



A parent newsletter from the administrative team at GMS

The Quick Skim:

(a preview of what's

- **Pick up and drop off procedures revisited**
- **Parent Survey Coming 3/20**
- **SBA testing info and calendar**
- **Bond/Levy updates and growth in our community! We need your voice!**
- **Integrated Technology Plan– What it means for GMS**
- **Coach Brandsetter– MS Wrestling Coach of the Year**
- **Walkabouts needed at GMS**
- **Activity pick up**

Pick up and Drop off @ GMS:

We know that it's been a while since we last published the 411 on parent drop-off and pick-up, so here's a refresher:

Drop-off in the mornings: In the mornings, the drop-off location is at the back entrance of the building where there is limited space for vehicles to drop off and then loop back around to the only exit from that lot. Drop off in the mornings is *very congested* due to the limited space in our lots. If you are dropping your student off in the morning, please note:

Drop off in the back of the building in the drop off zone; *Please do not wait until you are right at the doors to unload.* This causes a large traffic back-up. Please drop in all spots of the drop zone, and then pull out to loop back around.

Pick-up in the afternoons: **Please do not stop your car in the pick-up loop.** If you are here between 2:45 and 2:50, **park your vehicle in the back parking lot to wait for your student at dismissal.** School dismisses at 2:45, so your student is likely not yet exited the building. If you get to the pick-up loop and your student is not yet waiting for you, **park your vehicle in a parking spot in the lot.** If you park in the pick up loop, then you are essentially holding up the entire line of traffic, and no other cars can move into the lot.

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Upcoming dates:

Friday, March 3: LIF day, Student release at 1:30 pm

Tuesday, March 7: Orchestra Concert, Commons 7pm

Friday, March 10: LIF day, Student release at 1:30 pm

Monday, March 13: Festival Focus Concert, Civic Auditorium 7-8:30 pm

Thursday, March 16: Band Concert, GMS Gym 7-8pm

Friday, March 17 LIF day, Student release at 1:30 pm

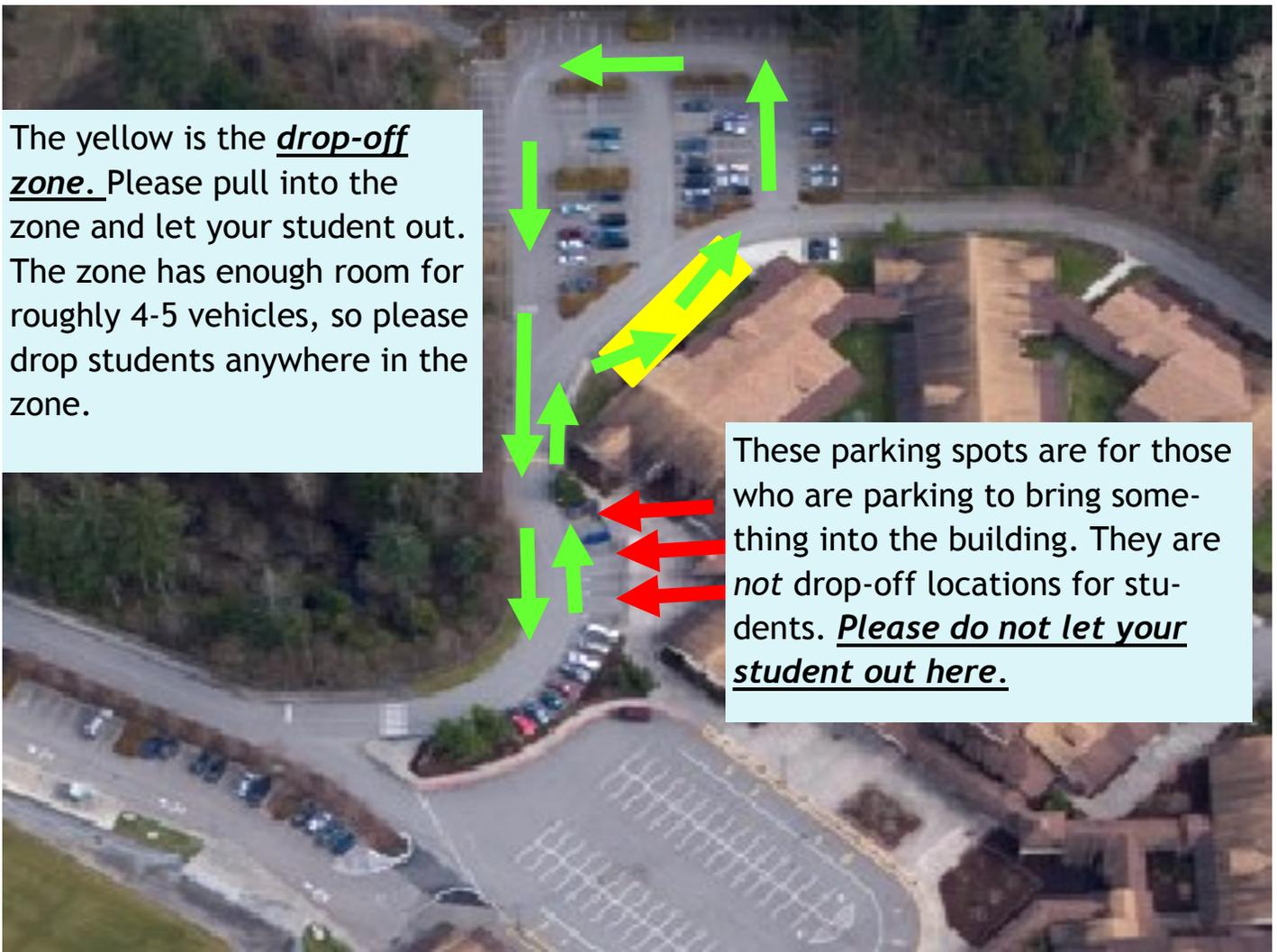
Friday, March 24: Full day- 2:45 pm dismissal time

