

Gateway Page

GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2020



From the Principal

Gateway Family:

Though the remote work we all are engaging in is taxing, it feels as though we are starting to fall into the rhythm of the school year. Please know that our staff and I appreciate each of you.

The remote learning world has brought with it some unique questions with which we have grappled. One of those challenges is in regard to student use of cameras during Zoom sessions. I have been asked to set some specific guidelines for camera use – and that is a real challenge as each family, student, and class are unique.

We will not require students to have cameras on during Zoom classes. We know that families have different beliefs and customs, and different living situations and we respect that. Our adolescents face a wide variety of pressures and we want to ensure that we respect and support our student's needs. That said, many of our students are comfortable with camera use and that is great, as well.

Our primary goal is student participation and student learning. We know that the vast majority of our students are logging in each day. However, there are a few students who log onto the Zoom call, turn their screen off, and then do not participate in activities, or chat, and are non-responsive when class ends (though their computer is still on the Zoom call). If this is happening, teachers will contact students and parents to troubleshoot any technology issues and ensure that communication on attendance is happening so that parents are aware.

I do want to share some of the scenarios in which we encourage students to find a safe space for themselves and turn on their cameras during Zoom:

- When teachers are taking attendance. For the safety of our students, it is helpful that teachers can verify that the name on the Zoom screen and the student match.

Matthew Bennett
Principal

David Campbell
Assistant Principal

Gateway Middle School
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(425) 385-6600

www.everettsd.org/gateway
Instagram: @GatewayMS_EPS
Twitter: @GatewayMS_EPS
Facebook: @GatewayMSEPS

Oct 15 & 29th

SEL Advisory – 1:15pm

Oct. 16

Staff Learning Day – No Classes

Oct. 19

Let's Connect – South Region
Family Meeting



- During teacher synchronous instructional time. It is helpful to teachers as they instruct to “see” students – this allows teachers to read facial expressions to gauge understanding, see hands raised if students have questions, as well as solidify relationships that are vital to teaching and learning.
- In breakout rooms. Breakout rooms are a great tool which lets students work in small-group settings. This also provides students the chance to build relationships with other students.
- When performing/demonstrating. In music classes, science labs, PE, and other scenarios, the feedback from the instructor is largely based on being able to see the student’s form, posture, enunciation, inflection, and movement.
- During class discussions/work time. We know that socialization is a big part of the middle school experience, and discussions are part of that. We want our students to get to know their peers as well as they can.

Parents, I encourage you to talk with your student to set expectations. We want to meet you and your student where you are at, not based on peer pressure or other outside factors.

I so appreciate all the feedback parents have provided to us to help make this a productive experience. Please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Matt Bennett, Principal

mbennett@everettsd.org (425) 385-6690

From the Assistant Principal

On October 1st, almost 75% of our students completed the *Panorama* SEL survey. This tool helps staff see where our students are in their overall social and emotional progress. It also gives us important data that we will use to see where we might be able to support specific needs that emerge with some of our students. In the era of remote learning, this kind of data is especially valuable. For those students who did not complete the survey, we will have them do this soon.

We are working to get clubs back up and running at Gateway! As clubs start to come online, we will get the word out so students can participate. There are still no updates on athletics, which remain on hold.

We continue to look for ways to engage and involve our students in all aspects of the school: curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular. Thank you for all of your efforts alongside us in keeping your children connected to school!

David Campbell, Assistant Principal

dcampbell@everettsd.org (425) 385-6691



School Counselors

Our school counselors are here to help! School counselors in middle school help with a wide array of tasks: student social and emotional support, resolving peer conflicts, facilitating small groups based off needs, supporting families in time of struggle, creating and teaching social-emotional learning lessons, and helping teachers. At Gateway, students have the same counselor all three years at Gateway. To contact our counselors, use the contact information below:

		Email	Office	During Closure
Jessen Schilaty	6 th Grade	jschilaty@everettsd.org	425-385-6624	425-522-2163
Ryan Miller	7 th Grade	rmiller@everettsd.org	425-385-6612	360-436-6497
Jocelyn Smith	8 th Grade	Jsmith1@everettsd.org	425-385-6626	360-320-6703

Technology Support

We now have additional support options for ChromeBooks specific to Gateway. To troubleshoot ChromeBook issues from home, [click this link](#). If you cannot resolve your issue, you can call 425-385-6746 to speak to a tech, or leave a voicemail for a return call. Live in-person assistance is available at Gateway M/W/F and you can book an appointment by [clicking this link](#). For non-ChromeBook technology issues please create a work order by [clicking this link](#) and a tech will contact you.

October Yearbook Photos

Thanks for uploading your First Day photos for yearbook! This month, we have a sports theme. Please upload pictures of your student playing a sport – shooting hoops in the driveway, skateboarding, etc or in a favorite team’s jersey. Directions were emailed directly to families. Please choose the category “sports” when you upload photos.

Order Your Yearbook!

