From the Principal

Gateway Family:

I’ve spent some time thinking about what to write in this newsletter, and honestly, I’ve been dreading it a bit. Then I thought through the past year. I had big hopes for my first year as principal of Gateway – I have very high expectations of myself, and for our students. The year started as they all do – great excitement, seeing kids reconnecting with friends and with staff, seeing parents drop off sixth grades to start the middle school journey, fun student assemblies and events. That initial excitement faded a bit, as it always does over the course of the year as we all get busy. But this spring has been different.

I have no word to express the unbelievable gratitude for our parents, guardians, and caregivers that have helped our students during this closure. Life has turned in a direction that we could never anticipate. And amidst working, managing a family, ensuring the wellbeing of your children, you have also been coordinating student learning. We could not have made it through this spring without the amazing adults in the Gateway Family. Thank you for your emails, your questions, and your suggestions. You are amazing!

So while school looks different right now, know that the excitement I started the school year with remains. It’s conflicted a bit with disappointment, sure, and some anxiety for what school will look like this fall. But having spent time getting to know that Gateway Family has impacted me greatly. As we move forward, we will move forward together. A school is more than a building: it’s a community. Our identity as Guardians remains, and will only be strengthened as we are tried.

I hope that the summer months will provide a much-needed break for each of you. Be safe and take care.
Matt Bennett, Principal mbennett@everettsd.org
From the Assistant Principal

Gateway Family,

Over the past four years I have consistently been amazed and impressed by our Gateway students. They demonstrate resiliency during the hard moments, compassion and empathy to their peers and are truly care about the Gateway Family. As we send this class of eighth graders up to high school, I know that they are more than prepared to be successful. Thank you to all parents and family members who helped navigate the waters of middle school – it's a challenging time for all students and without your support and love, they wouldn’t be the amazing young adults they are growing to be.

In a time of such unknown, I feel grateful that we have a few certainties. First, we know that our community is strong and we will weather this storm together. Second, we have some of the most supportive families in our district and we are so grateful for your partnership. Finally, we will work together to prepare all students to be successful next school year (no matter what that may look like).

I echo Mr. Bennett’s statements above, thank you for everything you do for the Gateway Family – we are stronger because of your support.

With Gratitude,
Kalle Spear, Assistant Principal Kspear@everettsd.org

Students of the Month

We want to recognize some of our Students of the Month. Due to closure, the awards breakfast for this students was cancelled. These students are recognize for showing the GUARD characteristics – grit, universal respect, acceptance, responsibility, and do what’s right.

Christian D.       Shreyank G.       Sophia S.
Charles S.        Daniel L.        Dat L.
Ella Y.           Kaitlyn S.       Zach C.
Navneeth S.       Lochana J.       Akio W.
Matthew N.        Norah C.         Jennifer D.
Maurice H.        Caleb K.         Hannah B.
Grace D.          Kellyn M.        Taylor K.
William V.        Nathan N.        Megan H.
Hannah K.         Ava B.           Mya C.

Thank you students for all of your hard work! Your certificates will be available at yearbook pick-up.
Eighth Grade Celebration

We are disappointed to not be able to celebrate our 8th Graders’ promotion to high school together with our families. However, we want to do something special for our eighth graders. The last week of school, we will release a Virtual Bridging Ceremony video that will recognize each of our 8th Graders. This will be online and viewable by your extended family and friends.

Additionally, we will have a Drive-Through celebration on Tuesday, June 16th from 4pm-7pm. The theme is Black/White, which was the theme our students chose for the 8th Grade party. Students can use this time to drop off books, musical instruments, or other items borrowed from teachers, and we will distribute yearbooks and have a special gift for each of our 8th Graders. We know this is a change, but hope this gives families a chance to celebrate with their 8th Graders as they say goodbye to Gateway.

ChromeBook Collection

We hope that students continue to engage through the last day of school. Teachers will continue to provide learning activities through our last day on June 19th. We also recognize that some students may want to keep their ChromeBook to work on enrichment activities this summer. Any ChromeBooks should be returned on Monday, August 3. This will give our technology team time to clean, repair, and move the devices to elementary schools in time for the beginning of the school year.

End-of-Year Item Dropoff/Yearbook Distribution

Yearbook distribution and PE locker item distribution and item drop-off will be Thursday, June 18th from 12:00-7:00pm. Start looking around for those school-owned items. Please drop off:

- Library books
- Textbooks
- School-owned musical instruments
- Teacher-loaned books – individual or class reading
- Other items borrowed from staff
- ChromeBooks, if you choose not to keep it until August 3rd

More details will follow. Please note – if you have an 8th grade students and a younger student, you do not need to come to school twice. We will take care of your family on 6/16 during the 8th grade celebration drop-off.
Summer Reading Challenge

We are excited to announce that our EPS Summer Reading Program will be available to families this summer. Our program is designed to encourage exploration, family fun, and a love of reading. It features free-choice reading, optional weekly thematic activities with curated reading lists, as well as summer reading recommendations from your school librarians. We look forward to sharing the EPS Summer Reading Program with you soon!

