



Our students will shape and lead the future

News release

Sept. 23, 2015

Evergreen Middle School is site for Oct. 10 parent involvement conference

[Anne T. Henderson](#) of [Annenberg Institute for School Reform](#) is headliner



On Saturday, Oct. 10, more than 200 parents, staff and school leaders from around the region will gather at Evergreen Middle School to review the research and explore ways to more meaningfully involve parents in public education today.

As author and keynote speaker Anne T. Henderson notes,

“Over the past several years, more and more evidence has emerged that effective parent engagement can positively affect school culture, working conditions, and student achievement (Henderson and Mapp, 2002). A school that actively welcomes and sees parents as important stakeholders with valuable knowledge and expertise can build trust and support throughout the community that is necessary to build and sustain reform. But when we think about what parent engagement usually means, the first things to come to mind are bake sales, PTA meetings, and parent-teacher conferences...”

There are many ways that strong community organizing groups can facilitate more meaningful relationships between families and schools. These groups often have staff who speak the languages of a community and are tuned in to the experiences, dilemmas, and assets of neighborhood...”

Also presenting at the conference is [Dr. Anne Ishimaru](#), assistant professor at the UW College of Education and co-director of the UW Equitable Parent-school Collaboration Research Project and the Organizational Leadership for Equity Project.

“Everett Public Schools has registered more than 50 parents and staff to attend the conference,” Superintendent Gary Cohn pointed out. “The district is honored to be the host site and a partner making the conference possible. It is an exciting opportunity in our back yard to expand connections to our communities and to connect with parents of our students. Families are the first teachers; by working together, we provide more resources, opportunities and guidance for today’s students to be productive and successful in their futures.”

The [Washington Family Engagement Trust](#) is the organizing force behind the conference and notes it is the first such conference held in this part of Washington state. Partners in this effort include Everett Public Schools, Seattle Times Education Lab, Tulalip Tribes and Scholastic.

[Register online](#) space is limited!

---end---

For more information:

[Adie Simmons](#), Executive Director, Washington Family Engagement Trust