



Everett High School

"School of Champions"

Everett Public Schools
2416 Colby Ave.
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Mission

To inspire, educate and prepare every student
to be career and college ready.

Sally Lancaster, Ed.D.
Principal

Mitch Entler
Assistant Principal

Ian Freeman
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director

Amanda Overly
Assistant Principal

April 10, 2015

Dear Everett High School Families;

Last night an EHS senior emailed his dismay and frustration at a slanted and inaccurate Q13 story he saw earlier that evening. I appreciate his notification, because the newscast was a complete surprise to me and to the district. At no time were we aware that Q13 was doing a story about our campus or our students.

Q13's story was triggered by the recently released results of the Healthy Youth Survey -- a survey our students and **all** others in Snohomish County take every other year. For the first time this year, the survey asked a question about heroin use, and Q13 ran a sensationalized and slanted the story. As one of our staff members said today, the story was "deplorable and hastily produced and ill-researched." Survey results of students county-wide were totally misrepresented as evidence of drug abuse at Everett High.

This newscast was not only inaccurate, it also disregarded the good work our student body and school community are doing here. This newscast could have been an unbiased account of a serious issue in all of Snohomish County. Instead, it focused on our school and upon our students. The newscast shocked the young man who notified me about it and has saddened school staff. I believe it will justifiably have the same impact on you.

I am especially incensed about the portrayal of drug use in our classrooms. That claim is an absolute lie. There has NEVER been an instance of a student USING drugs in a classroom. Furthermore, during my tenure, we have never had instances of hard drugs like meth, cocaine, or heroin on campus like the reporter [Tom Yazwinski](#) implied. For the small percentage of students who struggle with drug use during school hours, these instances are confined to marijuana and/or alcohol. When confronted with these situations, we always respond instantly and appropriately with wraparound services, including discipline and drug/alcohol counseling intervention and law enforcement. Today we called together our student leaders who are also dismayed at the inaccuracy of the story and its obvious slant. Students are making an official protest to Q13. You will see that statement on our website soon. You will also begin to see student comments on social media -- expressing their frustration with the story's slant.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement with our school and its students. We are so proud of our students who so successfully navigate an increasingly complex world. It is unfortunate that one misguided media report could impact the reputation of the school and its students. We will continue our work to make Everett High School a great place for students to learn and grow.

Sincerely,

Sally Lancaster