Friday, March 24: Student of the Month Breakfast, Commons 7:30 am

Tuesday, March 28: 8th grade transition meetings (All day- appointment times will vary)

Thursday, March 30: Special Board meeting about Growth in the South Region @JHS 6-7:30 pm

The Gateway Page



The yellow is the **drop-off zone**. Please pull into the zone and let your student out. The zone has enough room for roughly 4-5 vehicles, so please drop students anywhere in the zone.

These parking spots are for those who are parking to bring something into the building. They are **not** drop-off locations for students. **Please do not let your student out here.**

One simple way that you can alleviate the gridlock is by using the **auxiliary lot** (that's the lot just east of Forest View Elementary). It's easy to pull into that lot in the morning, drop your student at the sidewalk, and then exit the lot and be on your way. Students can then just walk the scant 200 yards to the building... Remind students that it is likely faster to walk those last yards than it is for you to drive them!

You can use the auxiliary lot to help facilitate a quick pick-up in the afternoon, too! Park your car in the auxiliary lot, and wait for dismissal. Since the bell rings at 2:45 pm (1:30 pm on Fridays), it will likely take your student about 5-7 minutes before they are out of the building. Your student can walk down the sidewalk (with all of the other students who walk to school) and meet you at the lot! The auxiliary lot can also be used as a "cell phone lot" (similar to the one down at SEA-TAC airport!), where you can wait in the lot and have your student text you when they are ready to go. That way, you will be able to help us keep the line moving in the back (rather than standing and waiting for your student to come out...)

We hope these tips help, and please drive safely!



Message from Ms. Petillo about... Racial, Ethnic and Religious Harassment

Last week, I went on Guardian Broadcast News and sent the following message to our students:

If you've been watching recent current events, both internationally and within the United States, you've probably been aware of the tension that exists; there has been an increase in harassing statements in the media about people of all nationalities, citizenship status, race, religion, color and ethnicity. It's been challenging to watch people make derogatory comments to one another, in a country that was founded on the concept of "liberty for all".

This morning, I want to share with you the impact that some of these events have had on us here at Gateway. Sure, it may seem like the stuff you hear on the news is distant and far away, but actually some of that same divisive harassment has been happening here at GMS. I am here to share with you that making statements about stereotypical beliefs about students' ethnicity or religion is *unacceptable*. Joking about "terrorism", the Holocaust, or mocking that someone must work with "ISIS" because they are from the same country of origin is hurtful and unacceptable. I understand you may see things in the media that suggest this kind of teasing is in good nature; however I am here to tell you that at Gateway, these kinds of remarks have not and *never will* align with our Guardian values.

You might be saying to yourself, "I would never say something like that *to someone...*", however there are a lot of students saying these things in the hallways, locker rooms, outside, and other places. The truth is that if you are saying these negative stereotype statements aloud, whether you're trying to be funny or get attention, **you are sending the message that you're okay with these kinds of statements.** At Gateway, our mission is for all students, regardless of their race, religion, citizenship status or orientation, to feel welcome and safe here.

