

The Gateway Page

GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8



From the Principal

Over the last few years, we have heard a lot about “dress code” in the media as it applies to public schools. In this issue of the Gateway Page, we wanted to share with you our vision for our dress code to support our learning environment.

Last spring, the school administration surveyed our students for feedback about our current policies and student opinions. We invited our students to share their thoughts about the dress code. Fifteen 8th grade students joined administrators and counselors for a 45-minute student focus group where they could share their thoughts, concerns and suggestions with us. Through this discussion, we were able to gain more insight on how we could clarify our policy and respond to students in a more thoughtful way. The following are some of the key pieces of this discussion we thought would be important to share.

It’s not about “distracting boys”. When we talked with the students, they initially started with the statement, “we know you have a dress policy so that boys aren’t distracted” It was clarified that at GMS this is not our primary purpose for dress code. Although our dress code has some components related to “distractibility”, it is more about helping students learn to dress appropriately based on context. One example used is a swimsuit or a mesh top may be appropriate for the beach, but not so much in math class. In school, students need to

Linda Butler
Principal

Andre Samuels
Assistant Principal

Kalle Spear
Assistant Principal

Gateway Middle School
15404 Silver Firs Drive,
Everett, WA 98208
www.everettsd.org/gateway

May 9

All School Dance 3:00-5:00

May 10

Learning Improvement Friday

May 13

PTSA Board meeting (GMS library)
6:30-8:00 pm

May 14

Festival of Strings All District
Orchestra Concert
Everett Civic Auditorium 7:00

May 17

Learning Improvement Friday

May 23

Family Fitness Night 6:00

May 24

Learning Improvement Friday

May 27

Memorial Day Holiday

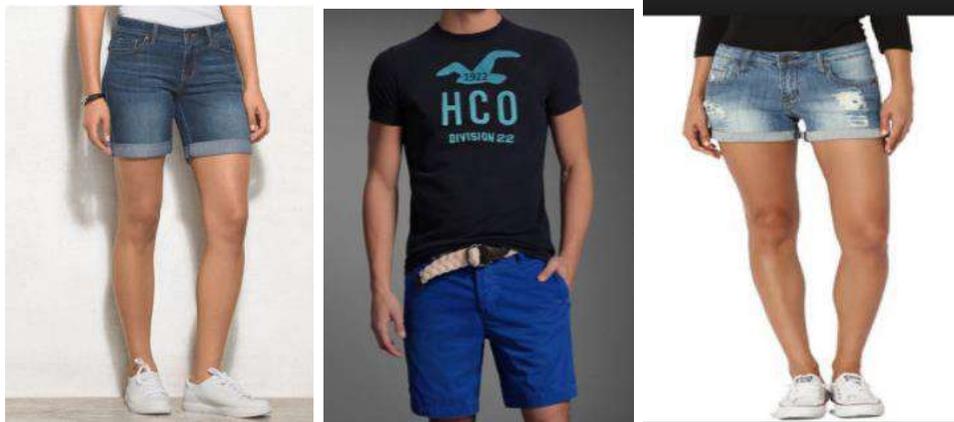
May 31

Learning Improvement Friday



move appropriately and safely through the hallways, be able to bend over at their lockers to pick up their books or binders, and sit in a classroom comfortably without exposing themselves.

“Fingertip” rule shorts are impossible to find! One of the other things students shared with us is the rule about shorts needing to be longer than your fingertips when arms are extended along the sides of the body is really hard to meet. They had all sorts of concerns about students with exceptionally long arms, long legs, and the dependence on genetics to help meet this criterion. They also shared that in the fashion market today, finding shorts to meet this standard is also a challenge. We explained, in warm weather, we want our students to be comfortable, however, we also want students to be able to bend and sit without exposing their hind ends. They agreed but thought there could be some latitude with the fingertip rule. As a group, we discussed and modified the expectation to “shorts need to be at least mid-thigh in length”, which would accomplish both of these goals.



Are shoulders really an issue? When we talked with students, they had lots of questions about some of the tops with shoulder cut outs, along with tanks and spaghetti strap shirts. We shared the concern about “spaghetti straps” and camisole tops is the straps are impractical and not substantial—they often break or snap, and do not afford enough coverage in the front. We did agree that shoulder cut outs, racerback tanks (see examples that follow), and shirts or tops that have higher bodices would be appropriate options for students. Tank tops should come up under the armpit (so as not to expose the torso) and have shoulder straps that are at least 1 inch in width.



The crop top: This was an issue students brought up because it is very popular right now. While crop tops (shirts that expose the mid-section of the torso) are stylish, when students bend to get into their lockers or raise their hands, the bottom of the shirts raise significantly, which leads to exposure. Crop tops are not allowed for this reason. One suggestion we made, however, is that students may choose to wear a camisole or tank under a cropped shirt to alleviate this issue.

