Seventh and Eighth Grade Students and Parents,

Welcome back! We are disappointed that we will not have our students with us here in the building to start the school year. That said, we are working hard as a leadership team to ensure that students receive an improved learning experience this fall. We expect all of our students to engage in learning, and we will have more supports in place for parents and students.

My vision as your principal is that each of our Gateway Guardians has a place they can see themselves in our school, and that each student has opportunities and a voice. I am passionate about expanding our approach to instruction, curriculum, and activities to include each of our students and be inclusive of background.

What is my job? My job is to connect with students and parents to ensure the experience at Gateway is a positive one, whether we are online or in person. I oversee our staff, curriculum, instruction, and operations. While we are remote learning, some of these roles are a bit more challenging. I encourage students and parents/guardians to contact me directly. My email is mbennett@everettsd.org and my phone number is (425) 385-6690. I will be reaching out to many of you as school starts to check in and to get to know you. I believe in transparency and two-way communication.

Gateway is an amazing school, and that is because we have supportive parents, hardworking staff, and the best students we could ever ask for!

**Assistant Principal/Athletic Director**

Our new assistant principal is Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell is starting at Gateway with years of experience as K-12 and middle school administrator. Prior to that, he taught music, technology, and math. Mr. Campbell loves listening to, playing, and creating music, as well as sports.

Mr. Campbell will oversee athletics when athletics resume. He also supervises half of our teachers and staff. Mr. Campbell also works with students needing assistance resolving conflicts or talking through issues. You can contact Mr. Campbell at dcampbell@everettsd.org and his phone number is (425) 385-6691.
**Counselors**
The 7th grade school counselor will continue to be Mr. Miller. His job is to help get your schedule worked out, and to help resolve conflicts with peers, help with social and emotional needs, and to be there to listen to students when you need someone to talk to. His email is rmiller@everettsd.org and his phone number is (425) 385-6612. 8th graders will continue to work with Mrs. Smith. Her email is jsmith1@everettsd.org and her phone number is (425) 385-6626.

**Schedules**
Schedules will be available to retrieve online in late August or early September, when counselors have finished. We will notify you when schedules are ready.

**GUARD Your Character!**
At Gateway, we say “Guard Your Character.” I’ve had parents and students ask if that means that we expect all students to be the same. Absolutely not! Each of our students has a one-of-a-kind personality, and come from a variety of cultures and backgrounds, speak different languages, and learn and interact differently. To “Guard Your Character” means that we teach you our expectations up front so there are no surprises, and that you as students learn and be social while expressing your own values in an environment that keeps everyone safe but lets everyone express themselves.

G – Grit – Be positive with a stick-to-it attitude
U – Universal Respect – Be respectful of peers, property, and self
A – Acceptance – Be willing to help and work with others, know that each Guardian is different
R – Responsibility – Be ready to learn, take accountability for your actions
D – Do What’s Right – Be honest and positive, speak up and help the community

GUARD expectations are different depending on where you are: in a classroom, in the cafeteria, and online.

**Guardian Gear**
We encourage you to use your class when buying your Guardian Gear to show your school spirit and your class pride. 7th grader’s class color is white and 8th grader’s class color is grey. Guardian Gear is sold by our PTSA as a fundraiser. Access the online store here: https://gatewayguardianwear.square.site

**PTSA**
We have an amazing PTSA, and they will continue to support Gateway when school is closed. They have plans to continue student recognition and staff support. We encourage our families to join and to get involved! Join here: https://gateway-pta-7-3-72.cheddarup.com

**Athletics, Activities, and Socials**
A very important part of middle school is getting involved and learning who you are and what you are interested in. We are sad that it will be some time before we can participate in athletics and socials. We are working to determine how best to facilitate some clubs or other activities. Once the online year starts, we will let you know!

**Class Fees and Yearbooks**
We are working hard to eliminate as many course fees as possible for family for next year. Yearbook sales will be available online. We will let you know when ordering is available.
ChromeBook Return
If you still have a borrowed ChromeBook, we need to get it back! Those will be cleaned and repaired and moved to elementary schools. Dropoff is this Monday, 8/17 from 2-6pm at Gateway.

Item Pick-Up
Mark your calendars! You are invited to our 6th Grade Welcome Party! This is our chance to

When: Thursday, August 27th, 9am-1pm or 3pm-7pm

Where: In your car, in the Gateway bus loop

Who: 7th or 8th grade students and their families.

What: We have a lot to give you!
- ChromeBooks – you will get a brand new ChromeBook that includes a touch screen, a stylus, a heavy-duty case, and a charger. WiFi hotspots will be available for families that need them
- SpringBoard book
- Open Up math books
- Social studies textbook
- Other supplies

We will send you more details closer to the event.

We are here to serve you!
The entire staff at Gateway, and myself included, are here to help make the best experiences that we can. Though we are starting online this fall, I do not believe that it is “distance” learning because that makes it seem like we are isolated. If I can help you and your family in any way, please contact me directly. If I can’t resolve your need, I will work to put you in contact with someone who can.

Warmly,
Matt Bennett