When we participate in activities that perpetuate these negative stereotypes of others, we tear down what makes Gateway great. It divides our school in ways that make it impossible for each one of our students we serve to reach their highest potential. Therefore, our staff will take the actions needed to stop this kind of harassing behaviors. Because what really makes America great is not about looking the other way when we see injustice; it's about standing up and acting in a way that supports "liberty for all".

And that is what makes Gateway the best middle school in the state.

Want to talk with your student about racial, ethnic, sexual, or religious harassment? Teaching Tolerance has some resources for parents that can help you to better understand issues:

<http://www.tolerance.org/publication/parenting-teen-development-and-prejudice>

Parent Survey- We Need Your Input!

Everett Public Schools are committed to continuous improvement and as part of our school improvement process, every school in our district develops and implements a school improvement plan that is tailored to its specific needs each year. Our schools analyze a variety of information sources - including student performance trends, state comparisons and staff/parent perception surveys - to identify improvement goals that are specific, data-driven and measurable. To help each of our schools understand its strengths and challenges in areas known to impact educational effectiveness, we would appreciate your input on how our schools are doing.

During the week of March 20th, you will receive a link for an online, multiple-choice survey. We ask that you please complete and submit the survey by March 25th. If you have more than one child in the Everett Public Schools, you may complete a survey for each school your children attend. Please complete each survey so that all of your children's schools will benefit from your feedback.

The survey questions were developed by the Center for Educational Effectiveness, a Bellevue, Washington-based educational research firm, in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for Washington State. As a cost savings measure, our district has moved away from paper surveys, to electronic versions made available to parents.

Please watch for the link to this Educational Effectiveness Survey and take a few minutes to send us your input. We truly appreciate your time and participation. Your feedback is very important to our ongoing school improvement efforts as we endeavor to make our schools the very best for the students who attend them.

MESSAGE TO OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES



Everett Public Schools
urgently needs
SUBSTITUTES

- **PARAEDUCATORS**
 - Classroom assistance
 - Noon-duty supervision
 - Health room assistance
 - Special Services
- **OFFICE PERSONNEL**
- **FOOD & NUTRITION**
- **CUSTODIANS**
- **VAN DRIVERS**

Competitive wage, flexible schedule, training, and much more.

**If you are available to work or would like more information, please call
Substitute Services 425-385-4111.**

To apply, please visit our Web site at www.everettsd.org and click "employment"

Smarter Balanced Assessment Dates:

The Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) are the state assessments that students take in the spring to measure their progress. This spring all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will take the SBA tests in both Math and English Language Arts; eighth graders will also take the MSP in science. The results from these tests will give an accurate picture of whether students are on track to be college and career ready after high school. At Gateway, we have been taking advantage of practicing some of the tests online with our Chromebooks, giving students the opportunity to gain confidence and experience with the tools of the test, too.

Students will take these tests online. It is very important that your son or daughter attend school each day and arrive to school on time when his or her grade level is testing. An assessment calendar follows below for the specific dates and tests.

Sixth and seventh grade students have two content area tests (English Language Arts and Math), and eighth grade students are tested in ELA, Math and Science. We have broken the testing up so that students have two days of testing in each content area (Science is only one day of testing); each grade level has no more than one test per week.

Because we know that assessments can be stressful for some students, we really emphasize to students that this is just a way for them to show what they know. We take a lot of pride in helping our students do their very best, but we also make sure that they realize that the SBA is just one of the many ways that help us to see what they have learned and what we need to do to help them to graduate from high school on time and ready for anything!

APRIL				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Spring Break	4 Spring Break	5 Spring Break	6 Spring Break	7 Spring Break
10	11 8th Grade- ELA	12 7th Grade- ELA	13 6th Grade- ELA	14
17	18 8th Grade- ELA	19	20 7th Grade- ELA	21
24	25 6th Grade- ELA	26	27 8th Grade- Science	28
MAY				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 6th Grade- Math	3 7th Grade- Math	4 8th Grade- Math	5
8	9 6th Grade- Math	10 7th Grade- Math	11 8th Grade- Math	12



Capital bond and levy project updates are now online

Watch the progress of projects authorized by voters in the 2016 election and in prior years. Project descriptions, photos and updates are on the district website at www.everettsd.org/bondandlevy.

We're growing.

1,500 more students projected in coming years—more than 800 at high school level.

