

From: [Cohn, Gary](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: Good Morning & Welcome Back!
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Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Good morning, Colleague, and welcome back to an exciting new school year!

A French poet and novelist, Anatole France, who lived from 1844 to 1924, wrote words that he could not have known then would so perfectly describe our culture in Everett Public Schools today, "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."

As we ready our schools and ourselves to welcome our students, we each prepare in our own way. Whether your job includes greeting students and helping them find their way around school, teaching them in a classroom, or supporting schools by keeping them "up and running" so students have a safe, comfortable place to learn, you have a very important role as school begins. You contribute to the success of a child

In doing so you not only embody the meaning of France's thoughts, you contribute to one of the key attributes of this district's success: Six years ago I was struck by the consistent culture of 2,000 professionals actually doing daily what they said they would do in Everett, not just talking about it. That culture of acting to improve kids' learning, and safety, and growth into responsible young adults -- not just talking about it -- is every bit as strong today as it was when I first observed it six years ago. As a result, our students have access to one of the very best educations in our country, and a far better chance of succeeding in the world than if they attended school somewhere else.

France also wrote, "Nine tenths of education is encouragement." We know that poverty impacts nearly half of our students today, and that school is the very best part of many of our students' days. I invite you to find and give an extra bit of encouragement to each student you meet today, and to do so every day that you can. And I invite you to give an unexpected bit of encouragement to your co-workers as we support one another through this busy first week, and what promises to be a tremendous year. For me, the excitement of the first day is palpable. And all of that planning and preparation pays off as we open school doors once again, as we welcome kids back into school, and even as we send them off after their first day back. Together, we help children and their families feel welcome in our schools, and excited about returning ready to go the next day.

No, I haven't forgotten that last bit of France's advice: "believe" he encouraged. Because of what you've invested in this start, I believe school is beginning smoothly. Because of what you've invested in this year, I believe this will be your finest year yet. I believe you will be at your best today and every day after, and that each child who touches your life will be better for it. I believe that because of you, kids will know opportunities that otherwise would not be theirs. That indeed is a great accomplishment, and one of which we can all be proud. Children can dream of doing great things, believe in themselves, and then go out and act with confidence in the world. What great jobs we have!

Have a wonderful first day of school. And thank you for making our kid's worlds better and brighter

today.

With warmest regards,

Gary



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