Ripped Jeans are commonly worn at school. Students worked with us to define our current policy which says: “Ripped or distressed jeans are allowed as long as they do not expose skin over the mid-thigh line.”



Skirt Length: This also came up in discussion along with shorts length. Students agreed that while shorts could go up to mid-thigh length and still provide adequate coverage when sitting down, short



skirts do not afford the same coverage. The Students agreed skirts still need to follow the “fingertip rule.”

-Mrs. Butler, Mr. Samuels, and Mrs. Spear

Your Guardian Administrative Team

Rest of the Year at a Glance

We know there are lots of upcoming events to be squeezed into less than 40 remaining school days and thought it would be helpful to outline those dates for you.

- May 1: SBA Testing--8th grade
Track Meet @ Shoreline Stadium
- May 7: SBA Testing—7th grade
- May 8: SBA Testing—8th grade
Track Meet @ JHS
- May 9: All School Dance
- May 10: Learning Improvement Friday
- May 13: PTSA Board Meeting, 6:30, Library
Track—All District Meet—Everett Memorial Stadium
- May 14: SBA Testing –6th grade
Festival of Strings—All District Orchestra Concert—7:00, Everett Civic Auditorium
- May 15: SBA Testing—7th Grade
- May 16: SBA Testing—8th Grade
Track—Sno-King Preliminary Meet
- May 17: Learning Improvement Friday
- May 21: SBA Testing—All Grades
- May 22: SBA Testing—All Grades
Track—Sno-King Championship—Shoreline Stadium
- May 23: 8th Grade Field Trip--UW Bothell
8th Grade Field Trip--Lake Washington Institute of Technology
Family Fitness Night- 6:00, Gym
- May 24: Learning Improvement Friday
- May 27: Memorial Day Holiday—No School
- May 29: 8TH Grade Field Trip—UW Seattle
- May 30: Orchestra Field Trip
- May 31: Guardian Awards Breakfast
Learning Improvement Friday



June 4:	End of the year Band Concert, 7:00, Gym
June 7:	Student of the Month Awards Breakfast Learning Improvement Friday
June 10:	PTSA Membership Meeting, 6:30, Library Choir Concert—7:00, Everett Civic Auditorium
June 11:	Farewell Orchestra Concert, Commons, 7:00
June 14:	Learning Improvement Friday
June 18:	Yearbook distribution Field Day
June 19:	8 th Grade Away Day—Willis Tucker Park, 9:30-2:30 8 th Grade Bridging Ceremony—JHS, Gym, 6:00 (Students arrive by 5:30) 8 th Grade Party—JHS, 7:15-9:30
June 20:	End of the Year Assembly and Talent Show
June 21:	Last day of school—full day

Summer school registration is open!

[Registration materials are now online.](#) 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 and at Cascade High School. Elementary and middle school summer programs are available for specific students who need academic support.

High school boundaries

Is your student planning to attend one of these high schools the 2020-21 school year?

- Cascade High
- Everett High
- Jackson High

If so, the high school your child will attend may change beginning fall 2020. [A committee](#) of parents, students and principals representing each of these schools has been studying current boundaries and recently recommended modifications to the superintendent. The board will review the superintendent's recommendation during their regular board meeting May 21. Following the board's decision, the district will communicate directly with families who will be affected by the high school boundary changes.



Spring safety reminders

Spring brings out the beautiful blooms on trees and flowers and warmer weather. It also seems to bring an increase in crime. Here are some general safety and awareness reminders to share with your family.

- Always tell family where they are going and when they will be there.
- Be alert to their surroundings – this means not wearing headphones or texting while walking.
- Walk or ride bikes in pairs and groups.
- Report anything suspicious or unusual to a trusted adult.

Graduation dates

Ceremonies for each of the four high schools are coming soon!

- Cascade High School, June 16 at 7 p.m. at Angel of the Winds Arena
- Everett High School, June 16 at 3 p.m. at Angel of the Winds Arena
- Jackson High School, June 16 at 11 a.m. at Angel of the Winds Arena
- Sequoia High School June 13, 6 p.m. at Everett Civic Auditorium



Innovation Expo June 5

Students and families will enjoy seeing and interacting at booths from schools across the district at this year's [Innovation Expo](#) June 5, 5-8 p.m., at Angel of the Winds (formerly Xfinity) Arena. Each school's booth is different and showcases something the students at that school are learning.

The STEM competition is a favorite part of the event for many students and families. See the best student projects from around the district and hear what the students learned by completing them. Learn more and download forms at www.everettsd.org/expo.



3900 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
425-385-4000
www.everettsd.org

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

- Title IX Officer/Civil Rights Compliance Officer – Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213
- ADA Coordinator – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213