ThoughtExchange

Emails will go to each guardian after March 1 asking for thoughts about enrollment growth in Everett Public Schools. What should the district consider as it plans for continued growth?

Didn't get an email? You can self-register at http://bit.ly/EPS_Texchange. Join the conversation at any time!

Board special meeting March 30

6-7:30 p.m.

Henry M. Jackson High School, 1508 136th St. SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012

Join Us!

Learn more about the district's tremendous high school enrollment growth issues and possible solutions to address growth over time.

Speak with a board member. Sign up during the event.

Hear what board members heard from community members about enrollment growth.

We hope that you will join us to learn about the growth in our region and how it impacts GMS!

Integrated Technology Plan– What's in Store for Gateway Students

Everett Public Schools recently rolled-out their Integrated Technology Plan for 2016-2022. This plan is a result of the hard work of EPS teachers, administrators, and district representatives. This plan not only describes the comprehensive one-to-one technology program but also addresses necessary updates to infrastructure as well as professional development needs for students, families, and staff members. To view the comprehensive plan click here: <http://docushare.everett.k12.wa.us/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-85975/Integrated%20Technology%20Plan%202016-22.pdf>

This plan addresses how Everett Public Schools plans on leveraging technology throughout the district's operations as well as through teaching students college and career readiness skills. The Integrated Technology Plan has 6 goals for 2016-2022:

Goal 1: All leaders fully leverage technology within their leadership roles and areas of responsibilities to strengthen teaching, learning, and operations.

Goal 2: All learners are supported by educators who fully integrate technology into their instruction to connect learners to experiences that empower and inspire.

Goal 3: All learners have engaging and empowering learning experiences in both formal and informal settings that prepare them to be active, creative, knowledgeable, and ethical participants in our globally-connected society.

Goal 4: All levels of our education system leverage the power of technology to measure what matters and use quality assessment data to improve teaching, learning, and operations.

Goal 5: All stakeholders, including families, strategic partners, and the community, will have opportunities to learn about, provide feedback on, and partner with the district about technology in school, at home, and in the community.

Goal 6: All levels of our education system will have equitable access to a robust and comprehensive infrastructure when and where they need it for teaching, learning, and operations.

Gateway is expected to receive one-to-one student technology within the next four years. While we wait for our one-to-one transition, our teaching staff continues to embed 21st century skills into their daily lessons. We engage students in technology through our use of Google Classroom, code.org, bootstrap, SpringBoard curricula, Naviance, and many additional programs. Prior to spring break, we will be working with our students on some of the key components of digital citizenship and leaving a digital footprint.

At Gateway, we are continually proud of both our students and staff in their ability to innovate and think outside the box in relation technology integration. We are excited to see what our staff and students will continue to do as we all become more advanced with our technology use!

GUARDIAN ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Congratulations to **Phil Brandsetter**, one of our wrestling coaches, who was recognized as the Middle School Wrestling Coach of the Year for Wesco 4A. This year, we have a great group of wrestlers who will be learning a lot from both coach Brandsetter and coach Palmer. We would love to see your support at one of our home matches this season. **We are proud to have the Middle School Wrestling Coach of the Year working with our Guardian Athletes!**

Walkabouts needed! Are you interested in volunteering at Gateway but you're not sure how to get involved? We have a great program, Walk-Abouts, for any parent or guardian who would like to help out during the school day. Currently, we are looking for volunteers to help with:

Morning support – help us greet students in the morning in the hallways and commons (7:50-8:10)

Lunch support – help us in the lunchroom, supporting students in the commons and at recess (times will vary but roughly 10:40-1:00 M-Th, 10:05-12:03 F)

Afternoon support – help us say goodbye to students in the hallways and outside in the bus loop (2:45-3:00 M-Th, 1:30-1:45 F)

If you're interested in the Walk-About program or would like to learn more, please contact Tom Vilorio, our security guard at tviloria@everettsd.org

Activity Pick-up: One of the many reasons that we consider Gateway to be the greatest middle school in the state is our after school study program. Students can participate in study club Monday-Thursday and/or Math After School Help on Mondays and Wednesdays. If your student participates in any after school study option or attends soccer club and does not take the study club bus, please make sure that their ride is at Gateway prior to 4:15 pm. Any student who does not have a ride home, will go home on the activity bus which leaves at 4:15. We love seeing a variety of students stay after school. For the purpose of supervision and safety we need to make sure that all students who are not playing sports, leave campus by 4:15pm either on the activity bus or via parent pick-up. Thank you for your continued support of our study club options!