections are an important aspect of the class; teachers invite community members into the classroom with industry experience as project advisors. The current unit focuses on *Land Use*. Students work in teams to determine the best location for a new school by using what they know about environmental impacts, energy use, and cost effectiveness.

To help with the school project, Everett City Council member Scott Murphy recently visited the Everett High School class – in response to letters students wrote during their project. Students wrote the letters in response to an opinion article about the Kimberly Clark space being abandoned along Everett's waterfront. When he visited the class, Murphy expressed how impressed the Council members were with the students' thoughts, and the Councils desire that he visit the students in person to learn more about their thinking.

Jackson High School invited architect Kevin Oremus to the JHS *Environmental Systems Design* class. Oremus has helped plan many nearby school projects, including the annex at Jackson High School. He discussed with the students the considerations and constraints of building a school, such as placement of doors and environmental impacts. Students incorporated his information into their school planning project now underway.

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