Yearbooks will be available for online purchase October 5-18. For \$25. Order yearbooks by visiting: <https://wa-everett.intouchrecepting.com/>



Stay Connected, #GatewayFamily!

**Stay connected,
#GatewayFamily**

  

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2020 High School & Beyond Event

The High School & Beyond event will be completely virtual this year. The Pacific Northwest Association for College Admissions Counseling has been in the process of designing remote opportunities for students and families to connect with colleges and universities from all over the country. The Washington-specific portion will take place live from October 19-23. The presentations will also be recorded and will remain available until December 31st.

The virtual event site is available here: <https://pnacac.swoogo.com/PNACAC>.

In order to participate, register using the blue button in the top right-hand corner of the page. Once registered, you will be able to preview the college fair booths beginning on September 15 all the way through December 31. College representatives and presentation will be “live” during the days and times below:

Washington student week live times October 19 - 23, 2020	
Date	Time
Monday, Oct 19	9 a.m. - noon
Tuesday, Oct 20	4 - 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct 21	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. AND 4 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct 22	4 - 7 p.m.



Parent University

Everett Public Schools Parent University is available 24/7 online and mobile, for you to access important resources to help support your student's remote learning. You can find details on how to access and log in to Canvas, how to view your student's schedule, where to get meals, and much more. Resources will continue to be added throughout the year. You will find Parent University, and all other information related to remote learning, at

www.everettsd.org/COVID2020-21



Website refresh

Feedback from families and the community to improve navigation and the layout of the district's website was integrated into the redesign, which launched October 1. The new site features inviting visuals, reduced clicks and a standard experience with navigation among all school sites. The interface is user-friendly, attractive and a welcome change.

Community survey about strategic plan

The district is engaging the community as we start the process of creating a new strategic plan. Please look for a survey coming out on October 12 on the district website to provide your input.

Let's Connect

You are invited to connect with district leaders and engage in conversation on October 19 from 5 – 6 p.m. (topic to be determined). We want to hear from you and hope you can attend a zoom meeting to share your thoughts. Please check your email for an invitation to connect with your school's regional superintendent and other district leaders. Be sure to check your email, RSVP required to receive the link for the zoom meeting. Let's Connect!

Website tools for you

The website has tools to make your life easier. Sign in with your LMS password to:

- Add your student's school and teachers' calendars to your calendar view
- Filter calendar items by category
- Export calendar items to your personal calendar
- Access *Grades & More*, lunch menus and staff contact information from the home page
- Find directions and maps to event locations listed on the calendar

Mobile app

Families can [download the district mobile app](#) to easily access student information, grades, attendance, lunch balances, borrowed library books, calendars and more! Translate notifications and app functions into the language you prefer.





Did you miss a call from us?

If you missed a call from your school, please first check your voice mail, email or mobile app for the message rather than calling the school. Schools are often inundated with phone calls from parents after they send an automated call and cannot answer all of the calls.

Is your contact information up-to-date at school?

If your contact information has changed, please let your school know so we can reach you.

Homeless resources

We care about all our Everett Public Schools families and know many are experiencing economic impacts due to changes in the economy. If not your family directly, you may know others who are starting to question whether there is any help available. If you are staying temporarily with someone else because you lost your housing, or are staying in a motel, campground, shelter, outside or are in an inadequate place, you and your children have special rights at school. Everett Public Schools' Kids in Transition (KIT) program supports students who qualify as homeless under the federal [McKinney-Vento Homeless Act](#). Students without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may qualify. The KIT program works to eliminate barriers to students' academic success. If you believe your child qualifies, please complete the [online Housing Questionnaire](#). For more information, visit the [KIT website](#) or contact the KIT office at 425-385-4032.

Rights include:

- Keeping your children in the same school even if you move, and receiving transportation to that school, as long as it is in the student's best interest;
- Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually require;
- Receiving free school meals;
- Getting help with school supplies and other needs;
- Receiving extra support for youth who are on their own;
- Connecting young children with early childhood services;
- and referrals to other community resources.

Get resources and activities for your children from [Sesame Street in Communities](#), including tips for [how to talk to your child about homelessness](#) and [how to create a feeling of home](#) even if you are moving around a lot.

If you find yourself in a dangerous situation, or in need of medical, emotional, or physical support, please see [this list of national hotlines](#) that provide an array of services. All hotlines listed are national hotlines providing 24/7 support across the United States. In Snohomish County, you may call 425-25-ABUSE (425-252-2873) **In an emergency, call 911 for the police, get yourself and your children to a safe place, seek medical attention and call DVS for assistance.**



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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. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

- **Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer:**

- Mary O'Brien
- 425-385-4106
- MO'brien@everettsd.org
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213

- **Section 504 Coordinator:**

- Dave Peters
- 425-385-4063
- DPeters@everettsd.org
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213

- **ADA Coordinator:**

- Randi Seaberg
- 425-385-4104
- RSeaberg@everettsd.org
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213