



August 10, 2021

Dear Everett Public Schools' families:

We hope you are having a memorable summer and gearing up for a great school year. We know you have had many questions since we announced we would be opening school 100% in person in the fall. I hope you are as excited as we are to be learning in person.

We just had a week of professional training and development with your principals and assistant principals. And I can honestly say, all of us cannot wait to see your students walk into our buildings in September, some for the first time ever!

We hope this letter will help you prepare for a great fall. Much of the school day will look similar to what you experienced before the pandemic required virtual learning, but there are a few differences:

### **Masks**

We understand there are many different philosophies on requiring students and staff to wear masks while in school. Our utmost concern is for the health and safety of our students and staff. With the increasing number of COVID cases and the highly transmissible Delta variant of COVID, our state superintendent of schools and governor have mandated masks be worn in school when we start in September 2021. This is a requirement for all students and staff who are working where children are present regardless of vaccination status. This is a requirement by law and is not at the discretion of local school boards, local superintendents or principals, therefore, Everett Public School students and staff (while children are present) will be wearing masks. Similar to last year, there will be accommodations made if a student has a disability that prevents them from masking.

### **Social Distancing**

While students are at school, there will be social distancing protocol in place. The requirement for schools is to "maintain physical distance of three feet or more between students in a classroom setting to the degree possible and reasonable, that allows for full-time, in-person learning for all students" (Department of Health [requirements for K-12 schools](#)). Our classrooms will be set up to provide three (3) feet social distancing at a minimum.

### **Extra safety measures**

Per requirements for all school districts, school ventilation systems are inspected, cleaned and repaired as needed. Restrooms have increased exhaust ventilation as well. There are hand sanitizing options available throughout schools, and protocols in place in case a child gets sick at school. More details will be available before school starts.

## **Special Services**

Students receiving special services will be served in the school. All families can also sign up for [Everett Virtual Academy](#) if in grades K-8.

## **Meals**

Yes, again this year school meals are offered at no charge for all on-site students! The meal program is federally funded and meal costs are reimbursed by the USDA.

- **Menus** – To find out the menu for breakfast and lunch at your child's school, please visit our ["My School Menus" website](#).
- **Free and Reduced Meals Applications** – Even though meals are free this year, families are still encouraged to fill out the free and reduced meal application. Free and reduced approved applications help fund other programs and can also help waive other fees for your family.
  - Free and reduced meals [online application](#)
  - Paper applications are available at your child's school

## **When will we have the school calendar?**

Our 2021-22 calendar is part of our contract negotiations this year. We will keep you posted as the calendar is finalized. However, we can share:

- First day of school: historically the first day of school is the Wednesday following the Labor Day holiday.
- Winter break: historically, winter break is the last two weeks of December, including New Year's Day. It varies depending when New Year's Day falls.
- Spring break: historically it is the first week of April.

Enjoy your final weeks of summer: We are about a month away from being face to face! We will have more details as September gets closer.

Be safe and be well,

Dr. Ian Saltzman  
Superintendent  
Everett Public Schools