

## **Jackson Elementary School**

Darren Larama, Principal | Jennifer Reyes, Assistant Principal 3700 Federal Ave., Everett, WA 98201 | 425-385-5600

8/26/20

Dear Parent/Guardians of Jackson Elementary Students:

I would like to welcome each of your families to the 2020-21 school year at Jackson Elementary School. I am honored and feel very fortunate to join and be a part of this amazing community of families and staff. Jackson Elementary is a special place for students to learn, and I have seen great evidence that the staff here are committed to supporting each child in growing socially, emotionally, and academically every day – something that I hope brings you comfort and confidence as we approach a unique and challenging school year together.

The staff at Jackson have been hard at work learning how to super charge their distance learning as we open the new school year. They are studying up using the Distance Learning Playbook to know how best to teach using our virtual, digital tools. This staff is a positive and dedicated group who will work closely with you and your children for the best possible school experience. Together, we will make this a GREAT 2020 – 2021 school year!

At the end of July, Everett Public Schools announced the plan for all students to begin the 2020-21 school year in a **100% remote model**, using a staged approach for inperson reentry into school buildings. Remote learning in September will look quite different than it looked in the spring. Based on *your* feedback, here are the changes we are making to improve the distance learning experience for parents and students:

- A single virtual classroom hub Canvas for all K-12 students that will simplify the logistics of finding and engaging with learning experiences
- A cohesive, coordinated, routine driven schedule (available on the district website) that teachers will use and flex with parents so that each child is supported and engaged
- A chromebook for each child and hotspots for all families that need them

A staged reentry plan to attend in-person school at Jackson will be determined by the impact of the changing COVID-19 pandemic, available resources throughout the district, direction from Snohomish Health District, the Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) and our governor. Our staff will be planning with the flexibility to adjust and move into different learning models which will enable us to provide the best education possible in all scenarios.

I would like to introduce and welcome our new Jackson staff for the 2020-21 school year: Mrs Amanda Baker, Ms Susannah Judd, and Ms Kaitlin Kalkwarf.

• Mrs Baker is joining Jackson elementary to teach fourth grade. Mrs Baker comes to us from Hawthorne Elementary where she has taught several grade levels including fourth.

**Jackson** Elementary We are committed to academic excellence and ensuring that each student acquires the skills and knowledge needed to thrive as a lifelong learner and responsible citizen in a changing world.

- Ms Judd is joining Jackson elementary to teach fifth grade. Ms Judd comes to us from Evergreen Middle school where she taught EL.
- Ms Kalkwarf is returning to Everett Schools as our new psychologist. She was previously a resource room teacher in Everett and worked with Mr. Larama at Forest View elementary.
- Mrs Bradley, while not new to Jackson, has changed roles and is now our reading coach.
- And, our Assistant Principal Mrs Reyes will be taking a leave in October to welcome and care for her new baby.

We are so excited to have these wonderful professionals on our staff in their new roles – welcome to all of them!

Looking forward, there are some important dates for you to put on your calendar:

- 9/3 at 6:15pm Kindergarten Orientation for all K parents (watch email for Zoom invitation)
- 9/4 at 4pm teacher assignments will be released into Home Access center.
- 9/8 at 3pm Meet & Greet Drive Thru and school material pick up
- 9/9 our first day of school! We will have an all school morning assembly on Zoom to kick off the school year
- 9/9 9/11 WAKIDS (Kindergarteners and parents) meetings at Jackson
- 9/14 First day of Kindergarten

Despite the challenges of opening Jackson Elementary via distance learning, please know that we are excited and dedicated to working with you to make this a great year for your children. We will partner with you to work through those challenges and help your children engage in their learning! I am committed to working with you and your children this year and doing whatever it takes to ensure that every child has an outstanding learning experience. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Together, we are going to make this a great and memorable school year!

Sincerely,

Darren Larama, Principal Jackson Elementary School



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