



*Home of the Timberwolves*

## Evergreen Middle School

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*Achievement Through Honor and Excellence*

**Larry Fleckenstein**  
Principal

**Stefani Koetje**  
Assistant Principal

March 24, 2015

Dear Evergreen Parents/Guardians:

Starting this school year, our state's learning standards are now aligned to the Common Core State Standards in math and English language arts. The transition began when State Superintendent Randy Dorn adopted the new standards in 2011. Each school district has been making the transition according to what works best for their teachers and students.

New state standards mean new state tests. This spring your child will take the new Smarter Balanced tests in math and English language arts. These new tests will replace the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) in math, writing and reading. However, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will continue to take the MSP in science.

The new learning standards are more challenging than the standards they replaced. Some students who were considered proficient using the old standards will have a more difficult time reaching proficiency using the new standards. The results from these new tests will give a more accurate picture of whether students are on track to be college or career ready after high school.

Students will take the tests online. Our school is scheduled to take the tests between the dates of April 14 – May 12, 2015. A detailed calendar of testing dates can be found on our district's assessment website at <http://www.everettsd.org/Page/198>. We will be communicating with families by phone, e-mail and on our website to remind families of specific testing dates for their student to ensure they are ready and at school on each day of their grade level testing. For more information about the Smarter Balanced tests and to try out a practice test yourself, please visit [www.k12.wa.us/smarter](http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter). More information about the Common Core may be found at [www.k12.wa.us/corestandards](http://www.k12.wa.us/corestandards).

Thank you for continuing to work with us to make sure your child is successful. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your child. We want your child to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities.

Sincerely,

Larry Fleckenstein  
Principal