Details coming soon!

Stay Connected, #GatewayFamily!

Instagram @GatewayMS_EPS
Twitter @GatewayMS_EPS
Facebook @GatewayMSEPS
COVID-19 Coronavirus webpage

Stay informed by visiting the COVID-19 Coronavirus webpage [www.everettsd.org/COVID-19](http://www.everettsd.org/COVID-19). Here, you will find messaging to families, information on family tech support, learning engagement, Class of 2020 support, helpful resources, FAQ’s and more related to school building closure.

What will the 2020-21 school year look like?

Thank you for understanding the complexity of decisions for the fall. Right now, we are focused on finishing the school year well, and are following the guidance of OSPI and the state for developing plans for the fall. Realistically, with the current unknowns, we won’t be able to finalize a plan until early August.

Essential item pick-up

We understand your student may still have personal items at their school which are essential to continue their learning from home, such as calculators, books or medications. Schools will be conducting personal item pick-up days in late-May for families to collect your student’s essential items, which will be pre-bagged and labeled by staff. You will receive more specific information on pick-up times from your school next week, but the dates are: elementary schools, May 26 and 27; middle and high schools, May 28 and 29.

There will be a second parent pick-up event at our schools on select dates between June 12-19 for families to collect any remaining student items and to return library books, textbooks, musical instruments, etc. More information about the June pick-up events will be shared with parents in the coming weeks.

When does school end this year?

June 5 is not an early release day but will follow the current modified structure.
Learning Improvement Fridays (LIF) are suspended through June 19 to follow the current modified structure.
June 19 is the new last day of school. June 12 is the last day for seniors.

Stuff the Bus is coming!

With the support of our generous community, the Everett Public Schools Foundation is hosting its 11th annual Stuff the Bus for Kids school supply drive. Last year the Foundation delivered over 1,900 backpacks to students and hope to deliver the same number this year. Look for collection bins at local businesses during the month of August and look for big yellow Durham school buses parked outside Fred Meyer in Mill Creek and QFC on Evergreen Way Aug. 14-16. For questions, please contact Kirsten Hansen at khanse@everettsd.org.
Kindergarten Registration (Class of 2033)

If your child will be five years old by August 31, 2020, it’s time to register for kindergarten! Online registration is available at www.everettsd.org. Register now to access information about your school’s kindergarten program and receive a parent resource and children’s book “Kindergarten, Here I Come!” Registration also reserves your child’s spot in Everett Ready, our transition-into-kindergarten program scheduled for August 17-21, at our elementary schools. Contact EarlyLearning@everettsd.org with any questions.

To find out which school your kindergartener will attend, click on Path Finder on the district’s transportation webpage or call the transportation office at 425-385-4144.

Vaccinations for next year

Now is the time to plan for the vaccinations your child will need before he or she enrolls next fall. We encourage you to obtain these vaccinations this school year and report them to the school nurse or office staff at your child’s school. We’ll track that information in the school database, which will help you avoid getting calls and overdue letters in the fall. More information can be found on the district’s immunizations webpage.

Summer school

Everett Public Schools offers a variety of summer learning opportunities. Summer programs for high school students include opportunities to strengthen the skills and knowledge required for the district core expectations, repeat courses, extend their interests in academic areas, and take new courses. Tuition-based summer programs are offered for students through Online High School. Elementary and middle school summer programs are available for specific students who need academic support.

Summer Reading Program

Everett Public Schools looks forward to another successful year of its summer reading program. Please watch your school’s website for details about this summer’s reading program.

School supply lists

Looking to get a jump start on next year’s school supplies this summer? You can find the school supply list on your school’s website under Our School around the last week of school.

Summer meals

Did you know that all children ages 1-18 can participate in the summer meal program? Summer meals will start on June 22nd at select locations and times. Find more details on the Food and Nutrition Department website.
The 2020 capital projects bond

Now, more than ever, schools are the heart of our community. Investing in our schools continues our focus on not only academics, but the well-being of every student in our district. Schools are a community resource and they need to be invested in.

Due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 24, 2020 the school board approved Resolution 1228 postponing the April 28 bond proposition until a future time to be determined by the board.

On May 5, the school board approved Resolution 1230 to place the unchanged $317.4 million bond proposition on the August 4, 2020 special election ballot.

The 2020 bond focuses on STEM, Safety, Equity and Space.

To find out more details on all of the bond 2020 projects, visit www.everettsd.org/bond2020.

Please remember to vote on August 4, 2020