

From: [Superintendent](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: First Day of School Celebrations
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 8:16:34 AM
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Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year!

Did you know that we are celebrating an important milestone this year: the **125th anniversary** of Everett Public Schools? What a wonderful event be able to celebrate!

Our district has grown from humble mill town beginnings serving **26 students** in a two-story wooden school house to now serving more than *19,800 students* in **26 schools** in the cities of Everett and Mill Creek and parts of unincorporated Snohomish County. And, we're still growing!

Over the next several years, we expect to grow by more than 1,400 students. Thanks to community support we are building our 18th elementary school, which is slated to open in 2019. And, we are developing long-term solutions to address future enrollment growth and facility needs.

The education program in our district has also been transformed since 1891. Technology has advanced by leaps and bounds over the last century, and our local community has evolved into a global technology, biomedical, and aerospace leader. Across the district, we've partnered with local industry and others in our community to create unique educational opportunities for students and a network of support for student success. Thanks to the support of our community, our students have wonderful opportunities to participate in internships and externships (and we expect to expand those soon) in addition to clubs, activities, performing arts, and athletics, to name just a few.

What really hasn't changed in 125 years is our steadfast commitment to each child's academic success, even if our community and our approaches to student success have changed with time. Today, more than ever, our education program is focused on providing students with the knowledge, skills and experiences to graduate career and college ready. In an environment that has changed dramatically when compared to the Everett of 125 years ago (did you know nearly 90 languages are spoken in our students' homes?), we provide quality instruction using rigorous curriculum aligned to state standards and support to meet a wide range of individual student needs, including advanced learners, English language learners (did you know our ELL students' graduation rate is the highest in Washington State?), and struggling learners.

Whether you are new to the district this year, or you've contributed to our growth and success for decades, thank you for the many ways you support education in Everett Public Schools.

Best wishes for a wildly successful school year, and happy 125th anniversary!

 **Dr. Gary Cohn**



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